

WILSON ASKS FOR ARMED FORCE TO MEET GERMAN U-BOAT MENACE

Continued from Page One
Force anywhere into action. The American people do not desire it, and our desire is not different from theirs.

"I am not now proposing or contemplating war or any steps that need lead to it. I merely request that you will accord me by your own vote and definite bestowal the means and the authority to safeguard in practice the right of a great people who are at peace and who are desirous of exercising none but the rights of peace to follow the pursuits of peace in quietness and good will—rights recognized time out of mind by all the civilized nations of the world.

BURDEN ON OTHERS' AGGRESSION
"War can come only by the willful acts and aggressions of others.
"You will understand why I can make no definite proposals or forecasts of action now and must ask for your supporting authority in the most general terms. The form in which action may become necessary cannot yet be foreseen.

"I request, also, that you will grant me at the same time along with the powers I ask, a sufficient credit to enable me to provide adequate means of protection where they are lacking, including adequate insurance against the present war risks.

"I believe that the people will be willing to trust me to act with restraint, with prudence and in the true spirit of amity and good faith that they have themselves displayed throughout these trying months; and it is in that belief that I request that you will authorize me to supply our merchant ships with defensive arms, should that become necessary, and with the means of using them, and to employ any other instrumentalities or methods that may be necessary and adequate to protect our ships and our people in their legitimate and peaceful pursuits on the seas.

FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIVES
"I have spoken of our commerce and of the legitimate errands of our people on the seas but you will not be misled as to my main thought, the thought that lies beneath these phrases and gives them dignity and weight. It is not of material interests merely that we are thinking. It is, rather, of fundamental human rights, chief of all the right of life itself. I am thinking, not only of the rights of Americans to go and come about their proper business by way of the sea, but also of something much deeper, much more fundamental than that.

"I am thinking of these rights of humanity without which there is no civilization. My theme is of those great principles of compassion and of protection which mankind has sought to throw about human lives, the lives of non-combatants, the lives of men who are peacefully at work keeping the industrial processes of the world quick and vital, the lives of women and children and of those who supply the labor which ministers to their sustenance. We are speaking of no selfish material rights, but of rights which our hearts support and whose foundation is that righteous passion for justice upon which all law, all structures alike of family, of State and of mankind must rest, as upon the ultimate base of our existence and our liberty. I cannot imagine any man with American principles at his heart hesitating to defend these things."

NOTABLES GATHER TO HEAR ADDRESS
News of the President's history-creating speech had been slow in seeping through the city, so that even shortly before 1 o'clock the galleries were only partly filled, an unusual situation.

The House floor, however, was well filled by that time and the members continued discussion of the sundry civil bill until the President arrived.

The chatter in the galleries grew as the minutes shortened, so that the Chair had to halt it abruptly.

In the diplomatic gallery the Russian, British and South American Envoys were the first to arrive. The front rows of this section were occupied by gayly gowned women.

Social folk mingled with plain people in the other sections until finally the seats were crammed.

There was an obvious sense of strain in all the floor proceedings—the nervousness of men sensing the vital impending developments.

As soon as the Senate was seated Chief Justice White and Justice McReynolds, of the Supreme Court, took seats on the floor, with Secretaries Redfield, Baker, Daniels, Wilson, Houston, McAdoo, Attorney General Gregory and Postmaster General Burleson, of the Cabinet. Representatives Kitchin, Fitzgerald, Flood, Mann and Cooper and Senators Kern, Simmons, Chilton, Brandegee and Sutherland were named to escort the President to the chamber.

An outburst of wild handclapping with cheers from the Democratic side greeted the Executive as he shook hands with Speaker Clark and Vice President Marshall.

OPPOSITION EXPECTED TO REQUEST
The President began speaking at 1:02 o'clock and silence fell upon the crowded chamber. The big gathering was all strained ears and watchful eyes as the Chief Executive recounted the effects of the German campaign of ruthlessness from February 1 to the present time.

Not a sound interrupted as the President demanded clear and definite assurances of the authority he "may at any moment find necessary to execute." Both House and Senate sat in grim and grave silence.

The Congress seemed to stir uneasily as the President stated that his request must be "general rather than definite and specific, but there was no sign of approval or disapproval.

As he turned to leave the Chamber on closing his address a shrill "rebel yell" from the Democratic side of the House led a brief outburst of applause. This was followed by a low roar of conversation as the Congress began its excited discussion of the address.

Slowly the Senators, deep in low conversation filed from the Chamber. The history making session was over. The House resumed its dreary routine grind.

Comment on the address differed with the individual. The militarist element said that the message was "far too weak," the pacifist said it was "too strong." Party leaders seemed "up a stump" and many expressed doubt that the President would get all of the authority that this address, unlike its immediate predecessor did not find a united Congress behind the Chief Executive.

REPUBLICANS WANTED "SPECIFIC" MOVE
Republican Senators made no attempt to conceal their disappointment over the President's address, and it became clear immediately after the Senate went back into session that legislation granting the President's request would meet with strong opposition. The failure to make definite proposals or "forecasts of action," Republican leaders said, had convinced them more than ever of the necessity of an extra session. They immediately began discussing a plan of action. Democrats referred to the President's address as "mild," but his request met with as general approval on the Administration side of the Senate as it did with disappointment on the Republican side.

Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, ranking Republican member of the Foreign Relations Committee, who attacked the President's inaction Saturday, declined to discuss the address, but indicated he would have something to say later. It was noticeable that he sat in the front row during the joint session, but did not join in the applause at the address.

"I think the President's request was very reasonable and that the country will approve it," said Senator Kern, the Democratic leader. "When the other side sees that it receives popular approval there will be no objection to granting it."

City News in Brief
CITY APPOINTMENTS today include James S. Kennedy, 117 North Lambert street, inspector, Bureau of Highways, salary \$1300, and Powell Stackhouse, 7135 North Broad street, transit man, Bureau of Surveys, \$890.

WIRELESS OPERATORS, numbering 850, are Philadelphia's contribution to the nation in that important branch of service. In addition, Philadelphia is guarded by three powerful stations, Wanamaker's, League Island and Cape May.

A GREEK GRAVESTONE, dating back to the time of Alexander the Great, has been received at the University Museum. It is said to be one of the most valuable specimens received by the museum in recent years. It is about four feet high and was found recently near Athens.

JOHN WANAMAKER has presented to the Bethany Temple Presbyterian Church a handsome altar, valued at \$1000. The altar is the church's at Fifty-third and Chestnut streets. The altar is being placed in the church.

LAWYERS FIND FLAWS IN LEASE FOR TRANSIT

Twining Says Some Call It Invalid, Though Connelly Approves It

QUESTION CITY POWER

Opponents Say It Cannot Lend Faith and Credit to Private Corporation

Opinions from Philadelphia attorneys holding the transit lease proposed by the Philadelphia Transit Company illegal in its present form and expressing views diametrically opposed to those in the opinion of City Solicitor Connelly, who upholds the legality of the lease, are in the possession of Transit Director Twining.

Although this fact was made known today at the Transit Department, it could not be learned whether these private opinions would be contained in the Director's report to Mayor Smith. It is considered likely, however, that despite the conflict of legal views the opinion of Mr. Connelly will be unchanged, in consideration of the fact that he is the proper legal adviser of the city and of all municipal officials.

Mr. Twining, in his letter to the City Solicitor asking legal advice, made the point that as the city under the lease would be guaranteeing the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company a fixed return upon its present capital stock, it might be construed that the city was lending its faith and credit to a private corporation.

NOT SO SAYS CONNELLY

The opinion of the City Solicitor, however, declares that such is not the case and denies that the city would be lending its faith and credit under the terms of the proposed agreement. The opinion maintains the right of the city to enter into a partnership agreement with the Transit Company, the legality of which was also questioned by Mr. Twining.

Regardless of the divergence of legal opinion, Director Twining said today that the financial terms of the lease and not its legality were, in his view, the matters which opened it to the most important criticism. The objection to these financial terms will be the main body of the Director's report to the Mayor.

Mr. Twining put the final touches upon his report this morning and the various parts are now being collated and typed in his office, ready to be handed to the Mayor Wednesday when the latter returns from the South. The analysis of the P. T. R. proposition, made by Ford, Bacon & Davis, New York experts retained by the Mayor, has been completed for several days and will be included in the Director's report as an appendix. The Mayor already has in his possession a rough outline of this analysis.

The engineers of the Transit Department completed today the schedule of estimates requested by the Public Service Commission, to show what the Department believes the high-speed system would have cost to construct at the prices prevailing in 1912, 1913 and the present year.

WILL CONFIRM ESTIMATE

This schedule of cost estimates will also support the statement made by the Director before the Public Service Commission two weeks ago that to construct the entire system during the present period of high prices will require \$21,000,000. The completed schedule will fix this total at \$90,000,000, which includes the total cost of the Chestnut street subway, which is estimated close to \$5,000,000.

Assistant Transit Director Atkinson, under whose direction this schedule of estimates was prepared, will present it to the commission tomorrow at Harrisburg when the public hearing upon the city's application for a certificate of public convenience for the Darby "L" is held.

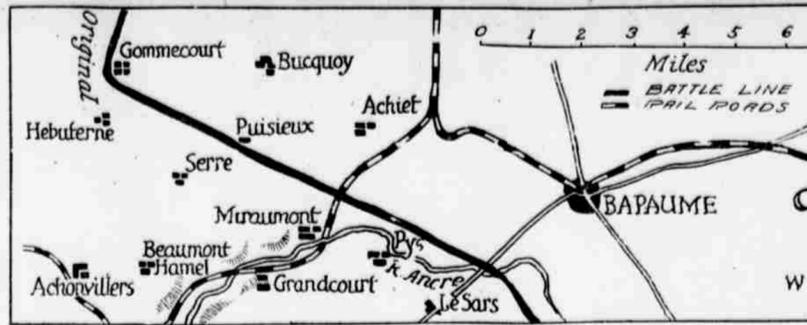
In view of the fact that the commission is withholding action upon the applications for the other lines of the high-speed system, Director Twining felt that the hearing tomorrow would be of a perfunctory nature. He, accordingly, requested the City Solicitor to learn from the commission what information the department should have ready to submit. The commission notified the City Solicitor today that it desired to have presented all available data and information bearing on the subject.

As Director Twining is assisting in the collation of the various parts of his report to the Mayor he may not go to Harrisburg tomorrow. Assisted by the Public Service Commission, however, will present the case of the department and City Solicitor Connelly and Assistant City Solicitor Lowengrund will also appear for the city.

BUSINESS MEN TO MEET

Tomorrow also the board of directors of the United Business Men's Association will meet in the office of the president, E. A. Noppel, 1915 Arch street, to determine what recommendations shall be made to the United Association in the matter of endorsing or opposing the lease. It is virtually certain that the business men will stand by Director Twining in his objections.

POSITIONS EVACUATED BY GERMANS IN FRANCE



British troops have taken Serre, Miraumont, Pys and several other strategic points on the Acre front, bringing their forces within four miles of Bapaume, their immediate objective. German dispatches indicate that the Teuton forces abandoned the positions voluntarily, their purpose being the straightening of their lines.

British Retake Kut-el-Amara

Continued from Page One
one of the three that the Allies have succeeded in taking. The Somme offensive began the first of last July, over a front about twenty miles wide.

LONDON, Feb. 25. The British have won the village of Serre, an important link in the German defenses west of Bapaume, and several other positions to the east, driving back the Germans as much as three miles at some points. General Haig's account of this new success north of the Acre is published in the same minor key as his report of the British victory Saturday night in the same sector.

"During the last twenty-four hours," reads his statement, "the enemy continued to yield ground along the Acre front with little opposition, small bodies of our troops pushed forward on a wide front occupying Serre village and several other important points further east."

The announcement and the developments in the military situation on the western front which it indicated are of the highest importance. With Scotch caution the British leader makes light of these fresh victories, but more complete accounts put the operations in a vastly different light.

The essential feature lies in the fact that throughout these purely artillery actions the British guns have absolutely dominated those of the Germans. "Meeting with little opposition," as stated by Haig, means nothing else than the overwhelming superiority of the British artillery.

INFANTRY TAKES UP ATTACK

On Saturday the British infantry took up the attack along the Acre after an artillery duel lasting several days. The British gunners had concentrated their fire on the enemy's positions south of Serre and south of Miraumont, the two bastions in the German line of defense.

Both on Saturday and Sunday, when it came time for the British troops to advance from the trenches, they occupied the new ground almost without opposition. The German guns had been put out of business. The troops of Prince Rupprecht found it impossible to hold their lines and evacuated them before the British advanced. This is attested by General Haig's statement that the "last attack of our troops" were required to carry out the operations.

The two successes, in which the Germans have lost two important villages and nearly five miles of trenches, constitute a triumph for Haig's new tactics. The dominating artillery of the British is accomplishing now what the costly frontal attacks of the past had failed to do. "Small bodies of our troops" were required to carry out the operations.

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Prince Rupprecht is known to have prided himself on the impregnability of the fortifications of Serre and Miraumont, yet the British troops walked through them almost without casualties, certainly without opposition worth the name. The German explanation that Petit Miraumont was evacuated on account of the mud is regarded here as ridiculous, because the "mud" lay between the British and the German lines.

MIRAUMONT'S FALL NEAR

The capture of Serre, coupled with that of Petit Miraumont and the powerful positions between those two points, seals the fate of Miraumont now flanked on the east and the west. Miraumont was to stand against the British advance, as Thiepval did last year, but now its defenders must choose between retreat or envelopment.

There is a strong feeling here that the fighting on the western front is on the verge of great developments. It is possible that Haig has determined to begin the grand drive now, rather than wait for more favorable weather conditions. Since the artillery is bearing the brunt of all the attacks, inclement weather will not affect the continuation of the British operations, so long as the infantry meets with but insignificant resistance, the general attack probably will go on without pause.

On the remainder of the front less gen-

EIGHT ALLIED PLANES WRECKED IN FRANCE

BERLIN, Feb. 25. Eight Allied aeroplanes were shot down yesterday on the western front, the German War Office announced today. Two of them were downed from the midst of an air flotilla which had been bombarding military objects behind the German front in several sectors between Arrmentieres and the Acre River.

English reconnoitering advances failed, some of the advances being made after artillery preparation and others as surprise attacks.

South of Cernay, in Champagne, the French attacked without success. Between the Meuse and the Moselle German reconnoitering detachments succeeded.

The repulse of Russian attacks on the eastern and Rumanian fronts was reported by the German War Office today.

West of the River Aa, Russian raiding detachments were repulsed, while on the Kovol-Lutsk Railroad Austro-German soldiers surprised a Russian advanced post.

South of Brzezany, in Galicia, a partial attack by the Russians failed. It was stated on the Rumanian front, the Russians attacked with strong forces north of Tartar pass, but were repelled.

On the rest of the Rumanian front and in Macedonia there have been no important developments.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 25. Russian reconnoitering detachments penetrated to German trenches west of Jablonizna, and captured twenty-six prisoners, today's official statement declared. The attack followed an artillery preparation.

FRENCH PIERCE TEUTON LINES NEAR VERDUN

PARIS, Feb. 25. The German lines near Ville-Sur-Tourbe, west of Verdun, were penetrated by the French on Sunday, who returned with a number of prisoners and war materials, the War Office announced today. German dugouts were destroyed.

Northeast of Soissons and northwest of Avocourt the Germans undertook surprise attacks which broke down under the French fire.

Elsewhere on the front there was bombardment.

DEMANDS CLEANER STREETS

Dust Worse Than Ever, Says Walnut Street Association Official
Condition of Philadelphia Streets is worse than for fifteen years and the dust menace worse than ever, according to a statement issued by Dr. Howard S. Anders, chairman of the dust legislative committee of the Walnut Street Association.

United demand to force the contractors to live up to their agreements to keep the streets clean was also urged by Doctor Anders. He repeated his warning that the best method for maintaining clean streets is to have a municipal street-cleaning system.

UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH ORDAINS FIVE

Two Made Elders and Three Deacons at East Pennsylvania Conference

In the presence of several hundred persons five men were ordained at yesterday's afternoon session of the East Pennsylvania Conference of the United Evangelical Church. The conference, which opened Wednesday in Christ Church, Twelfth and Chestnut streets, will close tonight.

Bishop Fouke, of Naperville, Ill., officiated at the service. Two of the men, P. G. Yost, of Sunbury, and A. A. Koch, of Fleetwood, were ordained as elders, while the others took the rank of deacons. The deacons are J. C. Moyer, of Willowmont; H. D. Galt, Shamokin; and Roy Sweden, Trappe.

Bishop Fouke was assisted by Bishop G. P. Swengel, of Harrisburg, and by the Rev. F. E. Edman, of Allentown, and the Rev. A. M. Sempel, both presiding elders.

Today's sessions of the conference will hear reports on committees and announcements of the church, which have pleaded Brown Miller retained, he is expected to be appointed to another charge, as he has five years allowed pastors at one church.

The evening service was presided over by the Rev. D. P. Longsdorf, a delegate to the conference and a representative of up-State newspapers. Bishop Swengel presided at the morning service, which was the "Holy Spirit," Bishop Fouke preached the morning sermon.

\$5000-A-YEAR MIDVALE MAN HELD AS THIEF

Robert Carter, Former Export Manager, Was Bus "Boy" in Cafe When Arrested
From \$5000-a-year traffic export employee of the Midvale Steel Company, of this city, to \$25-a-week bus boy in a restaurant was the sudden fall of Robert Carter, of New York, who was arrested in Albany, N. Y., accused of embezzling \$42,000 from the company.

The amount named by the New York police is far in excess of the sum embezzled by Carter. It was said today at the office of the company here. About \$5000 was the figure given as covering his deficits.

Carter was removed to New York today, refusing to say why he had taken the money, but asserting that the amount was greatly exaggerated. The alleged embezzlements cover a period of several months, January 12 Carter, becoming aware that he was being suspected, disappeared. He left his wife and children and took a night train out of New York for Albany. Then, with little money, he sought work and finally obtained the position of bus boy for a restaurant. He was working hard with the ambition to become a waiter, he said.

The good appearance and address of the "boy" caused comment and finally led to the police learning of his whereabouts.

PARADE IN COLD KILLS GUARD

Artilleryman Victim of Pneumonia. Kinsman Died for U. S.
Cold weather that signalized the parade of the Second Pennsylvania Artillery Regiment when it returned two weeks ago caused the death of Jacob Eisdler, forty years old, of 2222 North Marshall street.

The soldier developed a cold the day after the march and this later turned into pneumonia. Both his grandfather and his uncle gave their lives following outbreaks with Mexico, his grandfather having been killed during the Mexican War and his uncle having been slain during an Indian uprising that was foisted in the southern republic. He is survived by his father, mother and a sister.

HELP WANTED-FEMALE

GIRLS—Two reliable, Prof. firms, as cook and chambermaid and waitress, family of 2, best references required. P. 511, Ledger Office.

YOUNG MEN (2) for outside positions; opportunity to learn good business; \$50 to start; references. P. 512, Ledger Office.

ROOMS FOR RENT
CHESTNUT, 2042—3-room, suite, hot-water heat, electricity, suitable two gentlemen.

DREKA FINE STATIONERS HERALDRY ENGRAVED ON STATIONERY FROM DIES ENGRAVED IN OUR OWN ESTABLISHMENT BY THE BEST ENGRAVERS PAINTING OF COATS OF ARMS FOR FRAMING BY ARTISTS FROM THE HERALDS COLLEGE, LONDON. 1121 CHESTNUT STREET

For Better Railroad Service To the People of New Jersey and the Public

Before the New Jersey Legislature is a bill to broaden the powers of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners. It was introduced into the House by Hon. Emmor B. Roberts, of the Grange; into the Senate by Hon. Lewis T. Stevens. The measure is supported by the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, following exhaustive study of the problem, and by newspapers generally. It is heartily approved by the railroads. They take this public method to say so and why. Legislative Committees will give hearing on the bill, February 27, at Trenton.

This will accomplish in reality what the "full crew" law of 1913 was intended to do. The effect of that law so far has been to force upon the railroads in New Jersey a total cost of \$1,250,000. Such expenditure, which, as every cost entering into railroad maintenance and operation, inevitably is met by the public, has been waste, for it accomplished nothing of value.

Enactment of the bill will take nothing from the public that it does not restore in greater degree. For an arbitrary law recognizing no conditions—but, with limitations, requiring on trains a given number of men regardless of differing circumstances surrounding operation of such trains and the services they perform—the bill substitutes the intelligent judgment of selected men entrusted by the Commonwealth with safeguarding and promoting the public interest.

Under the existing statute—an "excess man" crew law, not a "full" crew law as it was named to accomplish its enactment—railroads in New Jersey are compelled to carry on trains, where they are not needed, some 450 men who would be otherwise very advantageously employed. Railroads do not seek to underman trains. On many trains—passenger and freight—they now put larger crews than the law requires, this to ensure safe and efficient operation.

What this bill will do is to make certain that all railroads in New Jersey shall properly crew every train. It gives the Utility Commissioners full authority to determine how many men are necessary to make certain that trains are safely and efficiently operated, also to prevent excessive duties being required of any man in train service. It protects the public interest, as the present law does not. It adequately safeguards rights of employees. It relieves the railroads from a useless operating charge now imposed upon them. It makes for economical, so far better, transportation service.

SAMUEL REA President, Pennsylvania R. R. WM. H. TRUESDALE President, Lackawanna R. R. A. T. DICE President, P. & R. Ry. Executive Committee of Associated Railroads of Pennsylvania and New Jersey R. L. O'DONNELL, Chairman

GOOD TEETH HOW THEY GROW & HOW TO KEEP THEM HIS BOOK FOR YOU LEARN the facts about caring for the teeth as these facts are known to the leaders of the dental profession. "Good Teeth; How They Grow and How To Keep Them," is a brief and simply written presentation of the facts of oral hygiene, revised and endorsed by representative dentists and used in many cities as a text book in the public schools. It contains much valuable information—and no advertising whatever. Mark and mail the coupon below and we will send you your copy. THE S.S. WHITE DENTAL MFG. COMPANY MOUTH AND TOILET PREPARATIONS 211 SOUTH 12TH ST. PHILADELPHIA COUPON Please send me a copy of "Good Teeth; How They Grow and How To Keep Them," also a sample tube of S. S. White Tooth Paste. Name Address

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CELESTINS VICHY Natural Alkaline Water Used at meals prevents Dyspepsia and relieves Gout, Indigestion and Urlic Acid. Ask your Physician Note the Name