

IMPETUS IS GIVEN TO COALITION HOUSE

Sinking of Three American Ships by U-Boats Helps Movement.

BOTH PARTIES PUZZLED

Bipartisan Plan Is Being Seriously Discussed as Prudent Step.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The obvious approach of an international crisis hastened by the sinking of three American ships by German submarines has given further impetus to the movement to bring about the organization of the next House of Representatives on a non-partisan basis.

Republicans have hitherto given little consideration to the proposal, which originated with the Democrats. Now members of both parties, doubtful of the power of either to control and realizing the necessity for concerted action in the House, are discussing the plan seriously.

The decision of the New Hampshire Legislature that a special session shall not be called in time to seat a successor to the late Representative Suloway before the convening of Congress on April 16 throws the organization of the House into serious doubt for the first time since the Republican side decided several weeks ago to make a real effort to control the organization of the House.

With Suloway's seat unfilled and with Representative Martin, protectionist of Louisiana, still on the side of the Republicans, the vote on the Speakership would be a tie between Speaker Clark and Minority Leader Mann, each claiming 217 votes. But whether in the face of the uncertainty attached to the probable outcome of the alignment will remain as expected is an entirely different proposition.

Were the ultimate election of a Democrat from Suloway's district assured the Democrats would have no hesitation in going ahead with a straight partisan organization of the House. Were the ultimate election of a Republican assured the Republicans might be willing to let the Democrats organize temporarily with the confidence that the Democrats' election of a Republican to fill Suloway's seat would give them the power to compel reorganization of the House. But neither side is anxious to organize until the House is organized by the House itself.

In the event of a bi-partisan organization Speaker Clark is unquestionably being accorded the presiding office and there is a disposition among Republicans to permit the chairmanship of the House to remain in Republican hands.

How the division would go beyond that point is problematical. Were the Republicans to organize the House it is questionable if they could hold their present strength of 217 members, as one of the members counted with the Republicans is Representative Martin, elected as a protectionist to obtain a return of the duties of a Republican.

If Democratic control of the Ways and Means Committee were assured Mr. Martin might decide that policy required him to cast his fortunes with the Democratic party, even though by such a vote his chance of a position on the Ways and Means Committee was reduced to a minimum.

FERKINS BACK FROM FLORIDA

Chairman of Mayor's Food Committee Will Resume Work.

George W. Perkins returned yesterday from a short stay in Florida to resume his work as chairman of the Mayor's Food Supply Committee. He is much in favor of the passage of the Wicks market and probably will attend a hearing on that measure at Albany to-morrow.

Mr. Perkins intimated that in case of a strike and a reduction of the city's food supplies the Mayor's Food Supply Committee will do what it can to help the public.

Inspectors of the Department of Health condemned a large quantity of Pacific coast smelts received by the committee from the State of Washington and destroyed the fish on Saturday. This action was taken at the invitation of the committee as the result of complaints made concerning some of the consignments of smelts that came in during the week. No more smelts will be bought this season by the committee to be sold in retail stores. The fish have stopped running in Pacific waters.

CROWD SEES PRISONER SHOT

Detective Fires on Man Who Broke Away After Arrest.

Several hundred passengers alighting from a Staten Island municipal ferryboat at St. George's, Staten Island, yesterday afternoon saw a detective chase a prisoner who had just broken away and then shoot him when he failed to stop. The prisoner was Tony Goodman of Carter, N. Y. With Dominic, a partner of 174 Mott street he had tried to sell a horse and rig worth \$400 for \$100. The liverman to whom it was offered notified the police. Detective Graham and Hinke questioned the men and failing to get satisfactory answers arrested them.

The detectives were escorting the prisoners along the viaduct opposite the ferry station when Goodman broke away. Graham was unable to catch him when it looked as if Goodman would escape the detective shot him in the leg. Goodman will recover.

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100 BATTLEPLANES COULD BAR AN ARMY

Rear Admiral Fiske Suggests Such a Division on Atlantic Coast.

Bradley A. Fiske, Rear Admiral U. S. N., retired, a member of the central committee on aeronautics of the Aero Club of America, suggests in a memorandum to Alan R. Hawley, president of the club, the building of fleets of battleplanes for the protection of American coasts.

He says that if our fleet is defeated in the Atlantic in the next year we would not have an army that could stand up against any European force that might land on our shores. But if we had a division of 100 battleplanes near New York, he points out, they could prevent disembarkation.

The battleplanes, he explains, could be equipped with 3 inch guns and the muzzle energy of 100 such guns would equal the muzzle energy and destructive power of 60,000 soldiers' rifles.

"If battleplanes," Admiral Fiske wrote, "have a field of usefulness in Europe, where the distances are very small and where the organization, training and strategic employment of large armies have reached a high state of development, do they not have a much wider field in the United States, where the distances are relatively enormous and where the organization, training and strategic employment of large armies are almost unknown?"

"A division of say 100 battleplanes near New York, costing about \$3,000,000, certainly could prevent the disembarkation, transit in boats to the shore and landing of any force of soldiers, especially if the battleplanes were equipped with 300 small aeroplanes dropping bombs. Similar divisions at other points, including one at the Panama Canal, could perform similar services, and the great speed of the aircraft would enable each division to guard a long extent of coast."

"A division of 100 battleplanes could go from New York to the capes of the Chesapeake in three or four hours. They could be equipped with 3 inch guns.

"The size and power of the aeroplane already has gone far beyond the limits set for its possible development by certain engineers only three years ago. The practical difficulties of making it larger still are quite apparent; yet nevertheless no theoretical limits to its size and power have yet been accepted by aeronauts. That the aeroplane is now the best single weapon against the submarine is conceded. That the aeroplane, and especially the battleplane, will rapidly advance in size and power within the coming year and afterward is the mature belief of many aeronauts. Should we not therefore immediately investigate its capabilities not only as an instrument of warfare?"

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ALL-STORY WEEKLY

AMERICA'S GREATEST ALL-FICTION WEEKLY—STORIES THAT SET THE PACE

BEGINNING MARCH 17th ISSUE

"The Film of Fear"

BY ARNOLD FREDERICKS

Author of "The Ivory Snuff-Box," "The Changing Lights," "The Mysterious Goddess," etc.

Her face was indeed her fortune. Fifty thousand dollars a year was her salary; she was known as the most beautiful moving-picture actress in the world—and this is the letter she received:

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All-Story Weekly

The Big Ten Cents' Worth

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BIG RAILWAY STRIKE IS DECLARED OFF

Continued from First Page. first in the conference room yesterday. The mediators before conferring with the brotherhoods' leaders had conferred with the managers. They sought the terms the roads would give to the men in case the Adamson law is invalidated.

Managers for Arbitration. It is understood that the managers proposed that if the law should fall the men shall have recourse to arbitration—that they shall accept the office of the Eight Hour Commission, composed of Major-Judges George W. Grosholz, Edgar E. Clark and George Rublee. So far as can be learned the roads promised they would facilitate the work of such a board so an early award might be arrived at. This practically was what was suggested when the brotherhoods asked on Thursday for the immediate operation of the eight hour law.

The managers' side was put before the "Big Four" chiefs. It made no appeal to them. Leo said that the men of his organization were unalterably opposed to the form of arbitration presented by his brethren, having been deprived of the law after so long a fight, would not take further delays. Some of the chiefs said it would be impossible to hold the men subject to their authority; that they would call strikes on their own initiative to gain their point. What the country's four yesterday on the subject of the Ohio and other roads would break out all over the country, regardless of any agreement made by the leaders for arbitration.

They would have the eight hour day, with the pay now given for ten hours work, and they must gain overtime at the rate of one and one-half times the regular rate. They said that they were justified in getting it through any means within their power, because it had been the intention of President Wilson that they should have the eight hour basic day. Furthermore, the Congress had voted it to them. Therefore its merits had been established against the counter claims presented by the roads last year, they argued.

"Unpatriotism" Plea Advanced. Secretary Lane put his main emphasis on the unpatriotism of a strike at this time. Again and again he pointed out that the roads would be tied up in this hour. It has been learned that he gave them a link of the plans of the committee to the Council of National Defense—plans that have the railroads as the main factor—to avert them from their position.

He read to them despatches of the three American ships that had been sunk by the Germans. These despatches had been given to him by newspaper men and were confirmed over the long distance telephone to Washington. Both Secretary Lane and Secretary Wilson told them that with a new crisis presented to President Wilson their presence probably was wanted in Washington. They begged the brotherhoods for love of country to sink their selfish interests to the public weal; to accept some compromise that would avert the strike danger.

Later he used these same arguments with equal vehemence in dealing with the managers. As the main principle of mediation is that one side must be budged from its firm position before the other side can be made to give way it was impossible for Secretary Lane and his associates to take up newer phases of the controversy with the managers. So it remained for the Secretary to say what came that the men of the Baltimore and Ohio and other roads had consented to go back to work. There is a suspicion in some quarters that these sporadic strikes were not the result of forgotten receding orders. The belief that obtains among some is that the brotherhoods wanted a few strikes to break out

just as a slight manifestation of what they could do if the general strike is to go into effect. CAPITAL IS PLEASED.

Strike Settlement Viewed as Removal of National Peril. WASHINGTON, March 18.—Word that the railroad strike had been called off brought mingled satisfaction and relief to Administration officials to-night. Particularly in view of the sudden increase of tension to-night over relations with Germany it was felt the settling of differences between the railroads and brotherhoods removes a big menace to proper internal preparations for national defence.

News of the agreement reached the White House after President Wilson had retired. Some officials pointed out that the rescinding of the strike orders has the effect of removing the situation under which the Supreme Court might decline to hand down an opinion to-morrow on the Adamson law, even if it should be refused. This practically was what was suggested when the brotherhoods asked on Thursday for the immediate operation of the eight hour law.

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CARDINAL FARLEY SIGNS LOYALTY VOW

Takes Several Days to Deliberate and Gives His Views in Letter.

After several days of deliberation Cardinal Farley signed on Saturday the Mayor's patriotism declaration. His signature was obtained by the executive committee in charge of the work of gathering signatures just in time to ruin absolutely a story which said that he had refused to sign.

According to the executive secretary of the Mayor's committee on national defence, the facts concerning Cardinal Farley's signature are as follows: The Cardinal was asked to sign early in the week. He said he was not prepared to sign immediately in view of the wide influence any decision of his might exert upon others. He said he required time for deliberation.

On Saturday he notified the committee that he was prepared to sign and was anxious to cooperate in every possible way in bringing the pledge to the attention of the public. He has written to the committee a letter setting forth fully his views. The letter will probably be received this morning.

The committee's headquarters received reports from many churches yesterday to the effect that congregations were being urged by their ministers to sign. In some churches the petitions were circulated by ushers before and after the services. Several ministers, including the Rev. Dr. William T. Manning of Trinity Church, the Rev. Christian F. Reiner of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. E. C. Warren of the Eighteenth Street Methodist Episcopal Church, the Rev. Charles Lewis Slattery of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, urged their hearers to sign the pledge and exhorted them on the significance of it.

CLEVELAND'S SON SPEAKS

Attends Services Held in Memory of His Father.

Richard Cleveland, son of Grover Cleveland, was the principal speaker last night at services held in the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell, N. J., in memory of the late President. Mr. Cleveland was born in Caldwell on March 18, 1847, eighty years ago yesterday.

Other speakers were Dr. John H. Finley, New York State Commissioner of Education, president of the Cleveland Memorial Association, which was in charge of the services, and Robert Underwood Johnson.

FOUR CITY CONCERTS DRAW BIG CROWDS

John McCormack Has His Third Recital—Caruso at Metropolitan.

There were four concerts yesterday which attracted popular interest. At Carnegie Hall in the afternoon John McCormack gave his third recital, sung to an audience that packed the auditorium and filled 400 extra seats on the stage.

The tenor's programme included airs in Italian by Handel, standard German songs in English, Henry Hadley's "California Troubadour," Edwin Scholander's "One Give Me a Rose" and Irish folk-songs, with one, "Reynardine," which, according to a programme note, is a traditional Munster air about the fox fairy and was found by Hughes, the arranger of the song, in County Limerick.

Mr. McCormack was at his best vocally and delighted his hearers by the individual charm of his voice, rare skill in phrasing, clear diction and a remarkable power in the expression of emotional feeling.

At the same time L. Aullian Hall the young Brazilian pianist Guionar Novais was giving her third and farewell recital before an audience that occupied all the seats, including a large number placed on the platform. The pianist offered a programme of three numbers, Beethoven's sonata, opus 53; Schumann's "Papillons" and Chopin's twenty-four preludes. Her performance afforded rare pleasure through a surpassing beauty of tone and again, clarity and poetic grace and delicacy.

In the evening at the Metropolitan Opera House a grand benefit concert was given under the auspices of the Comitato Nazionale Italiano di Assistenza e d'Azione, assisted by the management of the Metropolitan Opera Company. Enrico Caruso, who seldom vocally in concert, was among the vocal stars. The other singers were Messrs. Aldo, Muzio and Perini and Messrs. Martinelli, Annato and Ida Luca.

The Metropolitan chorus, under Mr. Setti's baton, also took part. The conductors of the orchestra were Messrs. Polacco and Japi. Mr. Bamboschek was at the piano. The programme included the "Misanthrope" and his wife. The proceeds amounted to about \$10,000.

Also in the evening at the Hippodrome a concert was given in celebration of St. Patrick's day by John Philip Sousa and his band, with the assistance of several artists. The programme consisted entirely of Irish selections. The audience was very large.

HELD FOR DEATH OF SIX

Explosion, Pa., March 18.—Frank Koucher, an Austrian employee of the Aina Explosives Company, was arrested last night in connection with the explosion at the plant Wednesday morning.

Officials are said to have charged that the explosion, which cost the lives of six workmen, was the result of an attempt to destroy the mills, at which munitions are made for the Allies. Koucher, who was lodged in the county jail, refused to talk.

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PEGGY HYLAND NOW CHARMING BABBETTE

Young English Movie Actress Wins New Laurels at Rialto—Other Bills.

Peggy Hyland, a young English motion picture actress of considerable charm, will add much to her growing popularity with the title role Babbette, in which she was seen for the first time yesterday at the Rialto Theatre. She is vastly more appealing as Babbette than as the leading woman with E. H. Sothern in his first motion picture venture, which brought her into prominence. She is petite and vivacious on the screen. She has regular features and large lustrous eyes like those of Marguerite Clark and withal is a skilled artist in acting before the camera and no doubt destined to become an American favorite.

The story is a simple romance of provincial France and the Latin Quarter of Paris. It was written by P. Berkeley Smith. A clever Parisian rogue, who is like what Jimmie Valentine's conception of Arsene Lupin might have been, is spending a few weeks in enforced retirement in a quiet little French village. He meets the daughter of the keeper of the inn, who has been betrothed to a painter, but with meagre success.

The impending arrival of another member of the family and his poverty he considers sufficient justification for the picture's return to the city. He is, of course, a very resourceful detective, so he is arrested, but one of those unremembered little deeds of kindness serves him in his need and proves his delivery, and of course Babbette never knew.

Marc McDerment as the reformed gentleman burglar and somewhat shabby artist is unquestionably one of the most attractive rogues on the screen. The picture is a Vitagraph Blue Ribbon feature.

At the Strand Jack Pickford, the younger brother of "Littie Mary," is seen in the motion picture version of "The Dummy," a delightful story of boy life. Max Linder, in his latest American made farce, "Max Wants a Divorce," is also to be seen at the Strand.

At the Academy of Music Mary Pickford in "A Poor Little Rich Girl" is to be seen during the early part of the week.

Florence Reed was seen for the first time last night at the Broadway Theatre in "The Eternal Sin," a costume melodrama which is a motion picture adaptation from the "Lacretia Borgia" of Victor Hugo. Miss Reed as the revengeful Lucretia has a role which is altogether different from that in which she appears in person in "The Wanderer" at the Manhattan Opera House as one of Jerusalem's leading cabaret queens. The motion picture version of the character of the notorious woman varies from the traditional and historic in that it suggests that her crimes, if not excusable, were not altogether remorseless.

N. Y. CITY COLLECTED \$234,907,729 IN 1916

Comptroller's Report Shows Tax Revenue of \$175,173,972 for the Year.

Comptroller Prendergast's financial report and summary for the year ended December 31 was made public yesterday. The city's collections for taxes, assessments, water rates, docks, ferries and subway operations and from miscellaneous revenue aggregated \$234,907,729.04 in 1916, against \$210,416,938.63 in 1915.

Taxes amounting to \$175,173,972.26 were collected. Of these, \$154,037,685.90 were on lands and buildings, \$11,100,268.94 were special franchise taxes and \$8,085,082.53 personal property taxes.

Assessments amounted to \$10,923,483.41, and water rates brought in \$13,295,040.46. The interborough paid \$2,281,185.65 as subway rental, \$5,764,886.91 came from dock rents and \$1,127,847.77 represents the collections from fares and privileges on the municipal ferries.

Miscellaneous revenue, comprising fire, license fees, bridge tolls, etc., amounted to \$26,341,842.58. The debt incurred by the city on January 1, 1917, was \$13,501,752.49. In addition to this there were commitments consisting of land and contract liabilities which had already been charged against the city's constitutional debt aggregating \$71,594,022.82. The total of these two amounts, \$123,095,775.31, says Comptroller Prendergast, represents the amount the city could borrow on its bonds or other evidence of indebtedness before its borrowing power would be exhausted.

The total commitments of the city and for rapid transit construction aggregating \$241,690,075, of which \$184,512,311 was paid up to December 31 last, leaving \$56,690,765 still to be met by the city on the original estimates of the cost of the subway.

WHEN you send your car to a repair shop for a spring looking-over, it gets just about the attention that every bus receives once every two weeks. But in the looking-over there is nothing over-looked in the shops of the

Fifth Avenue Bus

before its borrowing power would be exhausted. The total commitments of the city and for rapid transit construction aggregating \$241,690,075, of which \$184,512,311 was paid up to December 31 last, leaving \$56,690,765 still to be met by the city on the original estimates of the cost of the subway.

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