THE WEATHER FORECAST.
Rain to-day, much colder by night; to-morrow fair; cold wave by night.
Highest temperature yesterday, 44; lowest, 35.
Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 14.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXIV.—NO. 154. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1917.—Copyright, 1917 by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. ONE CENT In Greater New York, Jersey City and Newark. | Elsewhere TWO CENTS.

GERMANY BEGINS STARVATION WAR ON ENGLAND TO-DAY; REVOKES ALL SUBMARINE PLEDGES GIVEN TO U. S.; RESTRICTS AMERICAN TRAFFIC TO ONE SHIP A WEEK

Formal Announcement to Washington That All Ships Breaking Rule, Neutrals Included, Will Be Sunk Without Warning

UNRESTRICTED TERRORISM ON THE SEAS IS NEW SCHEME

President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, Shocked by Teuton Decision, Which Is Irrevocable, Decline to Make Any Comment

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare.

A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world never has seen, was announced to the world to-day in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and to the State Department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long feared campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by Von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by Von Tirpitz.

Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany, with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statement are recalled in the capital to-night with feelings of apprehension and misgiving.

The Supercrisis Is Here.

Germany's action is the supercrisis of all those that have stirred the American Government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace in Europe and of means of preserving the peace of the world has gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, called at once for the official document, which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German Ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

Three Courses Open to United States.

The President has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.

Admittedly the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfilment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unheard of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within sixty days. One German official here predicted to-day the war would be over in a month.

All Sea Traffic Barred.

Conveyed to the world as her answer to the refusal of the Entente Allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

"From February 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean * * * all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."

It virtually is a renewal and an extension of the celebrated submarine blockade of the British Isles, which was proclaimed on February 4, 1915, and became effective February 18, 1915. Under it, ships were sunk without warning until Germany abandoned the practice and gave her assurances, in the Sussex case, to abide by international law. The Lusitania, Falaba and scores of other ships were sunk under the decree.

American citizens and American ships are warned from entering the war zones, although certain precautionary measures are suggested for distinguishing American steamers not carrying contraband according to the German list. These conditions in almost the same form were rejected when proposed by Germany early in the negotiations over the Lusitania. At that time Germany proposed to guarantee immunity from attack to certain specified passenger ships sailing on prescribed courses with agreed distinguishing marks and carrying no contraband. President Wilson rejected the proposal promptly on the ground that the United States was contending only for its rights.

Side Issues Swept Away.

The new German proclamation brushes aside all the perplexing collateral issues which have surrounded the submarine controversy and brings it back to the point where it was left at the conclusion of the Sussex case.

To-day's announcement, putting the refusal of Germany's enemies to discuss her peace proposals, and referring to the starvation blockade, says: "Thus a new situation has sprung up which forces Germany also to new decisions."

The new decision is exactly the one forecast when the Sussex negotiations were closed.

The German decision leaves this Government the alternative of either permitting Germany to forbid Americans to travel on the high seas and American ships to reach Great Britain and her allies or to consider measures for their protection.

This move of Germany's was by a queer irony of diplomacy evoked by the President's peace address to the Senate, transmitted to Berlin as a diplomatic memorandum. The German communication of to-day outlining the Imperial Government's new policy is in fact a direct reply to this address.

Approves of Wilson's Address.

Germany approves of the address in all its essentials, but takes the position that the Entente's unwillingness to discuss peace makes it necessary for the Imperial Government to resort to every weapon at its command to force the enemy to his knees. This weapon is the unrestricted use of submarines aimed at starving Great Britain into submission.

There is no disposition among Senators and Congressmen to minimize the exceeding gravity of the situation thus suddenly thrust upon the nation. Some with conservative tendencies even went so far to-night as to say that the country seemed to be steering into a conflict.

Senator Tillman, chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee, said that Ambassador von Bernstorff ought to get out as quickly as possible. Meanwhile the wildest rumors were current in the capital. One of these had it that Count von Bernstorff was already planning to leave, while another had it that Ambassador Gerard had been instructed to leave Berlin.

British Embassy Interested.

Count von Bernstorff handed the German note to Secretary Lansing shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon. Just prior to his visit disturbing rumors had reached the State Department and diplomatic circles. Secretary Lansing asked to be excused from his conference with the newspaper correspondents, which usually takes place at 3:30. Mr. Barclay, counsellor of the British Embassy, arrived at the Department while the German Ambassador was transmitting the note to Mr. Lansing.

Mr. Barclay saw Counsellor Polk of the State Department and was obviously alive to the seriousness of the situation when he left. Count von Bernstorff's visit to Mr. Lansing's office was marked by more formality than is usually the case. Mr. Lansing was amazed when he realized the real importance of the German communication. The Ambassador made it clear that the decision of his Government to revoke all pledges heretofore made to the United States concerning submarine warfare was unchangeable. It was clear to Mr. Lansing that nothing was to be gained by discussion. He accepted the German verdict in silence, but gave the impression that it would not be long before the de[illegible] of the United States would be re[illegible]

SEIZE HER SHIPS, IS T. R.'S ADVICE

Our Trade With Germany Should Also Be Interdicted, Colonel Says.

ACTION AT FIRST CHANCE

Roosevelt [illegible] Wilson's Policy Is Murder of Innocents on High Seas.

Col. Theodore Roosevelt made the following comment on the German note at the Hotel Langdon last night:

"If the President has a proper sense of the respect due to this nation he will pay no more attention to this note than a householder would to the warning of a burglar against interference when the burglar was about to make off with the silver. We have in this note the explanation of the President's peace moves for the last six weeks.

"The German note makes the policy of murder of non-combatants, including women and children, the national policy of Germany on the high seas. If President Wilson means what he has said about the freedom of the seas he will protect non-combatants from murder as the first requisite and will act instantly against Germany.

"If he had acted as he should have acted at the time I asked him to act—at the time of the Lusitania affair—Germany would now have something besides notes to fear.

"On the first occasion when the threats of the German note are carried into effect as regards American citizens or ships every German interned vessel should be seized by our Government and trade with Germany interdicted.

"I would like to call attention to the fact that the nervous effort of Meroz to preserve neutrality by pandering to Deborah did not permanently avail to keep it out of trouble."

PERKINS SARCASTIC.

"Wilson Will Be Fortunate if He Escapes Impeachment."

"No one need be in the least surprised at what has happened," said George W. Perkins last night. "It has been perfectly evident for some time that Wilson was taking us into this very situation. His policy of butting in in Mexico, with its dire consequences, has been accompanied by a policy of butting in in European affairs. In both cases our country has suffered humiliation of the deepest sort.

"On the very day that our troops are being withdrawn from Mexico, after a perfectly futile attempt to get Villa, we receive this new affront from Germany. I think you'd better ask for opinions from the people who voted for Wilson last November on the plea that 'he has protected me and mine, has kept us out of war and given us prosperity.'

"I notice that one of the conditions under which the kind Kaiser is going to let us run ships is that the American flag shall fly from the stern. That is quite appropriate. The rear of everything is where Wilson has put our flag and where it will stay until we get rid of Wilson. Times without number since he first entered the White House I have said he would go out of it the most discredited man who ever occupied it. I now think he will be fortunate if he escapes impeachment."

BRITAIN READY TO COMBAT BLOCKADE

Ports of Liverpool and Bordeaux to Be Kept Open at All Hazards.

It was said by British shipping interests here last night that Great Britain and her allies had made all preparations to meet Germany's moves in her submarine campaign. The Entente Powers were convinced weeks ago that ruthless warfare with undersea boats would be decreed sooner or later and have known for ten days that the decision had been reached, it was said.

The ports of Liverpool and Bordeaux will be kept open at all hazards, British steamship representatives asserted, even if it becomes necessary to convoy every merchant ship which crosses the Atlantic. The first step to be taken by the British Admiralty, which virtually controls the merchant fleets of the Entente Allies, will be to arm every ship with guns fore and aft, it was predicted.

To meet the emergency which it was confidently expected would arise eventually the British Government has been assembling for months, it was said, a large fleet of small, fast cruisers to be used as "submarine chasers." This type of war craft has proved very effective against undersea boats, well informed shipping men declared.

Agents of British lines declare the Admiralty now has a fleet of 4,000 vessels available to keep the sea lanes clear of raiders and submarines and to act as convoys.

The Admiralty has so arranged sailings and bookings, it was explained, that they can be changed without delay to meet whatever circumstances may arise. The assertion was made that there will be no interruption in the sailings from American ports of ships flying the flags of the Entente Allies.

It was considered probable, however, that vessels flying neutral colors will be kept in port until instructions are received from their Governments. This is certain to be true in the case of Dutch steamships.

A marked advance in marine insurance rates to-day was considered last night to be inevitable. One way rates yesterday for American vessels were 7 per cent. while there was a 10 per cent. war risk rate on ships clearing for Mediterranean ports.

Low Rate Tickets West and Southwest. Beautiful Mountain Scenery via Chesapeake & Ohio Railway. 1238 B'way.—Adv.

BRITISH READY TO STRIKE BACK

Expect Germany to Begin "Sea Frightfulness" Campaign at Once.

ARE FIRM FOR REPRISALS

Admiralty Announcement Is Taken as Presage of Ominous Action.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—Sea frightfulness of unheard of violence is what British officialdom expects as a result of the German announcement of unreserved naval warfare, the orders of blockading the allied coasts, and that hospital ships plying in certain areas will be sunk without warning.

After learning the contents of Germany's announcement a reliable authority declared it his firm belief that Germany was ready for the final strain on the seas, and had completed her preparations to force the submarine campaign to its highest point of efficiency.

In addition to a formal denial of the German contention that the British have used hospital ships for transport purposes naval officials say that the greatest care has been taken to avoid any complications in this direction. Time after time hospital ships have been held up until every vestige of unlawful cargo has been removed. In many cases American Consuls have inspected Red Cross ships.

If a single British hospital ship is sunk under the new German order the world may witness the most terrible campaign of reprisals ever organized. Only those very close to the Government, who know the infrequence of British threats of reprisal, can realize the ominous nature of the latest communication to Germany through the United States.

Whether the reprisals will take the form of similar acts on Great Britain's part is matter for conjecture, but the Admiralty is already prepared for thorough work along this line. It is the first rumbling from aggravated England after two years of patient watching and repeated torpedoing. Every means of combatting the undersea boats thus far used has been strictly within the recognized code of sea laws, but if Germany carries out the threat to let down the bars for unrestricted warfare England is ready to meet her.

The Teuton proclamation to-day acted like a spark on a powder magazine, setting off a blast of British indignation which is bound to take concrete form upon the first sign of action by Germany.

TO SINK HOSPITAL SHIPS.

Berlin Declares England Uses Them to Carry Troops.

BERLIN, by wireless, Jan. 31.—The Imperial Admiralty made the following announcement to-day:

"The German Government has convincing evidence in hand that hostile hospital ships frequently are misused for the transportation of ammunition and troops. The Government has communicated these proofs to the British and French Governments by diplomatic means. At the same time it declared that hospital ships passing on the military route of the hostile army engaged in France and Belgium within the lines Flamborough Head-Terschelling on the one hand and the Thames-Land's End on the other, shall be no more treated as such. Hostile Powers are free to use hospital ships for the transportation of wounded and sick army members on ways outside this district. The barring of other sea routes is reserved, in case of further misuse of hospital ships in violation of international law."

NAVY PUTS BAN ON ALL OUTWARD SHIPS

Refuged German Vessels Also Inspected to Guard Against Possibility of Dash.

No vessels of any description except dump scows were permitted to leave the port last night, by order of Dudley Field Malone, Collector of the Port. The navy tug Pentucket and the destroyer Henley in the Narrows turned back all craft which attempted to pass, even small tugs.

Meanwhile George F. Lamb, Deputy Collector of the Port, made an inspection of the German steamships refuged in Hoboken, at 135th street in Manhattan and in other parts of New York harbor.

No explanation of the order was forthcoming from official sources, but unofficially it was learned that a rumor had been circulated that the crews of the German ships were preparing to make a dash to sea in the hope of outrunning the cordon of British cruisers in these waters or of scuttling them on the high seas. The rumor, arising upon the very night when the latest German note was made public, obviously caused the Collector to decide to take no chances.

Inspection of the German vessels developed that none of them has enough coal for half a day's voyage.

It has been understood since the beginning of the war that prompt action would be taken if an international situation should arise under which the crews or agents of the vessels might desire to destroy their own vessels. There are twenty-four steamships belonging to the Central Powers which are tied up in the Hudson. Three Austrian vessels are tied up in Brooklyn. They are inspected frequently.

GREAT BEAR SPRING WATER. 80c. the case of six glass stoppered bottles. —Adv.

Full Official Text of New German Note to the United States

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Here is the official text of the German note on unreserved naval warfare addressed to Secretary Lansing and signed by Count von Bernstorff:

Mr. Secretary of State:

Your Excellency was good enough to transmit to the Imperial Government a copy of the message which the President of the United States of America addressed to the Senate on the 22d inst. The Imperial Government has given it the earnest consideration which the President's statements deserve, inspired as they are by a deep sentiment of responsibility. It is highly gratifying to the Imperial Government to ascertain that the main tendencies of this important statement correspond largely to the desires and principles professed by Germany. These principles especially include self-government and equality of rights for all nations. Germany would be sincerely glad if, in recognition of this principle, countries like Ireland and India, which do not enjoy the benefits of political independence, should now obtain their freedom.

The German people also repudiate all alliances which serve to force the countries into a competition for might and to involve them in a net of selfish intrigues. On the other hand, Germany will gladly cooperate in all efforts to prevent future wars. The freedom of the seas, being a preliminary condition of the free existence of nations and the peaceful intercourse between them, as well as the open door for the commerce of all nations, has always formed part of the leading principles of Germany's political programme.

All the more the Imperial Government regrets that the attitude of her enemies who are so entirely opposed to peace makes it impossible for the world at present to bring about the realization of these lofty ideals. Germany and her allies were ready to enter now into a discussion of peace and had set down as a basis the guaranty of existence, honor and free development of their peoples. Their aims, as has been expressly stated in the note of December 12, 1916, were not directed toward the destruction or annihilation of their enemies and were, according to their conviction, perfectly compatible with the rights of the other nations.

As to Belgium, for which such warm and cordial sympathy is felt in the United States, the Chancellor had declared only a few weeks previously that its annexation had never formed part of Germany's intentions. The peace to be signed with Belgium was to provide for such conditions in that country, with which Germany desires to maintain friendly neighborly relations, that Belgium should not be used again by Germany's enemies for the purpose of instigating continuous hostile intrigues. Such precautionary measures are all the more necessary, as Germany's enemies have repeatedly stated, not only in speeches delivered by their leading men but also in the statutes of the economical conference in Paris, that it is their intention not to treat Germany as an equal, even after peace has been restored, but to continue their hostile attitude and especially to wage a systematical economic war against her.

The attempt of the four allied Powers to bring about peace has failed owing to the lust of conquest of their enemies, who desired to dictate the conditions of peace.

Under the pretence of following the principle of nationality our enemies have disclosed their real aims in this way, viz.:

To dismember and dishonor Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. To the wish of reconciliation they oppose the will of destruction. They desire a fight to the bitter end.

A new situation has thus been created which forces Germany to new decisions. Since two years and a half England is using her naval power for a criminal attempt to force Germany into submission by starvation. In brutal contempt of international law the group of Powers led by England does not only curtail the legitimate trade of their opponents, but they also by ruthless pressure compel neutral countries either altogether to forego every trade not agreeable to the Entente Powers or to limit it according to their arbitrary decrees.

The American Government knows the steps which have been taken to cause England and her allies to return to the rules of international law and to respect the freedom of the seas. The English Government, however, insists upon continuing its war of starvation, which does not at all affect the military power of its opponents, but compels women and children, the sick and the aged, to suffer for their country pains and privations which endanger the vitality of the nation. Thus British tyranny mercilessly increases the sufferings of the world, indifferent to the laws of humanity, indifferent to the protests of the neutrals whom they severely harm, indifferent even to the silent longing for peace among England's own allies. Each day of the terrible struggle causes new destruction, new sufferings. Each day shortening the war, on both sides, will preserve the life of thousands of brave soldiers and be a benefit to mankind.

The Imperial Government could not justify before its own conscience, before the German people and before history the neglect of any means destined to bring about the end of the war. Like the President of the United States, the Imperial Government had hoped to reach this goal by negotiations.

After the attempts to come to an understanding with the Entente Powers have been answered by the latter with the announcement of an intensified continuation of the war THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT—in order to serve the welfare of mankind in a higher sense and not to wrong its own people—IS NOW COMPELLED TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR EXISTENCE, AGAIN FORCED UPON IT, WITH THE FULL EMPLOYMENT OF ALL THE WEAPONS WHICH ARE AT ITS DISPOSAL.

Sincerely trusting that the people and the Government of the United States will understand the motives for this decision and its necessity, the Imperial Government hopes that the United States may view the new situation from the lofty heights of impartiality and assist, on their part, to prevent further misery and unavoidable sacrifice of human life.

Enclosing two memoranda regarding the details of the contemplated military measures at sea, I remain, &c.,

J. BERNSTORFF.

One of the Memoranda to Text of Note as Submitted by Ambassador Bernstorff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Following is the official text of one of the memoranda mentioned in the German note and presented to the State Department by Count von Bernstorff:

From February 1, 1917, sea traffic will be stopped with every available weapon and without further notice in the following blockade zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean.

In the north.

The zone is confined by a line at a distance of twenty sea miles along the Dutch coast to Terschelling fire ship, the degree of longitude from Terschelling fire ship to Udsire (the Odir?), a line from there across the point 62 degrees north 0 degrees longitude to 62 degrees north 5 degrees west, further to a point three sea miles south of the southern point of the Farve (Faroe?) Islands, from there across point 62 degrees north 10 degrees west to 61 degrees north 15 degrees west, then 57 degrees north 20 degrees west to 47 degrees north 20 degrees west, further to 43 degrees north 15 degrees west, then along the degree of latitude 43 degrees north to twenty sea miles from Cape Finisterre and at a distance of 20 sea miles along the north coast of Spain to the French boundary.

In the south: The Mediterranean—

For neutral ships remains open the sea west of the line Pt. des Espiquette to 38 degrees 20 minutes north and 6 degrees east, also north and west of a zone 61 sea miles wide along the north African coast beginning at 2 degrees longitude west. For the connection of this sea zone with Greece there is provided a zone of a width of twenty sea miles north and east of the following line: 38 degrees north and 6 degrees east to 38 degrees north and 10 degrees west to 37 degrees north and 11 degrees 30 minutes east to 34 degrees north and 22 degrees 30 minutes east. From there leads a zone twenty sea miles wide west of 22 degrees 30 minutes eastern longitude into Greek territorial waters.

Neutral ships navigating these blockade zones do so at their own risk. Although care has been taken that neutral ships which are on their way toward ports of the blockade zones on February 1, 1917, and have come in the vicinity of the latter will be spared during a sufficiently long period, it is strongly advised to warn them with all available means in order to cause their return.

Neutral ships which on February 1 are in ports of the blockade zones can with the same safety leave them.

The instructions given to the commanders of German submarines provide for a sufficiently long period during which the safety of passengers on unarmed enemy passenger ships is guaranteed.

Americans en route to the blockade zone on enemy freight steamers are not endangered, as the enemy shipping firms can prevent such ships in time from entering the zone.

Sailing of regular American passenger steamers may continue undisturbed after February 1, 1917, if,

(A) The port of destination is Falmouth.

(B) Sailing to or coming from that port, course is taken via the Scilly Islands and a point 50 degrees north 20 degrees west.

(C) The steamers are marked in the following way, which must not be allowed to other vessels in American ports: On ship's hull and superstructure three vertical stripes one meter wide, each to be painted alternately white and red. Each mast should show a large flag checkered white and red, and the stern the American national flag. Care should be taken that during dark national flag and painted marks are easily recognizable from a distance and that the boats are well lighted throughout.

(D) One steamer a week sails in each direction, with arrival at Falmouth on Sunday and departure from Falmouth on Wednesday.

(E) United States Government guarantees that no contraband (according to German contraband list) is carried by those steamers.

Two copies of maps on which the barred zones are outlined are added.

SHORE LEAVE FORBIDDEN.

Crews of Interned German Vessels Ordered Kept Aboard.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 31.—Orders were issued to-night by Capt. Russell, commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, denying shore leave until further notice to the sailors of the German auxiliary cruisers Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, interned at the yard.

There are about 700 men aboard the two vessels and they have been granted shore leave twice a week.

PLANS AERIAL NAVIGATION.

French Statesman Hopes to Use Aeroplanes for Transport.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Jan. 31.—M. Clement, formerly Minister of Commerce, has formed a committee to study the use of aviation after the war, especially for national and international postal service.

Comte de Daubigny, who presided at the first meeting of the committee, said aviation before the war was a sport, during the war a weapon, and that after the war it would become a transport industry.

TO HOLD COLONIES.

Never Return Them to German Rule, Says Walter Hume Long.

LONDON, Jan. 31.—The colonies captured from Germany during the war will never be returned, said Walter Hume Long, Secretary of State for the Colonies, speaking as a representative of the overseas dominions in an address to-day.

"We acquired possession of different German colonies in various parts of the world as a consequence of this war," he said. "Let no man think these territories will ever return to German rule."

REICHSTAG IS INFORMED.

Military Policy Outlined by the Imperial Chancellor.

BERLIN (via London), Jan. 31.—The Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, is to make a statement this afternoon to the Ways and Means Committee of the Reichstag on foreign affairs and the military situation.

According to the newspapers the Chancellor is to make important declarations regarding "the decisions of the Government," and will explain the grounds upon which these decisions are based.