

Fair and colder to-day; to-morrow, strong northwest winds, diminishing. Highest temperature yesterday, 54; lowest, 31. Detailed weather, mail and marine reports on page 12.



WILSON ASKS CONGRESS FOR AUTHORITY TO ARM SHIPS; MEMBERS HOSTILE TO GIVING HIM BLANKET POWERS; LACONIA SUNK, AMERICAN AND HER DAUGHTER DROWNED

WILSON'S WORD 'TIMID' SHOCKS SHIPPING MEN

President's Reference to Blockade of American Ports Is Resented.

UNABLE TO BUY GUNS TO PROTECT LINERS

Representatives Declare the Situation Has Been Misrepresented.

Since the German submarine decree which tied up American shipping went into effect American ship owners, and especially officials of the American Line that have been the particular victims of Government inaction, fancied they had run out of good, old-fashioned Yankee ingenuity. They were mistaken.

Yesterday they culled from the President's speech to Congress a sentence which automatically revived the best traditions of oral condemnation in the American merchant marine:

"Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering, rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk."

It is not permitted to quote P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine Company, which, as is well known, operates the new blockade runner, the American Line, it was severely fitting perhaps to reproduce the comment (accurately) of a dozen agents for American steamship lines after they read that sentence and the full significance of the word "timidly" sank in. The fact is, American steamship men were first burning and vociferously angry and then silenced by a kind of shame that the situation, as they see it, could have been so misrepresented.

Lines Couldn't Buy Any Guns. Representatives of the American Line who spoke with the perfect knowledge of Mr. Franklin's mind called attention to these facts:

"First, there was no timidly among American Line officials when they combed the country trying to buy naval guns so as to arm their ships and repel the comment. (accurately) of a dozen agents for American steamship lines after they read that sentence and the full significance of the word "timidly" sank in. The fact is, American steamship men were first burning and vociferously angry and then silenced by a kind of shame that the situation, as they see it, could have been so misrepresented.

Whether this big German retreat is the beginning of bigger things, perhaps the retreat to a line many miles back that the British and French hoped to force by the Somme offensive, is the great question now.

Give Up Much Ground. In any case, the Germans have yielded up in their withdrawal at least half as much territory as the Allies seem to have gained by their terrific exertion and at heavy cost in the fighting of last summer and autumn.

Already the German retreat is causing the most serious backward movement in the western front since Joffre hurled back von Kluck at the Marne two and a half years ago.

The Germans have evacuated partly because of British pressure, but partly of their own volition, positions on the Ancre that defied British assault ever since the first of July. Such strong points as Serre and Miramont have been given up in this manner.

Airplanes on Watch. With the clearing of the weather today the British airplanes have gone out to find just how far the Germans are in retreat and how closely it is safe for the British to press them.

Berlin still preserves absolute silence about the most important German move to the west since the Verdun offensive. Not a word has appeared in the official statements thus far to indicate that anything unwonted was happening on the Ancre.

The bulletin from Berlin to-night mentions the failure of a British attack east of Arras, undoubtedly a raid in force, and says that the Germans were more active and more evening near Sailly-Saillies, on the Somme front, southeast of the pivot point of the German retirement. The German statement of the day mentions that British advances, evidently undertaken north of the Ancre front to ascertain if the Germans there were about to withdraw.

The Official Reports. The official statements report little of importance elsewhere on the western front. They are as follows:

British.—The movements referred to in our communications Saturday and Sunday were maintained during the day on both banks of the Ancre. Our advance extends over a front of about eleven miles, from east of Guisnes to south of Gommeourt, and has attained a depth of two miles.

In addition to the village of Serre, strong points known as Gueudecourt, Warlencourt and the villages of Warlencourt-Eaucourt, Pys and Miramont.

A hostile attack made early this morning on one of our posts south of the Somme was driven off with loss.

Make Raid Near Arras. We carried out a successful raid this morning north of Arras and captured twenty-four prisoners. We also captured the village of Monchy-aux-Bois and west of Lens and brought back a few prisoners. The hostile artillery was more active than usual during the day and they will have nothing but the American flag and their own pluck to protect them.

LORD NORTHCLIFFE UNDER GERMAN FIRE

English Editor Remains in Bed During Destroyer Raid on East Coast.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. London, Feb. 26.—The German destroyer raid on the unfortified towns of Broadstairs and Margate, on the east coast, was not lacking in grim humor. The son of Lord Northcliffe, proprietor of the Times and the Daily Mail, was well within the fire zone and the famous editor happened to be staying there.

At about half past eleven more than a dozen star shells lit up the locality, and then for six minutes shrapnel burst all over the place, knocking his library wall about and killing a woman and a baby only fifty yards away. The shells appeared to have been fired from about three miles out at sea.

Lord Northcliffe said later that he was greatly disturbed by the bombardment, but that not until his secretary roused him did he become aware of the raid. Then he decided to remain in bed.

"I am used to being bombarded," he said. "After all, that is what happens all day to our soldiers and the civilian population in France and Belgium."

It is not the first time Lord Northcliffe has been under fire literally in this war, while visiting most of the fronts, to say nothing of his activities as a war correspondent.

It is recalled also that the German press denounced him a while ago in strident chorus as the most hated Englishman; that is, of course, the most hated by the Germans.

BRITISH GAIN ON 11 MILE FRONT

Occupy Fifth Village as Germans Continue Big Ancre Retirement.

LONDON, Feb. 26.—The Germans are still falling back on the Ancre. Their retreat has spread over a front of eleven miles and to a depth of two miles, at least, giving up to the British nearly twenty-five square miles of entrenched and fortified ground.

Besides the villages already announced, Warlencourt-Eaucourt has been occupied, the fifth fortress village to be yielded up without a struggle in the last two days. The British are at the outskirts of Le Barque, only two miles from Pappume, the goal of their Somme offensive.

It is believed possible that the Germans may even relinquish Pappume.

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FIVE BILLIONS BRITISH LOAN

New War Fund, Greatest in History, Exceeds Expectations.

8,000,000 SUBSCRIPTIONS

More Than 8,000,000 Persons Gave Savings in Sums of 25 Cents to \$3.90.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun. LONDON, Feb. 26.—The announcement by Bonar Law, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to-day that the new war loan of \$5,000,000,000 comes as a big and a welcome surprise to Great Britain. The additional announcement that eight millions of British subjects subscribed, some of them only a few shillings, shows the nation's purpose to win the war at any sacrifice.

The most optimistic official forecasts had not even hinted that the amount of the loan would be more than \$4,000,000,000. Bonar Law had carefully concealed his expectations, so the announcement of the figures in the House of Commons came as a dramatic and triumphant climax and caused great enthusiasm.

Greatest Loan in History. This result of Great Britain's third war loan, so often called Lloyd George's victory loan, is by far the greatest voluntary subscription to the nation's defense by the people of any nation ever at war.

That it is truly the contribution of the British people is shown by the tremendous number of subscribers and by the fact that the floating of the loan at 5 per cent, rather than at 6 per cent, was undertaken against the advice of many bankers.

By his diplomatic manner of handling the war loan campaign Bonar Law forced Germany into admitting England's huge financial triumph, while keeping the nation's expectations of the loan too high. After he had first announced some days ago that the total probably would be \$3,500,000,000, the German papers all declared it would be a failure unless it reached \$4,000,000,000.

The loan has resulted in a striking victory for the Government over the professional financiers. When banking experts advised the Treasury Department that it could not be floated at less than 6 per cent, Mr. Law declared that he preferred to risk failure in an attempt at a 5 per cent loan rather than place 6 per cent on the standard of the nation's credit. The Chancellor's highest expectations had been for \$3,000,000,000 of new money.

Treasury Bills New Money. The total of new money includes the conversion of nearly \$630,000,000 short term Treasury bills, and there is a difference of \$1,400,000,000. The public should be regarded as "new money," some financiers taking the negative ground that they represent money which the Government already has spent.

The following analysis of the new loan: The new money subscribed to the war loan is \$5,000,000,000. The number of special subscriptions from banks, exclusive of all short term borrowings, was 2,250,000,000 from about 1,100,000 subscribers, as compared with public subscriptions of \$5,000,000,000, but at the lowest, 5,250,000 subscribers.

The total new money, \$5,000,000,000, includes \$620,000,000, subscribed in the form of Treasury bills. There were 750,000,000 subscribers from banks, whereas in the war loan of 1915 the special subscriptions from banks came to \$1,000,000,000, out of the total of \$3,000,000,000 then subscribed. The public subscriptions in 1915 were therefore \$2,000,000,000 from about 1,100,000 subscribers, as compared with public subscriptions of \$5,000,000,000, but at the lowest, 5,250,000 subscribers.

Analysis of German Loan. The largest German war loan was the third, which at the rate of 20 marks to the dollar amounted to \$2,040,000,000, but as the sovereign value at that time was worth 24 marks a truer basis of comparison would be to take the total as \$2,448,000,000. The total raised by the five German war loans is 47,000,000,000 marks, which on the conversion basis of 20 marks to the pound is \$2,350,000,000, but at 25 marks to the pound, which is the present value of the mark, is only \$935,000,000.

The total raised in Great Britain by means of war loans since the war began, exclusive of all short term borrowings, is \$10,010,000,000. If Exchequer bonds, which the average currency is about three and a half years, are included, the total becomes \$11,450,000,000. The population of Germany is 65,000,000, the population of the United Kingdom is 45,000,000.

The total number of subscribers from 25 cents upward to the last German war loan was 3,810,000. The total number of subscribers, from 25 cents upward to the new British war loan is over 8,000,000.

No figures are available as to the conversion of the 4 1/2 per cent war loan into the new war loan. The amount of the converted bonds is \$2,448,000,000, but it is not completely known, but it is at least \$1,170,000,000 out of a total outstanding of \$2,448,000,000. The 5 and 6 per cent Exchequer bonds are \$10,010,000,000, but of course in addition to the figure of \$5,000,000,000 of new money.

GERARD AT SPANISH PORT.

Reached Corunna, Where Boat for U. S. Will Be Boarded.

MADRID, Feb. 26.—James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, and party have arrived at Corunna, according to a message received here from the Governor of Corunna to-night.

The Ambassador left Madrid yesterday afternoon and will take steamer from Corunna for the United States.

Continued on Second Page.

CHICAGO WOMEN ARE DROWNED

Mrs. Hoy and Daughter Lose Lives When Life Boat Swamps.

NAME REPORTED AS "FOY"

Torpedoed Cunarder Had 291 Souls Aboard and Much Official U. S. Mail.

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, are as follows:

Ships reported sunk yesterday 6
Total tonnage reported sunk yesterday 24,522
Total known tonnage previously sunk 357,351
Excess of total loss to February 1 announced by Sir Edward Carson over total loss to that date, according to reports available in the United States 70,304
Total loss to date indicated 447,177

Ships sunk since February 1:
American 2
Other neutrals 49
Other belligerents 18
Total ships sunk 69

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LONDON, Feb. 26.—A Central News despatch from Queenstown says that "Mrs. Foy" and her daughter, passengers aboard the Cunard liner Laconia, were drowned by the swamping of one of the lifeboats when the big steamship was sunk unwarned last night by a German submarine off the Irish coast.

It is stated that the "Mrs. Foy" and daughter referred to are Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago. They were first cabin passengers aboard the Laconia. There were six Americans among the Laconia's passengers.

It has been definitely ascertained that two Americans were lost on the Laconia, according to the Daily Chronicle's Queenstown correspondent. The despatch states that 267 survivors have arrived in Queenstown, having been picked up from eight of the Laconia's lifeboats.

Some survivors were landed near Bantry head, and their names are not known. According to survivors the Laconia was torpedoed twice, first near the stern and later on the starboard side. The sea was calm and the passengers and crew got off in lifeboats without much trouble.

Had 291 Souls Aboard. When the Laconia sailed from New York February 19 for Liverpool she had aboard 291 passengers and crew. Of these 291 were saloon passengers, 42 second cabin and 216 of the crew, including twenty-five children.

Another complication for the United States may arise from the fact that the Laconia had aboard a large amount of official mail which she had taken from the American liner St. Louis cancelled her sailing for fear of U-boats. The State Department, having had its mail held on the St. Louis for three weeks, transferred it to the Laconia. The Central News says this mail is thought to have been lost. In all some 5,000 bags of mail were on the ship.

It is stated authentically that there can be no doubt that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning. Consul Frost's message to the American Embassy follows:

Cunard; Laconia torpedoed 10:50 Sunday night. Two hundred and seventy-eight survivors landed. Details lacking, but known some missing; one dead.

An afternoon despatch from Queenstown said that fifteen survivors of the Laconia were being landed.

AGENTS HERE STARTLED. Confident Laconia Would Pass Zone—26 Americans on Board.

The local office of the Cunard Line was startled by the confirmation of the news despatches telling of the sinking of the Laconia.

The company had unlimited confidence in Capt. W. R. D. Irvine, an officer of the Royal Naval Reserve, and also put faith in the ability of the Royal Naval Reserve gunner in charge of the 4.7 inch rapid fier mounted aft to hit any unarmored boat within range. But the attack was made at night, when the Laconia, with all lights out or veiled, was to the commander of the submarine a mere silhouette rushing through the sea.

Continued on Third Page.

HOUSE DEMURS TO THE REQUEST

Canvass Shows Unwillingness to Grant Wilson the Power He Asks.

FLOOD OFFERS MEASURE

It Follows White House Suggestions, but Will Probably Be Changed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—After a day of conferences had developed the utter impossibility of reconciling the various factions in the House to the demand of President Wilson for practically unlimited authority to use the armed forces of the United States in support of American rights, Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Affairs Committee introduced a bill to-night embodying almost verbatim the suggestions of the White House as set forth in a measure previously drawn and presented to Mr. Flood and Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

A careful canvass of the House fails to disclose more than the faintest possibility that this bill will be enacted as introduced. It probably will be changed by the Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow to limit the authority specifically to the arming of merchantmen and the further use of the naval forces of the United States for the protection of American lives and shipping.

There is every reason to believe that necessary concessions will be made to prevent an extra session of Congress, provided Republicans can be induced to accept such concessions and forego an extra session.

Text of the Bill. The Flood bill in full follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, and to arm such ships, with arms, ammunition and means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attacks; and that he be and is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such other instrumentalities or methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas.

Section 2.—The sum of \$100,000,000 is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be used by the President of the United States for the purposes herein provided, until the said sum is exhausted, and the President is authorized to transfer so much thereof as he may deem necessary to the Bureau of War Risk Insurance, created by act of Congress approved September 2, 1914, for the purpose of insuring vessels, their freight, passage moneys and cargoes against loss or damage by the present risks of the sea.

Section 3.—For the purpose of meeting the expenditures herein authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, under the direction of the President, is authorized to borrow on the credit of the United States and to issue therefor bonds of the United States not exceeding in the aggregate \$100,000,000, said bonds to be in the form of notes, and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, and to bear interest at the rate not exceeding 3 per cent per annum.

Bonds Exempt From Taxation. "Provided, that such bonds shall be sold at not less than par, shall not carry the interest privilege, and that all citizens of the United States shall be given an equal opportunity to subscribe therefor, but no commission shall be allowed or paid to any person in connection with the sale of such bonds, and interest shall be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value and be exempt from all taxation and duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form of all State, municipal or local authorities; and any bonds issued hereunder may be charged to the account of the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, but no commission shall be allowed or paid to any person in connection with the sale of such bonds, and interest shall be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value and be exempt from all taxation and duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form of all State, municipal or local authorities; and any bonds issued hereunder may be charged to the account of the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe, but no commission shall be allowed or paid to any person in connection with the sale of such bonds, and interest shall be payable in United States gold coin of the present standard of value and be exempt from all taxation and duties of the United States, as well as from taxation in any form of all State, municipal or local authorities; 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