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NO. 3409. WEATHER—FAIR AND WARMER. WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1916. ONE CENT.

U.S. TO COMBAT TEUTON PLAN FOR U-BOAT WAR AGAINST ARMED SHIPS

Cabinet Firmly Decides Not to Accept Views of Germany and Austria—Allies Will Be Upheld.

NO CHANGE IN PRESENT LAW

Announcement Follows Introduction of Senate Resolution Protesting Against Acquiescence in Teutonic Policy—Proposed Disarmament Merely Humanitarian Request.

President Wilson yesterday reversed the position tentatively adopted by this government regarding the new German and Austrian policy towards armed merchant vessels.

The view of the State Department has been to accept the suggestions of Germany and Austria.

It was decided yesterday by the Cabinet to ignore them, and rather to sustain the position of the entente allies.

After the meeting it was announced by the State Department that the United States "will not depart from the fundamental principles of international law."

The announcement that the United States adheres to this policy came after Senator Sterling, of South Dakota, had introduced a resolution in the Senate insisting there should be no more acquiescence by this government in the German and Austrian policy of submarine war against armed merchantmen.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, who was at the State Department during the afternoon, said that the British government would disarm its merchantmen if the United States could guarantee that Germany would keep its pledges not to sink unarmed vessels. He did not think the United States could do this.

Secretary Lansing said the suggestions made to the entente allies to disarm merchantmen, conditioned on a declaration from their enemies that no unarmed ships would be sunk, were made from a humanitarian standpoint in an effort to save life.

In its proposal to the allies the United States was asking them to change an established rule of international law. If they will not agree to change this rule, the United States, it was clearly pointed out, will not attempt to "change the rules of the game while the war is in progress."

Secretary Lansing said that what the United States may do is to change its evidence on which it determines whether armament carried by a vessel entering American ports is to be used for offensive or defensive purposes.

The regulations to port commanders issued on September 15, 1914, outlined this evidence. They permitted merchant vessels to carry guns of 6-inch caliber for defense. Secretary Lansing indicated that the United States might consider reducing the caliber of these guns from six inches to two inches.

It was made very plain, however, that the United States will not issue regulations to port commanders instructing them to regard all enemy merchantmen carrying guns as auxiliary cruisers, as has been the clearly indicated intention of the department.

The position announced by the State Department yesterday was held in many quarters to be wholly at variance with the view expressed in the disarmament proposals made by Secretary Lansing to the entente allies on January 15.

In these proposals Secretary Lansing held that the right to arm merchantmen was a "doubtful legal right, which may be denied on account of new conditions."

In the proposals of January 15 Secretary Lansing also definitely indicated that the United States might fully subscribe to the German and Austrian position that armed merchant vessels of belligerents should be regarded as warships.

The resolution introduced by Senator Sterling declared that if the United States puts its contemplated policy into effect it would constitute a more serious menace to the United States' international relations than anything that has been done since the outbreak of the European war.

BLASTS CAUSE \$18,000 BLAZE IN AUTO STORE

Gasoline Tanks Explode in Fire at Proby-Arrison Motor Co.'s Plant.

17 MACHINES BURNED

Believed Electric Short Circuit Ignited Receptacle of Acetylene.

POLICEMEN ARE DRENCHED

Crowd of Several Thousand Watch Firemen Battle for Hour With Stubborn Flames.

Exploding gasoline tanks, bursting hose, and freezing weather made spectacular a fire destroying seventeen automobiles and doing damage estimated at from \$11,000 to \$18,000 in the Proby-Arrison Motor Company, 3211 Prospect avenue northwest, last night.

A bursting acetylene tank gave the first warning of the fire. The flare of the explosion attracted the crew of No. 5 Engine Company, speeding along M street a block distant.

Two alarms were turned in and six engines and three trucks were called to the burning building. Three additional explosions of automobile tanks, startling the neighborhood, punctuated the fire as streams of water were directed into the flaming workshop.

A crowd of several thousand people, attracted by the detonations and flare, packed the snow-covered streets near the garage. A squad of six policemen, ordered to the blaze, were deluged by a bursting hose as they reached the scene, furnishing a side-line of merriment for the fire-allured spectators.

It is supposed the fire was caused by an electric short circuit igniting an acetylene tank. Members of the firm estimated their loss at \$18,000. Fire Marshal Nicholson placed the damage at \$2,000 on the building and \$3,500 on the automobiles.

War Costs France \$6,500,000,000 Budget for Next Three Months Carries \$1,266,688,000 for Military.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. Paris, Feb. 15.—France will require \$1,800,000,000 to run the government and conduct the war the second quarter of 1916. Of this amount \$1,266,688,000 will be for military purposes.

These figures were contained in the budget introduced in the Chamber of Deputies today by Minister of Finance Ribot.

Since the beginning of the war the expenditures, including those estimated for the next quarter, amount to \$9,300,000,000. Of this sum \$6,500,000,000 were for the conduct of the war.

NEW ARREST MADE IN LAMBERT POISON CASE Drug Clerk Charged With Selling Poison to Young Orpet, Accused Slayer of Girl.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—A new arrest was made today in connection with the death of Marion Lambert, the Lake Forest schoolgirl, whose body was found last week in Helm's Woods.

The man arrested was Charles W. Haasinger, drug clerk and university student at Madison, Wis. The charge against him is that he sold to William H. Orpet, the alleged murderer of the girl, quantities of a drug which was to be used for the purpose of producing abortion.

The State's attorney also counts on proving that Orpet bought from Haasinger an empty bottle—an innocent two-ounce vial—just before he made his secret journey to Lake Forest, and the prosecution expects to prove that Orpet placed poison in the bottle and caused Miss Lambert to drink it.

"Wilson Has Been Blindly Leading U.S. Into War," Says Root, Flaying Democrats

"Keynote" Speech at New York Republican Convention Asails Administration's Foreign Policy As One of "Words Not Deeds," Holding Up President as Tardy Convert.

Special to The Washington Herald. New York, Feb. 16.—In a speech bristling with withering reference to the diplomacy of the Wilson administration and branding the government as brave in words and irresolute in action, Elihu Root last night declared in opening the Republican State convention that "America has been blindly stumbling along the road that, continued, will lead to war."

The convention has been a series of violent skirmishes between the Whitman and Barnes factions. The fighting centers on the election of delegates at large to the Republican national convention and on an endorsement of Gov. Whitman's administration. At 3 o'clock this morning, with committees still in session, there were indications that Whitman would win a partial victory.

If that section of the Republican party of which Mr. Root is the acknowledged leader takes its cue from last night's speech, it will work at Chicago for a straight-out anti-German platform. For Mr. Root's strongest invective was reserved for a denunciation of the invasion of Belgium and a denunciation of President Wilson for having failed to protest against that invasion.

In regard to the Lusitania case Mr. Root accused the President of a "policy of threatening words without deeds." As to Mexico, he accused the President of having interfered in her internal affairs to destroy Huerta and set up Carranza, but without taking any action to safeguard American life and honor.

"For the first time in twenty years we enter the field as the party of opposition," said Mr. Root, in beginning his speech. He arraigned the Democratic party for its tariff policy, declaring that present prosperity was only temporary and was due to war conditions more effective than any protective tariff.

Turning to international relations, he said: "The convention has been a series of violent skirmishes between the Whitman and Barnes factions. The fighting centers on the election of delegates at large to the Republican national convention and on an endorsement of Gov. Whitman's administration. At 3 o'clock this morning, with committees still in session, there were indications that Whitman would win a partial victory."

WAS WARNED NOT TO WED J. E. Roosevelt Advised by Brother Against Marrying "Zero Bride."

Special to The Washington Herald. New York, Feb. 15.—Robert B. Roosevelt, testifying today before Supreme Court Justice Crane in Brooklyn, said that he warned his brother, John Ellis Roosevelt, against marrying a woman so much younger than himself.

John Ellis Roosevelt, a cousin of Col. Theodore Roosevelt, is seeking to annul his marriage to Mrs. Edith Hamersley Briscoe Roosevelt. He is 62. She is thirty years his junior.

"Did he discuss with you his marital relations after his return from Europe?" Mr. Williamson, Mrs. Roosevelt's counsel, asked Robert B. Roosevelt. He referred to the honeymoon trip to Europe after the marriage in Washington.

"Only to state to me that he was very happy," replied the witness. His brother on the previous day declared that on his return he was most unhappy.

Mrs. Edith Roosevelt, who contradicted her husband yesterday on the stand, was not in court today. After Robert B. Roosevelt left the stand F. L. Wellman, a lawyer, said that he advised Mrs. Roosevelt in September, 1914, to consult a physician. She underwent an operation by Dr. W. Gill Wylie.

Justice Crane decided that it would be necessary to take the testimony of Dr. Wylie before proceeding with the case. He announced that he would appoint a commission to interrogate Dr. Wylie.

Teutons Close in on Durazzo. Amsterdam, Feb. 15.—It is semi-officially reported from Vienna that only a coastal lake separates the Austro-Hungarians from Durazzo.

Over 7,000 New Subscribers In the Last 6 Weeks HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE CITY ROUTES OF THE WASHINGTON HERALD

BRYAN TO FIGHT AGAINST WILSON AT CONVENTION

Commoner Probably Will Oppose Renomination of President at Gathering.

AGAINST SECOND TERM

Former Premier Also Will Attack Executive for Advocacy of Preparedness.

TIME NOW RIPE FOR PROTEST

Believed, However, Bryan Will Support Candidacy of Wilson Should His Efforts Be Futile.

William Jennings Bryan, it is declared, will oppose the renomination of President Wilson in the Democratic national convention. He will base this opposition upon the one-term plank of the Baltimore platform and upon Mr. Wilson's advocacy of preparedness.

Bryan made Wilson's nomination possible at Baltimore. He will, his friends declare, train the same guns upon the President at St. Louis to prevent his again being the choice of the Democratic party.

If he falls in his mission he will support Wilson's candidacy—as he did that of Alton B. Parker. "I have not thought it wise," Mr. Bryan said recently to a friend in Washington, "to make an open statement as to whether or not I would support the President. No one has such a right until the President announces that he wants another term."

The fact that President Wilson has permitted the use of his name on the Ohio primary ballots, however, has left Bryan in the open to declare his position. Upon strength of the President's announcements, Bryan's friends feel at liberty to say that the erstwhile Secretary of State will line up against his former chief.

"Nothing in my past actions," said Mr. Bryan, "has justified the suspicion that I would not support the Democratic ticket. I have no axe to grind. All I ask is to be allowed to work along my own lines for the reforms in which I am so deeply interested. I have no friends whom I must reward at the expense of the nation, and no enemies to punish. There are plenty of good men from whom to choose."

Speaking of his opposition to President Wilson's preparedness plan, Mr. Bryan said: "Democracy should and must stand united against it. It is a Republican issue. It is a part of the scheme to restore to the country the protective tariff policy. It emanates from 'interests.' It would be the height of folly for the Democratic party, after fighting for years for tariff reform, to be blindly led into the arms of the protectionists. Their only return would be the enrichment of the 'interests,' who will make vast fortunes out of this preparedness scare."

"I have failed to be convinced that the voters demand big armaments. In fact, every mandate from the voters on that score, so far as I have been able to see, has no negative."

Bryan's decision to oppose his former chief will naturally have great weight. To what extent he will go at the St. Louis convention cannot be surmised.

Egypt Guarded, Kitchener Says War Secretary Tells Parliament Allies Have Increased Forces in Field.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. London, Feb. 15.—Adequate preparations have been made to guard against a threatened invasion of Egypt, Lord Kitchener, secretary of state for war, announced in Parliament this afternoon.

The British forces in France have been increased by eight divisions, he said. In the Mesopotamia field of operations, the war secretary stated that Gen. Aylmer was awaiting re-enforcements before renewing a forward movement.

Speaking of the Russian army, Lord Kitchener said that it was thoroughly reorganized and re-equipped.

Chicago Gets Baltimore Prisoner. Baltimore, Md., Feb. 15.—Sergeant Charles S. Gratten, of Chicago, left here today with J. L. Baker, of Pittsburgh, who is charged in the Witty City with conspiracy. Baker was arrested at the city jail here where he was serving a term of five months on the charge of conspiring to defraud the Maryland Jockey Club by means of fraudulent pari mutuel tickets.

GERMANS CRUSH LINE HELD FOR MONTHS BY BRITISH IN FLANDERS

Heavy Bombardment and Mines Shatter Hitherto Impregnable Salient at Ypres. Repeated Charges Win Trenches. Many Prisoners Taken.

ARTILLERY DUEL CONTINUES

French and Teutons Struggle in Champagne District to Recover Ground Lost—Heavy Guns Roar Unceasingly, With Infantry Inactive.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald. London, Feb. 15.—The Germans have broken through the British front on the Ypres salient, in Flanders, capturing from 600 to 800 yards of front line trenches.

The shattering of the heretofore impregnable British stronghold followed an exceedingly heavy bombardment, and wrecking of the approaches to the works by mining operations.

The Berlin report which places the gain at 800 yards of trench, states that a large part of the British occupants of the trenches were made prisoners. The British commander's report states that but 600 yards of trench were lost.

Several German attacks were made before the British line was forced to give way. Heavy bombardment by the artillery of both sides continues.

Still Struggle in Champagne. In Champagne the struggle of the Germans and French to recover ground lost by each east and west of Butte du Mesnil continues. The fighting is mainly by artillery. The French made an infantry attack against the newly gained German positions north-west of Tahure. It was repulsed, according to the Berlin statement.

Fighting in Upper Alsace for the positions east of Zeppelt today was limited to an artillery engagement. The French batteries heavily shelled the positions captured recently by the Germans, who made vigorous reply.

French Guns Kept Busy. Paris reports that in Aisles French trench guns shelled the German organizations on the edge of the road from Lille. West of the Oise a German train and supply conveyer was bombed. The French poured a destructive fire on the German works northeast of Soissons, and in the Argonne, at La Fille Morte, exploded a mine and occupied the crater.

Italians Take Offensive. Vienna, Feb. 15 (official).—The Italian artillery shelled the Austro-Hungarian positions on both sides of the Suserra and Seebach Valles. At midnight they began a bombardment of the Austrian front between the Fella Valley and Viesch Mountain.

The Italians made repeated attacks against our new positions in the Ronbon district, but were repulsed with heavy losses.

Storm Off Capes Wrecks 2 Ships Crew Rescued From One After Clinging for Hours to Rigging.

Special to The Washington Herald. Norfolk, Va., Feb. 15.—Two ships are in distress off the Virginia Capes as a result of the storm. The crew of a barge have been rescued. Other S O S calls have been picked up and the coast guard cutters on Onondaga and Seminoles are at sea searching for the distressed craft.

The barge Henry F. Hooper, battered by the seas, filled with water five miles north of Diamond Shoals. The crew were taken off by the Clyde liner Mohawk after having clung to the rigging for several hours.

The schooner N. H. Burrows is reported aground six miles off Hog Island. An unknown steamer also is reported in distress.

COLD KILLS NINE IN GOTHAM. Zero Weather Drives 500 to Shelter of Municipal Lodging House. New York, Feb. 15.—Nine persons are dead in the cold wave which has now begun to relax its grip on New York. The thermometer registered ten degrees above zero at 9:30 o'clock and the weather forecaster predicted a steady rise of temperature.

The cold drove nearly 500 persons to apply for shelter at the municipal lodging house.

Italians Fighting in Balkans. Zurich, Feb. 15.—Severe fighting is in progress between Austrian and Italian troops on the heights between Durazzo and Tirana in Albania, says the Vossische Zeitung. This is the first battle in which the Italians have taken part in the Balkans. They are under command of Gen. Palazzi.

Severe Quake Felt in Alps. Stuttgart, Feb. 15.—A severe earthquake occurred in the Swabian Alps region Sunday. Five villages were severely damaged, but no loss of life was reported.

JURY BLAMES KAISER. Charged As Murder Accessory in Coroner's Inquest After Raid. London, Feb. 15.—Coroner and jury clashed today at the inquest over the body of victims killed in Staffordshire by Zeppelin airships. Despite the opposition of the coroner, the jurors returned a verdict of wilful murder, with the Kaiser and crown prince as accessories before the fact.

LONE MAN IN CORSET SCHOOL. One Masculine Buyer From West Instructed in Mysteries of Lacing. New York, Feb. 15.—Corsets to be worn this season must be fitted to a nicety, concealing unshapely lines, short waists and—well—anything like that, according to the regulations laid down by the members of the Corset-makers' School of Instruction which was held today at the McAlpin Hotel. Corset buyers from all over the country attended the demonstration. With the exception of one man from the west, all were women.

While her assistant, a young woman, who ranks as an "average figure," displayed the proper costumes for the different kinds of forms, Miss Bertha A. Strickler, head of the school, conducted by a large corset firm, explained the intricacies of "lacing."