

Fair and colder to-day; to-morrow fair, slowly rising temperature.

Highest temperature yesterday, 39; lowest, 12. Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 12.

BERLIN DETERMINED TO FORCE WAR, WASHINGTON HEARS; POPE AND KING OF SPAIN HOPE TO RESTRAIN THE KAISER; TWO SHIPS FLYING U. S. FLAG SAIL TODAY; BALTIC SAFE

GERARD HOPE OF TAMMANY

Ambassador as Candidate for Mayor a Winner, Democrats Believe.

RECORD WOULD AID HIM

Fusionists Say Mitchell Could Be Elected, but He May Not Be Candidate.

Tammany launched a real live boom for Ambassador James W. Gerard as its candidate for Mayor yesterday.

The fact that he is returning to this country and will be available as a candidate has, according to a prominent Tammany man, furnished the fourth street organization with a way out of a situation that was considered almost hopeless until the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany.

The advisability of selecting Ambassador Gerard as Tammany's choice for Mayor was discussed by the leaders during the Ambassador's recent visit to this country.

He was told by Tammany that he could have the nomination if he desired it.

Mr. Gerard talked it over with his friends and it is understood it was finally agreed that should he desert his post in Berlin at such a critical time it might react against him.

But now that he is returning home, and brings with him the good will of the German Government, the Tammany leaders are doing a war dance in the city.

They give the Tammany braves a special salute on the warlike and preparing to give the fusion forces a hard fight for the city.

Heard First Talked Of.

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VATICAN FEARS FOR CARDINAL MERCIER

Suspect That He May Be Held a Virtual Prisoner by Germans.

PARIS, Feb. 9.—A despatch to the Temps from Rome says: "Vatican circles have been virtually without news of Cardinal Mercier for some time and ecclesiastical circles are beginning to have the impression that the prelate is being forcibly isolated by the German authorities to an extent that might be real captivity."

The latest cable despatch concerning Cardinal Mercier was received in the United States from London under date of January 21, quoting instructions sent by the Cardinal to parish priests.

An unconfirmed despatch from Amsterdam under date of December 7 said it was reported that Cardinal Mercier had been confined to his palace by the German authorities.

ARRESTED AS THIEF AFTER \$50,000 LOSS

Old Man Tells How "War Brides" Cost Fortune and Then Tries Suicide.

Penniless and discouraged after Wall Street speculations had cost him a fortune of \$50,000 in one year, an old man who gave his name as Abraham Levine, but admitted it was fictitious, was arrested yesterday afternoon charged with stealing an overcoat from the counter of a department store.

Levine, as he chose to be called, was a familiar visitor to the store. He would enter, chat with the clerks a minute or two and explain that he was waiting for some particular salesman who happened to be engaged at the moment.

Yesterday, after he had repeated this performance, Miss Elizabeth Collins and Edward Adams, of the store's detective force, said they saw him pick up an overcoat and start out with it.

Levine was taken to a cheap lodging house where he had a room, in charge of Detective Kelly of the first branch, and there he produced eleven pawn-tickets which he said represented garments taken from the store.

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BRITAIN CHAFES OVER U. S. DELAY

"What Constitutes an Overt Act?" London Public and Press Are Asking.

AMERICANS ARE CHEERED Bands Play "Hail Columbia" but Elation Is Changing to Impatience.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Great Britain's elation over the break of the United States with Germany has quickly given place to impatience over the delay in the United States.

The break in diplomatic negotiations between the United States and Germany has taken cognizance of Germany's breach of faith, which has been followed immediately by unrestricted warfare.

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Losses of Shipping Since February 1

Losses of shipping of the Allies and of neutrals since February 1, when the German unrestricted submarine warfare commenced, have been as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Value. Includes Ships reported sunk yesterday, Total tonnage reported, Total known tonnage, etc.

U-BOATS' TOLL IS DWINDLING

Only Six Ships Reported Sunk, but 29 Lives Are Lost.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—A great falling off is noticed in the reports today of ships sunk and tonnage lost through the unrestricted operations of German submarines.

The loss of life reported today, however, is far greater than on any day since the blockade began.

The German blockade of the port of New York will be broken this morning when two freighters flying the Stars and Stripes and loaded with all manner of supplies and munitions for France leave port and point for the mouth of the River Garonne and Bordeaux.

The news that the sunk and determination of the owners of the Orlean and the Rochester were not to be bluff by the German threat, together with the cable announcement to the White Star Line that its big Baltic had docked safely at Liverpool was a cause of great uplift in steamship circles last night.

The Orlean is commanded by Capt. Albert T. B. Smith, a native American, and carries a crew of thirty-five, mostly Americans.

The Rochester is commanded by Capt. J. Korkirk, who was born in the United States, and carries a crew of thirty-three, mostly Americans.

Both ships carry general merchandise—manila, foodstuffs, and some munitions.

Both ships fall directly under the German prohibition and must take their chances of being torpedoed without warning. Neither is armed.

The owners and agents of each express the utmost confidence that the vessels will reach Bordeaux safely.

"We believe in the good old American way of attending to our legitimate business. We are not afraid of the German blockade, but in a civilized manner we will not submit to this prohibition by Germany on legal trading with Europe.

We are going about our business as Americans, and we are not going to be stopped by a bunch of scoundrels who have done ever since we had a country."

Last night the Rochester, all ready to go to sea, was anchored in the lower bay waiting for the orders of the American consuls.

She received her clearance papers from the Customs House yesterday morning. The Orlean was still at pier 2, Erie street, and was ready to move out.

Although neither company would announce the exact hour of departure, it is said that both ships would sail early this morning.

The Orlean was formerly the Argentine steamship Avellaneda, but when she was captured by the British in 1914 her registry was changed to American.

The Rochester was formerly the Yaguajay, a lake boat, and was constructed in 1914. She carries about 4,000 tons of freight.

The news of the safe arrival of the Baltic was received last night in a cable message from Liverpool.

The message was supplemented by a personal message from the Baltic's captain, "All well."

There had been some apprehension for the safety of the Baltic and the message was very gladly received. It suggested too that the British Government is now conveying all the big ships from a considerable distance at sea and that measures of protection will be taken as regards the Adriatic and Carmanian which sailed from this port recently.

Steamers Orlean and Rochester Will Risk German U-Boat Peril.

GERARD AND PARTY DUE TO LEAVE BERLIN TO-NIGHT

Due at Swiss Border To-morrow, Going Thence to Spain—German Under Secretary Says U. S. Kept Bernstorff From Cabling.

BERLIN, via London, Feb. 8.—Former Ambassador Gerard and his party will leave Berlin Saturday evening.

A special train will leave Berlin at 8:10 o'clock for Switzerland by way of Basel and Berne.

The former Ambassador and Mrs. Gerard will be accompanied by nearly all the embassy secretaries and attaches and members of the consular service in Germany—except a few ordered to be made out for the Ambassador's party and because of the lack of the American newspaper correspondents.

The arrangements for the departure were practically completed today. The delay was caused by the number of passports to be made out for the Ambassador's party and because of the lack of the American newspaper correspondents.

The German Government was unwilling to permit the Ambassador to leave Berlin until the Ambassador had received his passports.

The reports of the seizure of German ships and the restriction of the liberty of their crews are untrue, as such measure would be contrary to the German-American treaty of 1915.

The German wireless station at Tuckershausen is not working, it is said. The dismissed Ambassador could have availed himself of this method of communication, although he would not have been able to receive messages in code.

Neither was Mr. Gerard able to communicate with Washington except in plain words messaged after the rupture. These restrictions are usual.

WILSON'S NAVY ON PEACE PLAN PLANS BLOCKED

Negotiations Begun to Induce Kaiser to Yield Point to Neutrals.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Navy Department officials when told to-night of the assertion of Von Stumm, the Imperial German under secretary for Foreign Affairs, that Ambassador Gerard's passport had been refused by the German Government, were not surprised.

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Berlin Resolved on Widening Breach, Washington Hears.

WILSON DETERMINED IN STAND ON SHIPS

Will Ask Congress for Power to Enforce Respect for Rights.

QUESTION OF CONVOY BEING CONSIDERED

President Hopes to Place Full Responsibility for Clash on Teutons.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Germany is determined, whether President Wilson desires it or not, to force a complete rupture with the United States.

This is the interpretation placed in certain official and diplomatic circles on the developments of the acutely serious situation within the last forty-eight hours.

A foreign Ambassador informed the correspondent of THE SUN to-night that the news had reached him and the State Department from the same source and was receiving the most serious consideration.

It is stated that the German Government would have made heavy sacrifices, short of actual military necessity, to maintain the friendship of the United States during the operation of the submarine war zone campaign aimed at the starvation of Great Britain.

It was also stated that the German Government had instructed Ambassador Gerard to make applicable concessions to American shipping companies with respect to passenger travel in the war zone and to use every conciliatory means in his power if the United States Government indorsed the basic idea that Great Britain's "starvation policy" was justifiable.

To regard U. S. as an Enemy.