WEATHER.
Rain tonight and probably tomorrow; warmer tonight; moderate southerly winds.
Temperature for the past twenty-four hours: Highest, 41, at 12 noon today; lowest, 34, at 1 a.m. today.
Full report on page 3.

The Evening Star.

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"

Last Week's Sworn Net Circulation—Daily Average, 73,962; Sunday, 57,178.

No. 20,184. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1916—TWENTY PAGES. ONE CENT.

CAPITAL OBSERVES NEW YEAR ADVENT WITH 'OPEN HOUSE'

Multitude of Private Receptions Occupies Washingtonians During the Day.

GLOOMY WEATHER KEEPS MANY PERSONS INDOORS

In Diplomatic and Cabinet Circles Usual Affairs Are Held Despite Feeling Due to War.

NOISE AS 1915 PASSES AWAY

Blowing of Whistles, Ringing of Bells and the Sound of Fireworks and Firearms Greet the New Year Throughout City.

Although Washington's principal New Year function, the reception at the White House, was omitted this year, as it was last year, capital residents almost forgot the omission in the multitude of other receptions and "open-house" affairs with which the advent of 1916 was observed.

Cheerless, misty and gloomy, with portending rain or snow, the New Year made its advent under inauspicious circumstances as far as the weather was concerned. The poor weather conditions, however, failed to chill the ardor of New Year celebrants; it might be as nasty as could be imagined out of doors, but within hundreds of Washington homes, in the churches, in clubs, hotels and other places there was no lack of New Year cheer.

The usual receptions were held at the homes of most of the members of the cabinet, while in diplomatic circles the day was observed much as usual, in spite of the fact that a second New Year has rolled around to find relations still suspended between a number of the most important embassies. Even the "diplomatic breakfast," in years past an annual event of the day, was omitted by Secretary Lansing, the Secretary being out of the city over the holiday.

Greetings Sent to the President.

New Year greetings from all over the world were received at the White House and were forwarded to the President at Hot Springs, Va.

Wherever friend met friend today, whether on the street, in hotel lounges, in the clubs, on street cars or wherever it might be, the usual New Year felicitations were exchanged, smiling faces and hearty greetings being in strong contrast with the weather.

Owing to the fact that government employes were enjoying a holiday, which began at noon yesterday, and also owing to the bad weather, the downtown streets wore a deserted air, only those who were compelled to do so venturing out of doors during the forenoon. Most of Washington's New Year celebrating occurred last night, when New Year eve 1916 was ushered in with the blowing of whistles, the ringing of bells, the sound of fireworks and firearms and the exchange of greetings among those gathered at hundreds of watch night parties in private homes, as well as at more public places. Many of the churches of the city held watch night services, which began around 10 o'clock and continued until after the clocks had chimed midnight and marked the passing of 1915 and the birth of the new year.

Old Year Backs Off Stage, 1916 Is Hilariously Greeted, as Bells Toll Midnight Hour

When the little baby 1916 tumbled across the line at midnight he blinked his eyes and wondered what in the name of common sense all that noise was about, and where all those funny paper hats came from; and battered old 1915 shot off into oblivion with a lot of other bygone years to the tune of at least a million horns and whistles. The old year didn't have a chance to see his successor, they shoved him back into oblivion so hard, turned the lights out on his exit and sang a lot of happy New Year songs for the special benefit of the kid. However, as 1915 left he was heard to say that he hoped the boys would be out of the trenches by the time 1916 had whiskers.

Mixing of Statistics.

The statistics of last night's New Year eve celebration grew mixed as the evening progressed. Conservative counters made it 3,000 diners in hotels and restaurants early in the night, but later counts doubled that number—for some reason or other. Hotel chefs were overworked, so were the orchestras, and if young Mr. 1916 can ever learn all the various steps that were danced about the dining tables last night he will be an accomplished person, that's all. Also, if he ever learns why it is funny to blow a loud tin horn in a woman's ear he will be a philosopher. Washington last night again laughed at people wearing colored paper hats and tooting tooters. Alas, says little 1916, this is a funny world!

In one of the biggest hotels the main celebration was in the ballroom on the tenth floor, where more than 650 (early evening count) were seated. The walls were covered with flags and special

(Continued on Second Page.)

FOR CLOSER UNION OF PAN-AMERICANS

Executives of Latin Governments Cable Congratulations to the Scientific Congress.

SOLIDARITY OF PEOPLES THEME OF THE MESSAGES

Hope Expressed That Conference May Result in Intimate Relationship and Mutual Esteem.

Congratulations cabled by the chief executives of Latin American republics were announced today to delegates to the Pan-American Scientific Congress by the chairmen of the official delegations. Without exception, the tone of the messages was one of friendliness and co-operation, and served to encourage those from the many countries who are working for increased Pan-American unity.

The intention to hold a general session of the congress this morning at Continental Memorial Hall was abandoned, the change in plans being made necessary by reason of the fact that the delegations have been so busy that they have not been able to prepare the resolutions which it was intended they should submit at the general session. No section meetings were scheduled for today, either, the intention having been to have a general session in place of the sectional meetings. The executive committee will announce later the date upon which the next general session is to be held, probably one day toward the end of next week.

Big Reception Tonight.

Today is therefore one of rest for those attending the congress, although Washington's distinguished visitors are preparing for a gala occasion tonight, when the governing board of the Pan-American Union will be hosts at the Union building at a great state reception at 9 o'clock. Tomorrow morning there will be a pan-American mass at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, and ministers of the city generally are expected to preach pan-American sermons and hold pan-American celebrations in the churches of Washington.

Principal interest centered today among those attending the congress in the greetings and congratulations cabled from the rulers of the Latin American republics. These were made public at the New Willard Hotel today, in view of the fact that it was not possible to read them at the general session of the congress, which has been postponed.

Expressions of Best Wishes.

The cablegrams, in part, follow:

Argentina: The president of the republic sends his best wishes to the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress, with the hope that in addition to its scientific results there may be the benefits of a closer relationship and mutual esteem between the nations represented in the congress.

Bolivia: I hope that the Scientific Congress may fulfill the lofty purposes of its organization.

Brazil: I beg to congratulate your excellency on the inauguration of the second Pan-American Scientific Congress.

Chile: His excellency the president of the republic expresses his sincere hope that the great scientific meeting may contribute largely to the solidarity of all the peoples of America.

Colombia: I thank you for the communication relative to the inauguration of the Pan-American Scientific Congress.

Hopes for "Complete Success."

Costa Rica: I wish for you happy accomplishment and complete success for your personal satisfaction and for the benefit of our continent.

Cuba: I am gratified that the government of Cuba under my administration should have been able to contribute to bringing about so important event, and I send my best wishes for the labors of the congress in behalf of the culture and progress of all the nations of America.

Dominican republic: I send my respectful greetings to the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress.

Guatemala: I send my most sincere good wishes for the most complete success of the congress.

Haiti: Please accept best wishes for success and expression of my sentiments of good will.

Honduras: Sincere wishes for brilliant success.

Voice of Mexico.

Mexico: Hope that the Pan-American Scientific Congress may have most complete success in its interesting task.

Nicaragua: Accept my best wishes for complete success of the congress.

Panama: To you, who are the well known champions of pan-Americanism, is due the successful inauguration of the second Pan-American Scientific Congress. We have much to hope from this new linking together of our people.

Further Unification Desired.

Paraguay: Accept my best wishes for the complete success of the congress, the meeting of which will contribute largely to the further unification of the moral interests of all America, uniting its efforts for the development of thought and its ideals and feelings in the field of international law and justice.

Peru: I hope that the results of your labors may fulfill the noble ideals which inspired the meeting of so brilliant assemblage.

Venezuela: I rejoice in inauguration of most important assembly and extend congratulations.

Ecuador: Solemn inauguration second Pan-American Scientific Congress is a peaceful triumph American people of which all nations of continent are proud. I reciprocate felicitations to persons honored by directing debates of this great assembly and formulate best wishes success of labors.

Salvador: I thank you for your important message and trust sincerely that congress will be fruitful in good for nations of this continent.

Seeks International Aid for Astronomic Inquiries

International co-operation is demanded for many astronomic investigations, said Prof. S. I. Bailey of Harvard College observatory, in a paper on astronomical work in South America, delivered yesterday before section II, on astronomy, meteorology and seismology, meeting at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, at 16th and P streets northwest.

The relatively recent civilization of the countries of the southern hemisphere, he said, has retarded the inspiration of observatories in that quarter, and therefore our knowledge of the stars of that hemisphere is relatively backward.

BULGARIAN DRIVE AGAINST ALLIES IS NEAR, SAYS PREMIER

Reckoning Will Be Thorough, Radoslavoff Tells Government Leaders.

GREECE IN PROTEST AT CONSULS' ARREST

Second Formal Objection Also Made to Fortification Work of Franco-British Forces.

AIR RAIDS AT SALONIKI

Taubes Drop Bombs on British Lines and Campments—Bulgar General Discusses Balkan Conditions.

LONDON, January 1.—A Budapest dispatch to the Berlin Tages Zeitung says Premier Radoslavoff of Bulgaria made the statement at a conference of leaders of the government party before the assembling of parliament that military operations against the British and French at Saloniki would be inaugurated in a short time. The reckoning, the premier said, would be thorough.

Greece has protested against the arrest of the consuls of the central powers and their allies at Saloniki, which it terms a violation of Greece's sovereign rights, says Reuter's Athens correspondent.

Cause of the Arrests.

The arrest of the German, Austrian, Turkish and Bulgarian consuls at Saloniki, on orders given by Gen. Sarrail, the French commander, were the outgrowth of a German aeroplane attack upon the city, which was considered an act of belligerency, according to a dispatch to the Evening News from Saloniki.

British and French troops surrounded the consulates, arrested all the members of their staffs and seized the archives, the dispatch states.

Greece in Second Protest.

Advices received from Athens by the Overseas News Agency in Berlin state that the Greek government also has made a second protest against the fortification by the allies of the territory surrounding Saloniki.

"A Taube aeroplane which flew over Saloniki at midday yesterday was driven off by gun fire," says a Reuters dispatch from Saloniki. "The air raids of this week consitute the first overt acts of the enemy since December 12, when the entente allies recrossed the frontier. Bombs were dropped yesterday morning on the British lines and encampments, but they did no damage.

Greek Camp Shelled.

"The Greek camp just outside the town apparently was mistaken for entente allied quarters. A bomb was dropped there and exploded near the divisional general's headquarters, killing one shepherd and four sheep.

"The scenes during the air raids have been reminiscent of the Zeppelin visits to London, except that they have occurred in the daytime. The movements of the raiders were closely followed by the populace.

"As the shells seemed to be getting nearer the aviators they swerved their machines or dodged or altered their directions. Throughout the aircraft remained at high altitudes, some of them at 9,000 feet. The crowds gathered in the streets cheered when shells burst close to the machines. It is reported that two of the aircraft were hit during the first raid."

Possible Future Action.

BERLIN, via London, January 1.—Gen. Jecoff, commander-in-chief of the Bulgarian forces, is quoted by a correspondent of the Tageblatt as having declared as late as December 26, during an interview at Bulgarian headquarters, that no decision had yet been made as to whether action would be pursued against the Anglo-French expedition upon Greek territory.

The general stated, says the correspondent, that the problem of the continued presence of the entente expedition at Saloniki and of further action against it by the Bulgarian and Austro-German allies involved questions primarily of a political nature in which military action was dependent upon negotiations which were uncompleted at that time. He asserted that the danger from the presence of the Anglo-French forces at Saloniki was above all political since the entente powers undoubtedly hoped through the resultant complications to drag Greece into the war on their side.

Serbians Not Pursued.

Gen. Jecoff intimated that the Bulgarians had abandoned further pursuit of the remnants of the Serbian army into Albania not only on account of the wretched communications, but also because of political considerations.

The Albanians themselves, however, were attending to the completion of the destruction of the Serbian army, he said.

Passing to the general consideration of the war, Gen. Jecoff said he doubted whether the world conflict would be decided in the Balkans. Russia was scarcely in a position to bring this about. The entente allies could only endeavor to force such a decision by offensives in the west and the east. He said he saw no immediate possibilities of peace, at least not before the middle of the spring, since the entente allies set vast hopes upon a new offensive. The crisis could come only when this plan was broken down.

Greek Attitude Firm.

The Sofia correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger, who has just returned from a long visit at Saloniki, declares that Greece is determined to maintain neutrality at all hazards and will abandon it only if forced to do so by reason of the Bulgarian troops not leaving Greek territory when the operations against the Anglo-French forces are completed. A Bulgarian authority, adds the correspondent, has declared that this contingency is out of the question.

In The Sunday Star

"THE NEW ALASKA," the first of a series of letters by FRANK G. CARPENTER.

"A DAGUERREOTYPE," a pretty bit of fiction, by WILL PAYNE.

"AMERICA MUST HAVE AEROPLANES AND SUBMARINES IN ABUNDANCE," writes FREDERICK PALMER.

"PULLING AN ALIBI FOR MINK," a Shorty McCabe story, by SEWELL FORD.

"THE ORIGIN OF LEAP YEAR, ITS CUSTOMS AND LEGENDS."

"AND WE SAY 'THERE'S NO CHANCE ANY MORE,'" the stories of men who have made big successes from small beginnings, by LLOYD SHELDON.

"GERMANY'S MILITARY BASE IN SYRIA AND THE HOLY LAND," by CHARLES M. PEPPER.

"MOVIE STARS AS THEIR FAMILIES SEE THEM"—a two-page-spread of photographs.

"SAVING MILLIONS IN GOLD AND OTHER METALS BY OIL AND AIR.

Another installment of "THE WALL STREET GIRL," by FREDERICK ORIN BARTLETT.

An American woman is doing remarkable work in caring for the blind soldiers of France.

"THE MAN WHO MANICURES CLOCKS."

"THE RAMBLER" visits an abandoned county seat, Brentsville, Va.

JAMES B. MORROW tells how UNCLE SAM'S DETECTIVES are helping maintain the country's neutrality.

Hunting the red fox in the neighborhood of Washington.

Old story of fabulous sums lying unclaimed in England reaches Germany.

A Washingtonian tells of work of American college men at the French battle front.

WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL CIVIC FEDERATION is active in Washington.

"NEWEST STREET SUITS FOR WOMEN FOLLOW SIMPLE, GRACEFUL LINES," by ANNE RITTENHOUSE.

An expert woman statistician has important part in census work.

"WASHINGTON'S NEIGHBORS—ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD."

In The Sunday Star

STARTING THE NEW PICTURE.

Women of Germany Are Doing Men's Work.

How they are filling up the gaps left by the men who have gone to the front—and doing it in a satisfactory manner—is told in a very interesting article in The Evening Star.

KAISER PRAISES TROOPS IN NEW YEAR ADDRESS

Optimistic of Future, Saying Plans of Enemy to Crush Empire Will Not Succeed.

LONDON, January 1, 5:32 a.m.—The Amsterdam correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company says that Emperor William, according to a dispatch from Berlin, has sent the following New Year address to the army, the navy and the colonial troops:

"Comrades: Another year of severe fighting has elapsed. Wherever a superior number of enemies have stormed our lines they have failed before your loyalty and bravery. Wherever I have sent you into battle you have gained a glorious victory. Thankfully we remember today, above all, our brethren who joyfully gave their blood in order to gain security for our beloved at home and imperishable glory for the fatherland. What they have begun we shall accomplish with God's gracious help.

Calls Enemy Fighting Dishonest.

"In impotent madness enemies from the west and east, from the north and south still seek to deprive us of all that makes life worth living. They long ago buried the hope to conquer us in honest fighting. On the weight of their masses, on the starvation of our entire people, on the influence of their campaign of calumniation, which is as mischievous as it is malicious, they believe they can still reckon.

"Their plans will not succeed. Before the spirit of determination which impertrubably unites the army and those at home their hopes will be miserably disappointed. With a will to discharge the duty to the fatherland to the last breath and determination to secure victory we enter the new year with God for the protection of the fatherland and for Germany's greatness."

KAISER LAUDS VALOR AND SUCCESS OF ARMIES

Trusts to His Military Forces During Coming Year, He Tells General.

LONDON, January 1.—The Amsterdam correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company sends the following:

"Emperor William has written a letter to Gen. von Falkenhayn (chief of staff of the German army), states a Berlin telegram, in which he says:

"'I will not let the year 1915 end without remembering our great military successes.'

"After summing up the successes, the emperor adds that they can be fully appreciated only by later historical writers. He praises the bravery of the troops and the work of the supreme command, and concludes:

"'So I know that I and the German people in the coming year of the war can trust to the command of the army.'"

ASKS COURT FOR MANDAMUS.

Woman Graduate Seeks Membership in Civil Engineer Society.

NEW YORK, January 1.—Mrs. Nora Stanton Blatch, a daughter of Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch and a graduate of Cornell University with the degree of civil engineer, has filed with Supreme Court Justice Ford an application for a writ of mandamus requiring the American Society of Civil Engineers to admit her as a member.

Mrs. Blatch alleges that she has learned through conversation with various male members of the society that her application for associate membership, which was rejected, did not meet with disapproval because she was not professionally fitted, but because she is a woman.

CARTER TRIES TO BUTT OUT HIS BRAINS IN CELL

Negro Who Killed Mary Johnson and Shot Lieut. Catts Also Attacks Fellow Prisoner.

Fauley Carter, colored, who shot and killed Mary Johnson, also colored, and then shot Lieut. John E. Catts, head of the vice squad, the night of Sunday, November 21, tried to butt out his brains against his cell door at the District jail Wednesday afternoon, and the next morning he made an attack on Benjamin Lancaster, his cellmate, with a chair. It was found necessary to put him in a cell alone and under guard.

When Carter shot Mary Johnson and Lieut. Catts a bystander sent two bullets into his body and so seriously wounded him that it was thought he would die. Under surgical treatment at Emergency Hospital, however, his condition improved and a few days ago he was transferred to jail.

Wednesday afternoon a commotion in the corridor in which his cell is located attracted the attention of guards, and Carter was found butting his head against the bars. He had sustained several wounds to his scalp, and it was necessary to call in the prison physician to dress them.

Attacked His Cellmate.

Thursday morning Ben Lancaster was put in the cell with the alleged murderer, who, it was feared, might repeat the attempt to harm and possibly kill himself, and he had been there only a short time when Carter attacked him with a chair.

Guards hurried to the cell and separated the prisoners before either was seriously injured. Lancaster was treated for a wound on his forehead and Carter was left alone in his cell, a guard remaining on duty to prevent a repetition of his effort to harm himself.

Carter was named in a coroner's verdict as the slayer of Mary Johnson, and the police claimed the shooting was prompted by jealousy, although the woman was married.

Lieut. Catts, who was discharged from Emergency Hospital several days ago, visited his brother officers at the first precinct station one day last week. It is probable the plaster cast will be removed from his broken arm next week.

GERMANS TABLE PETITION ON U. S. MUNITIONS SALES

BERLIN, January 1.—The reichstag committee on petitions has tabled as unsuited for discussion a petition regarding measures against the sales of munitions in the United States to the entente allies.

SEND PRESIDENT GREETINGS.

King Albert of Belgium One of Rulers to Remember Mr. Wilson.

President Wilson's New Year greetings from the rulers of the world included one from Albert, king of the Belgians, dated at Panne, the headquarters of his small Belgian army in the few miles of Belgian territory not yet in German hands: "Receive my sincere wishes for yourself and the welfare of your country, whose generosity to Belgium we shall never forget."

LINER PERSIA SUNK; U.S. CONSUL MAY BE ONE OF MANY LOSING LIVES

Majority of Passengers and Crew, Numbering Possibly More Than 300, Go Down With Vessel Off Crete.

But Four Boats Get Clear of Death Ship—Three Americans Aboard When Liner Sailed from London.

LONDON, January 1.—The British liner Persia, bound from London to Bombay, was sunk at 1 o'clock Thursday afternoon in the eastern Mediterranean, off the Island of Crete, and most of the passengers and crew were lost. Robert McNeely, American consul at Aden, was a passenger on the Persia.

A message from the admiralty to the Peninsular and Oriental Company makes the definite announcement that the Persia was torpedoed.

Officials of the Peninsular and Oriental line say they have received no details concerning the sinking of the Persia, and do not know whether she received warning.

The Peninsular and Oriental line estimates that 160 or 161 passengers sailed from London on the Persia. A number of these landed at Gibraltar, Marseille or Malta. No official figures are available. In addition to the passengers who sailed from London, a large number embarked at Marseille. The total booked at these points was 231. Of these eighty-seven were women and twenty-five children.

A Lloyds dispatch says that most of the passengers and crew of the Persia were lost. Four boats got clear before the Persia sank.

In addition to Mr. McNeely, two other Americans are known to have been passengers on the Persia when she left London. Charles H. Grant was on his way to Bombay. Edward Rose, a schoolboy, was on the way from Denver to Gibraltar. Rose probably landed at Gibraltar and was not on board the boat at the time she was sunk.

Lord Montagu was on the passenger list.

These officials say they are unable to give any information concerning American citizens on the Persia. They say the steamship carried a large number of persons, but that no official figures are available as yet. Passenger lists have not been published since the beginning of the war.

Mr. McNeely sailed from New York for England on November 27, on the Holland-American liner Ryndam. A fellow passenger was Robert P. Skinner, America consul general at London. Mr. McNeely was on his way to take his first consular post. Mr. Skinner advised him to sail for the east by the Dutch line, but the young man already had engaged passage on the Persia.

One of Several Vessels Lost.

The Persia was a steamer of 7,974 tons gross. She was owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company of London. She sailed from Bombay November 14 for London and was last reported as leaving Gibraltar on December 2.

Robert N. McNeely was appointed as consul at Aden, Arabia, in October, 1915. He is a native of North Carolina.

The Persia was one of several vessels recently sunk by submarines in the eastern Mediterranean, through which her course to the Suez canal would take her from Malta. On December 24 the French liner Ville de la Ciotat was sent to the bottom off the Island of Crete by a submarine, which, according to unofficial British advices, flew the Austrian flag.

No advices have been received in the United States as to the date on which the Persia sailed from London. She departed some time in advance of her advertised date of sailing, which was January 15. The voyage from London to Malta ordinarily requires nine days.

The Persia was built in 1900 at Greenock. She has been in the Bombay service since that time.

On account of the danger from submarines to vessels which pass through the Suez canal and the Mediterranean this route has been abandoned by the Japan Mail Steamship Company, which is dispatching its steamships around the Cape of Good Hope. Insurance rates for vessels passing through the Suez have been increased by English underwriters to three or four times the normal figure.

Lord Charles Montagu, who booked passage on the vessel, is a London stock broker. He was born in 1860 and served with the Yeomanry Cavalry.

Steamer Abelia Sunk.

The British steamer Abelia also has been sunk.

The Abelia was a new steamship, having been built last year. She was 350 feet long, of 3,650 tons gross and was owned in London.

The Abelia sailed December 2 from Bombay for Hull. This route would take her through the Suez canal, and it is not unlikely that she was torpedoed in the eastern Mediterranean, where the Persia and a number of other vessels have been sunk.

NEW DANGER IS THREATENED TO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Destruction of the British liner Persia, with possible loss of American lives, throws relations between the United States and the Teutonic powers into a new danger.

Coming almost at the hour when a satisfactory adjustment of the delicate situation was at hand by Austria's acceptance of the cardinal points of the American demands in the Ancona case, this new element threatens to complicate affairs with Austria as thoroughly as the destruction of the Arabic, following so closely the Lusitania exchanges, brought on a renewed crisis with Germany.

From such incomplete information as was at hand today, the two situations are regarded as almost parallel. It was generally presumed in official circles that, as was the case in the crisis with Germany, the Austrian admiralty and the Vienna foreign office are working at cross purposes.

Officials Decline to Comment.

It was regarded as a strong possibility that while the foreign office is ready to accede to the contentions of the United States, the admiralty, bent on the success of its submarine policy, has not yet been brought into line.

There is, however, the added possibility that the submarine which sunk the Persia, being far from home, had not been instructed in the new policy of the Austrian government.

The destruction of the Persia, coupled with the recent sinking of the Japanese liner Yasaka Maru and the French liner Ville de la Ciotat, lends strength in official quarters to both these possibilities.

All the agencies of the American government have been set in motion to gather facts on the newest disaster, and the fact that Secretary Lansing and other officials today declined to comment in the absence of complete information does not alter the crucial aspect which this latest development has given to the submarine controversy.

News Astounds Official Washington.

The general view in official quarters was that the position of the United States was sufficiently well known to Austria, and the Ancona negotiations have been under way a sufficient length of time to permit instructions to reach the submarine fleet. On every hand the news was received with astonishment.

Consul General Skinner, at London, forwarded what information was available at the British admiralty, and his dispatch with unofficial reports of the disaster was forwarded to President Wilson at Hot Springs. The President will have Austria's satisfactory reply in the Ancona case and the news of the latest submarine disaster before him at the same time.

As in similar cases, the policy of the American government will be to await full and complete information before moving. There is little room to doubt that the incident will mean new diplomatic action in which the United States will present to Austria in the same forceful manner its unalterable policy that the laws of nations and humanity must be regarded by the belligerents in their warfare at sea.

Severance of diplomatic relations, with all its possibilities, looms up as one of the eventualities, the same as it did in the case of the Lusitania, the Arabic and the Ancona.

Assumed to Be Austrian Boat.

Although the nationality of the submarine which sunk the Persia remains unestablished definitely, as was the case with the Yasaka Maru and the Ville de la Ciotat, the assumption generally is that it was an Austrian boat, because Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, recently declared that no German or Turkish submersibles were operating in the Mediterranean.

The attack on the Persia as she was approaching Alexandria renews attention to the fact that a submarine cam-