WEATHER FORECAST.
Fair to-day; to-morrow fair and warmer; moderate southeast winds.
Highest temperature yesterday, 75; lowest, 58.
Detailed weather reports on last page.

The Sun.

IT SHINES FOR ALL

VOL. LXXXV.—NO. 258. ++++ NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 16, 1918.—Copyright, 1918, by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association. PRICE TWO CENTS.

WILSON CALLS ON SENATE TO HALT WAR INVESTIGATION; APPOINTS HUGHES TO INQUIRE INTO AIRCRAFT SITUATION; FRENCH PENETRATE THE GERMAN LINES NORTH OF KEMMEL

PLANES WING IN AND OUT WITH FIRST AIR MAIL

One Batch Goes to Capital, Another Comes From Philadelphia.

SCHEDULE INTERRUPTED

Broken Propeller Halts Flier Twenty Miles Out of Washington.

A yellow biplane with a red, white and blue tail buzzed away from Belmont Park yesterday with the first load of air mail. Three hours and 20 minutes later another biplane, similarly marked, which had relayed the mail from Philadelphia, as a fresh horse and courier used to relay it in the day of the post rider, descended in Potomac Park, Washington. The fastest trains between New York and the capital made the run in five hours.

A third biplane that was sped on its northward journey by President and Mrs. Wilson lost its way and had to land. Then it broke its propeller—to say nothing of the young army aviator's heart—at Waldorf, Md., only twenty-two miles from Washington. The mail it started with will come through to New York to-day by the sky route, barring another stroke of bad luck.

A fourth plane, which was waiting at Philadelphia to relay the Washington mail to New York, flew to Belmont Park with pouches from Philadelphia after news of the mishap in Maryland was received.

Quick Time is Made.

Its part of the transmission through cloudland was accomplished in an hour and 22 minutes, and the mail it brought was distributed from the New York Post Office one hour and twenty-three minutes earlier than if it had come by train.

Thus three-quarters of the Government's first day programme for regularly scheduled aerial mail service was successfully carried out. Philadelphia and Washington got their 24 cent air mail letters from New York swiftly, if not quite as swiftly as had been expected, and New York received its mail from Philadelphia.

A singular fact was the failure of the public to rise completely to the opportunity of sharing in an event which was inevitably reminiful of the first steamboat and the first steam locomotive, as well as prophetic of what is to come in the sky when the invention of the Wrights is converted from wartime use to the peaceful commerce that was in the vision of the pioneers.

Although the airplane that left New York could have carried 300 pounds of mail its burden was only 134 pounds, consisting largely of congratulatory messages to and from official personages.

The two bags that left Washington contained 140 pounds of mail.

Public Misses a Chance.

It was expected that more letters and parcels than could be carried through the air would be deposited and arrangements had been made to send the surplus by train. An army of stamp collectors missed a great chance. Two professional philatelists, shrewder than their brethren and the amateurs, were hugging themselves at Belmont Park all day. One of them had bought one of the new 24 cent aerial mail stamps and stuck them on 400 letters addressed to friends, who will return them with the stamps cancelled with a postmark showing that these stamps were used on the very first day of airhead postage.

The other stamp seller was hardly less jubilant. Both of them said the cancelled stamps were worth $1 apiece yesterday and that in ten years, so comparatively few was their number, most of the mail having borne ordinary stamps because the specials were issued too late, they ought to bring $100 apiece.

Post Office officials said they expected the deposit of airplane mail to be greatly increased to-day. Yesterday's schedule will be maintained daily unless the weather is too balky.

Lucky Pilots

The much envied Lieutenants who shared in yesterday's rare adventure were Torrey Webb, who carried the mail from Belmont Park to Philadelphia; J. C. Edgerton, who relayed it from Philadelphia to Washington along with mail starting at Philadelphia (William Penn on the City Hall summit must have been flabbergasted); George L. Boyle, who through no fault of his own came to earth in Maryland, and Paul Culver, who flew from Philadelphia to Belmont Park, New York.

The oldest of the four is not more than 23. They tried to act as if this was merely part of a day's work, but the crowds gathered to see them off or meet them land were not to be fooled. They knew they were helping to make history, these buoyant young daredevils. The light in their eyes told that if nothing else.

Quite casually, after embracing his wife in Belmont Park before his ship started soaring, Lieut. Webb remarked, "See you later," as if he had a tennis date, but it was sufficiently evident that Webb and the proud young woman who waved at him as he spiralled through the sunshine will have a good deal to talk about when "later" arrives, as it will to-day when Webb flies back from Philadelphia with another batch of 24 cent mail.

The post office people were out to make a first day record. They did their part of the job with amazing speed. The two pouches made up at the main Post Office, Pennsylvania Terminal, snapped

Continued on Seventh Page.

Germany Minting Zinc; Calls in Nickel Coin

AMSTERDAM, May 15.—Germany is calling in her nickel coinage, the metal of which is needed for projectiles, and is substituting zinc for minting coins of this class. Authority has been given for the minting of 10,000,000 marks (approximately $2,000,000) worth of zinc ten pfennig pieces.

BONNET ROUGE TRAITOR TO DIE

Court-martial Condemns Duval, Director of Suppressed Germanophile Journal.

SIX GET 2 TO 10 YEARS

Leymon, Formerly Malvy's Aid in Interior Department, Sentenced Two Years.

PARIS, May 15.—M. Duval, who was director of the suppressed Germanophile newspaper *Bonnet Rouge*, was condemned to death to-day by court-martial for treason. The six other defendants were sentenced to imprisonment for terms ranging from two to ten years, as follows:

M. Marion, assistant manager of *Bonnet Rouge*, ten years imprisonment at hard labor.

Jacques Landau, a reporter on the newspaper, eight years at hard labor.

Goldsky, eight years at hard labor and military degradation.

M. Joucla, a reporter on the *Bonnet Rouge*, five years at hard labor.

M. Vercasson, two years in prison and fined $1,000, with sentence suspended.

Jean Leymarie, former director of the Ministry of Interior, two years in prison and $1,000 fine.

Duval Hears Sentence Calmly.

M. Duval with great fortitude heard Col. Voyer read the death sentence. He then said:

"The judgment of man often is erroneous. Posterity will judge whether I am guilty of treason."

Before the verdict was reached M. Duval in an impassioned speech had asserted that none of the accused was in any way an accomplice of his. He declared he was ready to face any verdict serenely.

M. Marion seemed to be relieved by the end of the strain, while Landau was in a state of utter collapse.

Goldsky maintained the same sneering attitude which characterized him throughout the trial.

Leymarie, addressing the court, said he had been sufficiently punished for any lack of foresight he had shown.

Leymarie apparently was overcome with emotion. He told the Associated Press he expected at least the same treatment as that accorded Vercasson, whose sentence was suspended.

"I am a ruined man," he said.

Leymarie Centre of Interest.

Leymarie's condemnation aroused greater public interest and discussion than did the death sentence of Duval as the court emptied, as public minds naturally connected his sentence with the forthcoming trial of Louis Malvy, ex-Minister of the Interior, who was formerly Leymarie's chief.

Although M. Duval had expected the verdict rendered he and M. Marion and Goldsky signed requests to be permitted to appeal. M. Joucla collapsed entirely, saying:

"I have done nothing wrong. I don't want to go to prison. Send me to the front."

Every decision of the court-martial was voted unanimously.

Attorney Guillain, pleading at the trial to-day in behalf of Jean Leymarie, former director of the Ministry of the Interior and later head of the secret service, who is accused of communicating with the enemy, contended that the accused was blameless. He denied emphatically that Leymarie was a gambler and had played poker with Malvy and others as was stated by *L'Action Française*. Addressing the court, the lawyer said:

"We ask no mercy. Apply the law without fear and without weakness."

CLEMENCEAU ROSE ON "BONNET ROUGE"

His Denunciation of Paper Brought Him Premiership.

The trial of the directors of the *Bonnet Rouge*, a Paris evening newspaper, closely following that of Bolo Pasha, who suffered the death penalty for treason, attracted much attention throughout the allied world and directed the eyes of France to a political situation which for years was a closely guarded secret.

The *Bonnet Rouge* was established in the spring of 1914 and had as its editor one Miguel Almereyda, against whose record was a conviction of a charge of swindling.

After the outbreak of the war there appeared a number of articles in the paper attacking the French high command, and when these articles were cut out by the censor the edition of the paper, as it appeared in Paris, was above reproach, but copies containing the objectionable article were sent out by "underground" methods and distributed among the soldiers at the front.

Soon after it was found that the *Bonnet Rouge* was subsidized by the Ministry of the Interior, over which M. Malvy presided. The paper was not suppressed until last summer. This event followed a sensational encounter

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

HINT OF PEACE FROM KAISERS' MEETING HEARD

Press Condemnation May Be Playing Crafty Game of Politicians.

CRITICS VERY CAUSTIC

Austria's Need and Absurdity of Germany's Promises Emphasized.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN *from the London Times.*
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AMSTERDAM, May 15.—While the German official communiqués express optimism concerning the German-Austro-Hungarian negotiations in the German Main Headquarters last Sunday, criticism is appearing in various periodicals, which makes it not impossible that these proceedings somehow are intended to subserve the ends of the forthcoming peace offensive.

Thus Maximilian Harden is particularly outspoken in the latest number of *Die Zukunft*, where he pours ridicule upon the whole scheme of a Central Europe Alliance, incidentally denouncing Germany in its latter day diplomacy. He warns his readers against new disappointment, reminding them that they were fed fables before 1914 concerning the cowardice, depravity and avarice which would prevent Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States from entering the lists against Germany.

These fables and sillier ones are contributed, according to the Harden article, to produce "what we are experiencing." He points out that Austria sorely will need good relations with England and the United States after the war, adding that consideration of such facts has justified him in supporting Prince Lichnowsky, the former German Ambassador to Great Britain.

Harden further ridicules the idea of required grain supplies by saying that there is no possibility that they can be furnished by the Ukraine by the date appointed, adding, "It is as credible as an assertion that the Atlantic world of the Anglo-Saxons will lay down their arms day after to-morrow as a confession of impotence and humility."

Vorwaerts in its comment also is adversely critical and pessimistic, declaring that the conference only can be useful if the non-binding agreements have been reached with certain main principles, "but to attempt to force things without the knowledge and the will of the peoples could easily be fatal. The war is still raging and everything is still in flux. The time for the definite shaping of things is not yet."

LAID FORMAL PLANS FOR MITTELEUROPA

Emperors Said to Have Made Alliance for 25 Years.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—According to a despatch from Switzerland, the Berlin newspapers indicate that the basis of a new treaty of alliance agreed upon at the recent conference between the German and Austrian Emperors contemplates fixing twenty-five years as the period for the duration of the alliance, the imposition of stricter military obligations upon each nation and the regulation of economic relations so as to realize the Mitteleuropa plan.

The same message says advices from Vienna are to the effect that no formal agreement was signed because the moment did not seem opportune, but that nevertheless the direction and basis of the new treaty were definitely fixed and that it only remains to frame the different clauses.

PEOPLE DENOUNCE RENEWED ALLIANCE

Emperors Said to Have Named Kings for 5 Nations.

AMSTERDAM, May 15.—The conference on Sunday of the German and Austrian Emperors at German Great Headquarters has set loose a flood of rumors as to its purposes and results, but little definite information is available. The official statement issued by the Wolff Bureau was so vague that free rein has been given to speculation. It is noteworthy, however, that while the official and controlled newspapers approve the conference and its announced results, "the deepening of the alliance between the two countries," the independent press, both in Germany and Austria, is beginning to denounce the renewal of that alliance.

Among the interesting rumors which are current, one is that the Emperors selected monarchs for Lithuania, Livonia, Courland, Esthonia and Poland, all fragments of old Russia, but no names are given. Both King Ludwig of Bavaria and King Frederick August of Saxony were present at the conference, although apparently neither was invited. On this subject a statement in the Munich *Nueste Nachrichten* says:

"The hour is grave, and Bavaria cannot leave Prussia to be the whole arbiter of German destinies. King Ludwig therefore decided to proceed to headquarters. The departure of the King of Saxony to take part in the negotiations—a participation which was not desired in Berlin circles—was due to the same cause."

In an article in *Die Zukunft* entitled "Gordian Knots" Maximilian Harden analyzes Austria's deep seated desire and need for peace in connection with

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

SANDY HOOK ROUTE.
Service resumed on Sunday, May 12, with one steamer. Two steamers on May 26.—Adv.

Kaiser, Boasting of Victory, Says 600,000 British Are Out of Action

AMSTERDAM, May 15.—The German Emperor a few days ago addressing the Town Council of Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) said, according to a Berlin despatch:

I am glad to be able to salute you gentlemen. In the west I inspected half of devastated France. There only one obtains the right impression of the awful state that has been spared the Fatherland. Whoever should grow faint hearted ought to come to the front and see the devastation. Then he would cease to lament his fate and be satisfied with his lot and bear patiently the hardships and privations of war's horrors.

The offensive goes well ahead. Already six hundred thousand English have been put hors de combat and sixteen hundred guns have been captured. Everywhere the French must help. Our opponents have had a bad time. They deserved nothing else. Our task in the west will be accomplished, but we must be patient. We cannot settle in a day armies of millions.

We shall obtain our aim. Difficult tasks are before us, but to deal with these we have efficient workers.

We have gone ahead in the Crimea also. The first trains with foodstuffs have arrived at Berlin from Ukraine, improving the food supply. Sebastopol has been captured and a big richly laden fleet there. We shall revive the Black Sea traffic.

The position therefore is good. I am delighted with the patriotism prevailing in Aachen, on the empire's frontier. The spirit of the troops is excellent. There are many Rhinelanders and many Aacheners among them. I believe it is now time to abolish all that is foreign. We must cease to talk French. Let us, rather, talk low German.

ALLIED ARMY FOR PERSHING

He Will Probably Soon Command French and British Troops.

UNDER BRIGADING PLAN

When American Soldiers Predominate He Will Then Get Control.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Gen. Pershing probably soon will be commanding French and British troops as the process of brigading American units with their allies on the western front goes forward.

As if exemplifying the unity of command and action into which the United States and its cobelligerents have entered, it became known here to-day that whenever American troops predominate in the brigaded divisions as the process goes on, these divisions under present plans will be turned over to Gen. Pershing's command.

This plan would accomplish several things which the military authorities regard as very desirable. It would rapidly increase the size of the American fighting command on the battle line, it would contribute tremendously to the spirit of unity and concerted effort. At the same time instead of holding large numbers of American troops behind the lines while training, the plan would surround them with seasoned veterans and under actual battle conditions school them to be rebrigaded later with fresh American troops coming to France.

In this way the efficiency of the British and French forces is expected to be increased and the work of building up a great, fully trained and completely equipped fighting force in France is expected to be hastened.

Foch Commands Italians.

In addition to this, as illustrative of the unity of command under which Gen. Foch directs all the allied armies, it was stated officially here to-day that Foch commands the Italian troops in France and Belgium. There has been no question that Foch commanded the Italian troops in France and it had been supposed that, considering the Italian front as part of the western battle line under a decision reached at the Versailles conference, Foch's authority extended there.

For the first time, however, it was announced unreservedly that General Foch's supreme command extended to Italy.

It was announced also that Italy, besides now sending troops to France in numbers equal to those being sent from the United States, has on her fighting line a larger army, more perfectly equipped, than she had before the great Austrian drive. This may be explanatory of the apparent equanimity with which the allied leaders face recurrent reports of a new drive on the Italian front.

The information that the brigaded allied divisions in the west probably will be placed under the command of Gen. Pershing when the numbers of American troops contained in them predominate was taken to mean that the same principle would operate when the predominating numbers were French or British.

High Officer's Opinions.

As giving the view of the allied military experts on this plan, a high officer in the service of one of the Powers at war with Germany to-day gave these opinions to the Associated Press:

"From the news received and from the knowledge of conditions as they were when I recently left France I cannot believe that the situation is so completely in hand as to warrant any slackening off in the rushing over of American troops.

"Even should this supposition be correct it would be a great military error to work on such a thesis. There has been no more insidious propaganda than that which tends to seduce popular opinion in the Entente countries into a false sense of security. What is being written to-day about the Germans having used up all their reserves and having staked their all on victory or defeat has been written almost literally word for word at every crisis since the beginning of the war. The result has often been to delay preparation and to procrastinate in the carry-

Continued on Second Page.

U. S. FLIERS GET 3 ENEMY CRAFT

Attack Four Other Planes in Toul Sector, but Have to Abandon Fight.

WAR CROSSES AWARDED

Rickenbacher, Well Known as Motor Racer, Receives Decoration.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 15.—American aviators to-day shot down three German planes in the Toul sector.

Five American aviators were later decorated with the French War Cross.

Capt. Kenneth Marr of California met a single enemy biplane north of Pont-a-Mousson. He manoeuvred so as to get between the sun and the enemy and then attacked. The German took a dive and the American followed suit. Soon the enemy machine wabbled and fell to the earth, leaving a trail of smoke.

Late in the day two Lieutenants flying in the same field attacked four enemy planes. Their guns jammed, however, and they had to abandon the fight.

The Americans decorated with the War Cross were Capt. David Peterson of Honesdale, Pa.; Capt. Norman Hall, Lieut. Charles Chapman, who is missing; Lieut. Edward V. Rickenbacher, the former automobile racer, and Lieut. James Meissner.

Capt. David Peterson met two Boche monoplanes north of Toul and immediately attacked one of them, which, after receiving a stream of American bullets, crashed in flames. Peterson then turned and attacked the other, which started to dive to escape the deadly fire. During the dive a wing of the German machine gave way, and it also crashed to earth.

Peterson arrived at his field from his victories, just in time to receive with his companions the cross of war, with the palm, for previous deeds.

A heavy barrage was laid down by the Germans on American positions northwest of Toul this morning, but no infantry attack developed.

One of the American reconnaissance airplanes late yesterday afternoon from an altitude of about 400 yards fired upon German trenches, in which there were a number of the enemy. The indications to-day pointed to the possibility that the American biplane which suddenly dropped out of the clouds yesterday, killing the two men in it, was shot down by an enemy machine, for it was established that the engine of the biplane was running at full speed when it hit the ground.

NEW AIR RAID MADE ON PARIS.

Only Suburb Reached, Where Bombs Are Dropped.

PARIS, May 16 (Thursday).—Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the outlying suburbs of Paris late last night. None of the enemy was able to penetrate the defences of the city proper.

"I'm Enjoying This War," Writes a Soldier

WHY? He explains that he is at the time of writing in a nice house with a bath and a dog and has the luxury of cigarettes from THE SUN Tobacco Fund's latest distribution.

Next Friday and Monday nights will become memorable in the history of the smoke fund. Famous actors are to lend the eclat of their presence to the benefit on the Century Theatre roof on Friday and there will be novel doings on Monday at the May-November Farm. Read about them on page 5.

It's fifty-fifty how much men smoke in good weather and in bad. In all weathers they know what to do with the certificates and coupons from the Schulte and United cigar stores.

WARNING! THE SUN TOBACCO FUND has no connection with any other fund, organization or publication. It employs no agents or solicitors.

POILUS TAKE MORE GROUND NEAR KEMMEL

They Seek Quick Revenge After Raid by Germans in Same Section.

ALSO WIN WEST OF AVRE

Germans Continue Heavy Bombardment From Ypres to the River Oise.

LONDON, May 15.—Violent artillery fire continues at many points on the long battle line between Ypres and Noyon, but without such marked preponderance at any one place as to indicate an impending attack. The only infantry action mentioned by Field Marshal Haig in his statement to-night was a French advance north of Kemmel village, on the northern side of the Lys salient.

Berlin says the artillery activity in this region was intense on Tuesday and that the Germans scored a great success (probably on Monday) by an attack on the French at the moment when the troops of the latter were being relieved, and took 120 prisoners. Apparently this is the district in which the French made an advance to-day. The German night report admits that in an attack north of Kemmel, which it asserts was repulsed, the French penetrated the German lines.

Chief activity late yesterday and last night was by the artillery. Gen. Haig mentions particularly positions on the Somme, Ancre, north of Bethune and in the Forest of Nieppe as being under bombardment. A German raid north of Lens was repulsed while the British made a successful foray northeast of Robecq.

Hill 44 Still Held by French.

In the French sector to the south shelling was particularly violent in the region north of the Avre and about Montdidier, especially between that town and Noyon, to the east. Late yesterday afternoon the French infantry attacked in considerable force south of Hailles, southeast of Amiens, and captured a wood on the west bank of the Avre, together with seventy prisoners. A strong counter attack by the Germans failed. A German effort was checked at Rollot, which is on the way to Noyon.

The correspondent of the Associated Press with the British army in France says there was hard fighting to-day in the neighborhood of Hill 44, north of Kemmel, which was stormed and retaken late yesterday by French troops. This much disputed elevation has changed hands many times recently, but the French were still holding the Germans off at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Thus this little rising ground from the waterlogged Flemish plain about it had suddenly come to occupy an important place in the annals of the fighting in this section of the front, although so far it never has been dignified with a name other than that contained in the figures indicating its height.

Its value lies in the fact that it dominates considerable territory, and for this reason it has been a thorn in the flesh for the Germans. It is believed that they want it to facilitate their next attack in this region, which bids fair to come before long.

Official Reports of Operations.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—There was local fighting, in which the French troops captured several prisoners and successfully advanced their line early in the morning in the sector north of Kemmel village.

Elsewhere there was nothing beyond artillery activity on both sides on the battle front.

BRITISH (DAY)—A raid attempted by the enemy last night north of Lens was repulsed. We carried out another successful raid northeast of Robecq.

The hostile artillery was active during the night in the valleys of the Somme and Ancre, north of Bethune and in the Forest of Nieppe sector. This morning the enemy's artillery activity increased southwest of Morlancourt and north of Kemmel.

FRENCH (NIGHT)—There was great activity on the part of both artilleries in the region north of the Avre. A raid attempted by the enemy against our trenches southeast of Juvincourt was without result.

Two German airplanes were brought down on May 12 and two others on May 14. On the night of May 14 one of our groups bombed the railway station at Chatelet-sur-Retourne (Ardennes), on which 7,000 kilos of projectiles were dropped.

The same night German aviators bombed the neighborhood of Dunkirk, but the damage was unimportant, and there were no casualties.

FRENCH (DAY)—During the night there was a violent bombardment in the region north of Montdidier and between Montdidier and Noyon.

Late yesterday French troops made a vigorous attack on German positions south of Hailles and captured a wood west of the Avre, notwithstanding determined resistance by the enemy.

This morning a strong German counter attack was delivered. After a spirited engagement our troops remained in entire possession of the new positions. They inflicted very serious losses on the Germans. The number of prisoners taken is 70, including an officer.

Another enemy effort south of Rollot (southeast of Montdidier), which was made after a heavy bombardment, met with a complete check.

North of the Cheminn des Dames the French repulsed a raiding enterprise directed against our small posts in the region of La Bovelle.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—An enemy attack this morning north of Kemmel,

(Continued on Third Page.)

Chamberlain Resolution, Denounced by President in Letter to Martin, Passes Committee.

BITTER DEBATE FOR TO-MORROW; DEFIANCE OF EXECUTIVE CHARGED

Wilson Declares Passage of Measure Will Be "Direct Vote of Want of Confidence" in Administration.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The Senate Committee on Audit and Control accepted to-day President Wilson's challenge to the Senate to vote against his expressed opposition to the Chamberlain resolution providing for the broadest investigation of the War Department.

The President this morning sent a letter to Democratic Leader Martin (Va.), at the Senate, protesting against the adoption of the Chamberlain resolution on the ground that it would be "direct vote of want of confidence in the Administration," and that the purpose behind the resolution was "to take over the conduct of the war."

Within an incredibly brief time—only a few hours—after the President's letter reached Senator Martin, the Committee on Audit and Control voted to report the Chamberlain resolution, with its form amended so slightly as virtually to constitute a defiance of the Chief Executive.

Resolution Empowers Wide Inquiry.

Although the President earlier in the day had revealed that he had designated Charles E. Hughes to cooperate with the Attorney General in the investigation of the aircraft situation, under the resolution as it has been adopted by the Audit and Control Committee the Committee on Military Affairs of the Senate could go forward with an investigation, not alone of the aircraft situation, but also of the Departments of Ordnance and Quartermaster's Supplies of the Army.

The committee report on the resolution will be submitted to the Senate to-morrow, but consideration of it will go over for a day and the real clash in the Senate will come on Friday when action upon it is demanded.

The already tense situation was made even more unusual by reason of the publication of the letter sent on Saturday by Secretary of War Baker to Senator Thompson, chairman of the Committee on Audit and Control. It showed that the Secretary then announced himself as welcoming complete investigation of the aircraft situation, placing him directly in opposition to the position assumed by the President to-day.

The vote of the Audit and Control Committee served as a sensational climax to the furore precipitated in Congress by the unreserved terms of opposition used by the President in his letter to Senator Martin. While it was anticipated that the committee would experience a stormy session, the vote it returned was not expected so quickly, and announcement of the course that had been taken provided an even more sensational climax for what had gone before.

The President's Letter.

The letter of the President to Senator Martin said:

I am sincerely obliged to you for calling my attention to Senate Resolution 241 (the Chamberlain resolution), which in effect proposes to constitute the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate a committee on the conduct of the war.

I deem it my duty to say that I should regard the passage of this resolution as a direct vote of want of confidence in the Administration. The purpose which it undoubtedly expresses has been expressed again and again in various forms during the present session and has always seemed to originate in a rooted distrust of those who are at present in charge of the executive functions of the Government. Those executive functions are very clearly understood. They have been defined both by the Constitution and by long experience, and no one can doubt where the responsibility for them lies or what the methods are by which those who are responsible can be held to their duty. Such activities on the part of the particular committee of the Senate as this resolution would look forward to would constitute nothing less than an attempt to take over the conduct of the war, or at least to superintend and direct and participate in the executive conduct of it as to interfere in the most serious way with the action of the constituted executive. I protest most earnestly against the adoption of any such action, and shall hope that every Senator who intends to support the present Administration in the conduct of the war will vote against it. These are serious times, and it is absolutely necessary that the lines should be clearly drawn between friends and opponents.

Situation Very Tense.

The situation created by the President's letter to Senator Martin, his designation of Mr. Hughes to participate in the aircraft investigation with the Attorney-General and the fight that is certain to take place in the Senate on the Chamberlain resolution, is perhaps the most tense that has developed since the break between the President and Senator Chamberlain months ago on the proposal for the appointment of a form of War Cabinet.

Attorney-General Gregory, it was learned, has not yet had any correspondence with Mr. Hughes and was unaware of Mr. Hughes's acceptance of the President's invitation to participate in the investigation until the correspondence between the President and Mr. Hughes was given out at the White House to-day.

Hughes is Asked to Aid.

In asking Mr. Hughes to take part in the investigation President Wilson said:

You have doubtless noticed that very serious charges of dishonesty have been made in connection with the production of aircraft.

Because of the capital importance of this branch of the military service I feel that these charges should be thoroughly investigated and with as

BILLS TO BLOCK FOE'S SHIP PLOT

House Committee Favorably Reports Two to Protect U. S. Merchant Marine.

NEW POWER FOR WILSON

Measures Prohibit Mortgaging of Vessels and Sales of Hulls.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Important amendments to the shipping laws to check efforts of foreign financial interests to buy up directly or indirectly vessels of the American merchant marine and to strengthen the powers of the President to requisition vessels and prescribe charter and freight rates are recommended in two bills favorably reported to-day by the House Committee on Merchant Marine.

The committee report says there has been "a systematic, determined and resourceful effort on the part of foreign financial interests to buy up and take from under the American flag vessels of the American merchant marine." The mortgaging of such vessels, the report says, has been one indirect method to this end.

The Shipping Board has been hard put to circumvent these efforts. Many have been very subtle, coming through American brokers. This situation has caused growing concern among officials and it was determined to get legislation that would prevent all such efforts.

Devious Methods.

The ways of obtaining control of American ships "for after the war use" were many and devious. Purchases, mortgages and other means were involved, and there were a number of building efforts proposed, the Government to commandeer the ships and have use of them as long as necessary and to turn them back to owners when no longer needed.

In every case effort has been made by the Shipping Board to determine accurately such subsequent ownership or control. Whether or not any of the influence it has been consistently necessary to combat was German influence or was due to interests friendly to the the Central Powers the officials here will not state. Much of it, however, came from other sources.

In the legislation reported to-day to meet this danger it is proposed that the "hulls of vessels" shall be included in the prohibition against disposal of a vessel without consent of the Shipping Board.

The second bill reported empowers the President to approve charters of American vessels so that it may be made certain that the vessels are being used for war purposes. Both bills are declared to be emergency war measures.

The report refers to "the dearth of tonnage" caused by "the unrestricted submarine warfare of the Imperial German Government."

Discussing efforts of unnamed foreign interests to acquire American vessels the report declares: "Prices have been tendered which before the war would have seemed beyond the dreams of avarice. Every type of vessel from schooner to ocean liner has been coveted. Most American ship owners, to their credit, have resisted these tempting offers. Others have found their efforts frustrated by the Shipping Board. A

(Continued on Sixth Page.)