



GERMANS LOSE HEAVILY IN NEW VERDUN DRIVE

Troops Attack From North, but Are Cut to Pieces by French Guns.

POINCARE BEARER OF THANKS TO THE ARMY

President Goes to Fortress to Congratulate Joffre on Check to Foe.

WANT DEFORMED BABY KILLED

Couple Beg Police to Put Infant Daughter to Death.

DEB MOINES, Ia., March 2.—I want you to do me a favor, baby. The doctors won't, and I'm wrong to let live," was the request made of the city police today by Charles Cleveland, 32, of the suburb of Des Moines, who is 2 months old. His jaws do not connect properly and the mouth cavity is unnaturally dilated.

Neither the driving power nor the wide scope of the attacks of last week was manifest in the renewal of operations and the German efforts to make further headway were without success.

A new center of activity in this region has developed to the west of the Meuse, about La Mort Homme, on the Cote du Poire, between Malencourt and the loop of the Meuse. So far there has been no infantry attack in this quarter, but the bombardment has been exceedingly violent.

BOMB FIRES OFFICE OF PROVIDENCE 'JOURNAL'

Explosion Follows Discovery of Blaze in Managing Editor's Room.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 2.—An unsuccessful attempt was made shortly after 5 o'clock to-night to blow up the Providence Journal office. A bomb of some nature was made use of, but it was either not powerful enough or went wrong before starting what promised to be a serious explosion.

The fire was started in a file of newspapers in the office of the managing editor. When discovered it had made but slight headway, but in a few moments a second explosion, which threw the bound files in every direction and filled the room with a dense and choking smoke.

The fire was started by the automatic sprinkler service, holding the blaze in check until the arrival of the fire department. In half an hour the fire was over and the damage probably is not more than \$2,000.

The managing editor's room had been unoccupied for two hours, otherwise he could not have escaped injury by the explosion.

The fire was discovered by the night editor and a moment later John R. Smith, the managing editor, was in the connecting door as the bomb exploded. He was covered with dirt and a muddy substance, but escaped injury.

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OFFICIALS SEE A TENUOUS PLOT TO SCARE U. S.

They Resent Rumors in Berlin That Congress Is Against Wilson.

BERNSTORFF DENIES SENDING REPORTS

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Growing indignation is felt in State Department circles over what is regarded as organized propaganda, directed not only from German centers in this country but from the Foreign Office in Berlin, to scare the American Congress and the people of this country into the belief that President Wilson's course in the handling of the submarine issue is leading to war.

To the same extent officials resent strongly reports being spread broadcast in Berlin and being printed in Berlin newspapers as though based on reports from Washington by the German Foreign Office, that Congress is lined up anywhere from 2 to 1 to 1 against the President's insistence on the right of Americans to travel on British merchant vessels armed for defense.

Information concerning these Berlin reports was contained in a long cablegram received at the State Department this afternoon from Ambassador Gerard, who declared that the impression existed strongly in the German capital, in official circles as well as on the streets, that the President has the backing neither of Congress nor the country.

German Embassy's Denial. The German Embassy denied tonight that any representative of the opposition to the President in Congress had been sent to Berlin by Ambassador Gerard. It was remarked in German quarters here, however, that the Berlin newspapers had doubtless received full reports of the statements printed in this country concerning Speaker Clark's objections to the President when he informed the Chief Executive that the House would vote at least 2 to 1 against him.

American officials regard as significant the persistent reports from Germany printed in certain American newspapers that the German Government is preparing to sever relations with Germany and that Germany is preparing for such an outcome of the negotiations. It is suggested that these reports are being spread with the sole view of intimidating the American people into forcing President Wilson to acquiesce in Germany's contention that the United States is preparing to sever relations with Germany and that Germany is preparing for such an outcome of the negotiations.

The State Department expects to receive within the next day or so the apportioned to the German submarine declaration that the United States is preparing to sever relations with Germany and that Germany is preparing for such an outcome of the negotiations.

While it is said that the final decision will be made by the American Government respecting the new submarine issue, it depends on what these orders show, unless meantime a ship is sunk without warning with Americans on board, the impression is growing that the American Government has reached a point where it is prepared to hold that the orders do not justify Germany's course in attacking armed merchant ships.

According to advance reports received here concerning these orders, the merchantmen are not directed to go out of their way to attack submarines, but to fire on them if they appear.

The American View. It was stated authoritatively this afternoon that the United States is not contending for the right of Americans to travel on merchant vessels under orders to carry on offensive warfare, not for the purpose of defense, but for the sole purpose of destroying the submarines. In other words, it was stated, a merchantman may resist capture, but while in the act of resisting, such resistance does not relieve the submarine, should the resistance cease, from taking measures for the safety of passengers and other non-combatants on board the merchantman.

When the time comes for the Department to give its ruling on the controversy, the decision would take the form of an acceptance or rejection of the terms proposed by Germany for a settlement of the submarine case, as one of the stipulations made by the United States was that Germany should promise to conduct her submarine warfare in accordance with the rules of warfare laid down by international law.

As a result of the shock given to Congress by Senator Gore's statements on the floor of the Senate the situation in regard to the armed merchantmen issue has improved in Mr. Wilson's favor.

So serious were the Gore statements that members of both the Senate and the House began to realize more clearly than they have before that something must be done immediately to head off the discussion of foreign affairs in Congress and to settle the deplorable issue that has arisen between the President and his former supporters.

Gore Resolution Doomed. The Senate responded quickly to the effects of the afternoon debate, and a poll by the leaders this evening showed that a majority was safely in hand for the tabling of both the Gore and the Jones resolutions warning Americans from armed merchant vessels.

This action will be satisfactory to the President, as it will definitely dispose of the two resolutions and will amount to a rejection of them. Those in control of the Senate reached an agreement to-night to bring the matter to a vote to-morrow. It is estimated that the President will control the situation in the Senate by at least sixteen votes. The Republicans have been polled and a majority of them will support Mr. Wilson.

On the House side also to-day's debate in Congress has a sobering effect, but the sentiment in favor of the McLemore resolution warning Americans off armed merchantmen is still dangerously strong. In fact on the merits of the issue a majority of the House still seems to be against the President, and it is by no means certain that the resolutions can be voted down in that body without some compromise.

To Join Issue Squarely. The House Foreign Relations Committee plans to report out a resolution to-morrow that will join the issue squarely between the President and the House leaders. Administration supporters claimed to-night that they now had a sufficient number of votes in the Foreign Affairs Committee to report such a resolution out adversely.

Those who are opposing the Administration will seek to bring about a compromise on the basis of a declaration that the United States is in a crisis with Germany, in to submit all the facts to Congress before acting finally.

The President is still standing firmly for a decisive showdown on the issue raised by the House resolutions, and he seemed to-night as firmly determined as ever against accepting any compromise.

The general belief in Washington is that the House, although at heart opposed to the President, will finally follow the lead of the Senate, and on appeal to the patriotism of the members stand behind the President.

The Gore statement in the Senate threw that body into a fever of excitement, which continued practically the entire day. Not since the debate in the Senate over the landing of marines in Vera Cruz has the Senate witnessed such spirited scenes.

From an authoritative source it was learned that this is what occurred at the conferences between the President and the Congress leaders which gave rise to the President's startling statements.

The President told the Senate leaders that the way to avoid war was to convince the rest of the world that the people of the United States were standing solidly behind the Executive. He added that the course which Congress was seeking to pursue would lead toward war and not away from it, because a yielding in the present case would result in further curtailment of American rights.

The President told the members of Congress that the only course that the United States could safely pursue now was to stand on and by international law. Any other course would result in making circumstances themselves the sole guide, and under these conditions it would not be long before the fabric of international law itself would crumble and disappear.

A concession of this nature to Germany would necessitate a concession to England, and soon the United States would be hopelessly at sea. The President insisted that such a course would lead toward war.

WILSON SAID TO HAVE TOLD MEMBERS OF IMPENDING BREAK

Gore's Statement in Senate Shocks Congress and Helps to Turn Situation in President's Favor

WASHINGTON, March 2.—These were the most important developments in the submarine situation to-day:

1.—Senator Gore of Oklahoma, one of the Democratic leaders, started the Senate by charging that President Wilson had told Senators Stone and Kern that unless Germany backed down on the submarine issue he would sever diplomatic relations; that war probably would follow and that this might not necessarily be an evil to the United States, as it would bring the European struggle to a conclusion by midsummer, and render a great service to civilization.

2.—Senator Gore challenged Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and Senator Kern to deny that the President had made the extraordinary remarks attributed to him. Senator Stone entered a partial denial and Senator Kern did not respond to the challenge.

3.—The White House issued an unqualified denial of any utterance on the part of the President to which any such meaning could be attached as was set forth by the Senator from Oklahoma.

4.—From an authoritative source it was learned that the President, in his conferences with members of Congress, had said that a diplomatic break with Germany would follow the torpedoing of an armed merchant vessel with a loss of American life, and that it had been represented to this Government that such a break would probably mean war. The President also expressed the opinion that enforced participation of the United States in the European struggle might result in bringing it to an end in six months.

The objection to Senator Gore's statement of the President's remarks was that the Senator seemed to convey the idea that the President was becoming belligerent and was inclined to the belief that participation in the war would not be a bad thing for this country.

On the contrary, the President in all his talks with members of Congress insisted that war was the last thing that he wanted and that his and not Congress's course was the one that would insure peace.

First Said by von Bernstorff. In referring to representations that the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany would lead to war President Wilson apparently was referring to an opinion expressed by Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, to Secretary Lansing.

It was reported to-day on good authority that the statement was made to Secretary Lansing by the German Ambassador, to Secretary Lansing.

When Secretary Lansing was questioned in regard to this report he declined to make any comment on it, and the German Ambassador also refused to say anything one way or the other. In reply to a question Count von Bernstorff did deny, however, that he had intimated in any way that Germany would declare war.

It is believed that the Ambassador's remark to Secretary Lansing was merely the expression of his opinion as to what the ultimate results of a break in the diplomatic relations would be.

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From an authoritative source it was learned that this is what occurred at the conferences between the President and the Congress leaders which gave rise to the President's startling statements.

The President told the Senate leaders that the way to avoid war was to convince the rest of the world that the people of the United States were standing solidly behind the Executive. He added that the course which Congress was seeking to pursue would lead toward war and not away from it, because a yielding in the present case would result in further curtailment of American rights.

The President told the members of Congress that the only course that the United States could safely pursue now was to stand on and by international law. Any other course would result in making circumstances themselves the sole guide, and under these conditions it would not be long before the fabric of international law itself would crumble and disappear.

A concession of this nature to Germany would necessitate a concession to England, and soon the United States would be hopelessly at sea. The President insisted that such a course would lead toward war.

GORE QUOTES WILSON AS NOT AVERSE TO WAR WITH GERMANY; PRESIDENT DENIES IT; STONE CALLS ARMED SHIP POLICY A MISTAKE

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"I don't care what any one may say," he observed, "I know that what I have said is true. I know that the President said substantially the things attributed to him by me. I have reason to believe that he pointed out that the participation of the United States in the war might turn out to be a blessing because it would have such an influence upon the result that it would end the war before the summer's end and be of service to humanity."

This is the statement that the White House issued after reading what Senator Gore had said on the floor of the Senate.

"When the attention of the White House was called to certain statements in Senator Gore's speech this afternoon, the President authorized an unqualified denial of any utterance to which any such meaning could be attached."

Flood Heard No Word. Representative Flood, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, who has participated in several White House conferences during the past ten days, denied to-night that the President had said anything in his presence justifying the expressed apprehension of Senator Gore. Chairman Flood said:

"The President has said nothing in my presence that would justify such a statement as Senator Gore informed the Senate he had received. I have heard the President say nothing to indicate that war with Germany might not be a bad thing for this country or that he desired war. On the contrary, the President told us he was working night and day to keep this nation out of war. Several members of the House asked me recently if the President had made any statement justifying the circulated reports and I told them flatly that he had not."

President in Angry Mood. At the same time the President showed intense feeling in his talk with members of Congress, and it is understood that at one time he exclaimed that he had been jeered, sneered at and ridiculed over his efforts to maintain peace. It was this strong feeling and flash of resentment that, coupled with the President's frank statements about the situation, led many of the Congressmen to leave the White House greatly alarmed. It was these expressions also which brought on the uprising in Congress.

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