WEATHER.
Fair and colder tonight; tomorrow fair and continued cold.
Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 2 p.m.: Highest, 51, at 12 noon yesterday; lowest, 16, at 8 a.m. today.
Full report on page 19.

CLOSING NEW YORK STOCKS PAGE 19.

The Evening Star.

"From Press to Home Within the Hour"

Sworn Net Circulation, Month of December, 1916, Daily Average, 77,962; Sunday, 59,671.

No. 29,582. WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1917.—TWENTY-TWO PAGES. ONE CENT.

MANY ARE KILLED IN GAS EXPLOSION

Tenement Building in Chicago Wrecked, Most of Victims Being Foreigners.

SEVERAL RESCUED ALIVE

By the Associated Press.

CHICAGO, February 2.—A gas explosion and fire wrecked a tenement building at 813-23 West 14th place, in the heart of the west side early today.

An early estimate of forty persons dead may be materially reduced, as many hours later removal of debris enabled firemen to rescue five unconscious adults. Firemen, police and laborers, encouraged by sounds which indicated others were living, worked frantically to remove wreckage. At 11 o'clock two women, two girls and a man, unconscious, but with the spark of life remaining, were rescued and sent to the county hospital.

The explosion was heard for miles; by some freak of the shock buildings a few yards away were undamaged, while windows were broken many blocks further distant. Hundreds of Hebrew, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian tenants of the district rushed into the streets scantily clad. The explosion wrecked one of the tenement buildings which contained twenty-four flats, sixteen of which were occupied. The flames burst throughout the lower floor immediately. When firemen arrived they were able to resuce a few children who were dropped by their parents from upper windows. Some adults also were saved in this way. A group of railroad switchmen who happened on the scene in advance of the firemen were reported to have rescued fifteen children. At daybreak Fire Chief O'Connor said the ruins were so hot that it would be many hours before search of the wreckage could be made and the loss of life ascertained.

Due to Gas Main, Is Belief.

The explosion is believed to have followed the bursting of a gas main in the basement of the tenement house.

A tenant of the building told Fire Marshal O'Connell that at midnight he saw a neighbor moving through the building with a handful of matches, which he lighted from time to time, apparently looking for a gas leak. The explosion may have resulted from this.

The barking of a dog led to the recovery of the unconscious form of Al Johnson. The dog's forepaws rested on Johnson's chest. He was hauled to the top of the heap with ropes, uninjured, and his master after him.

After working for an hour at wreckage where moans came from firemen came upon a man and a woman in a semi-conscious condition. The firemen said that the voices were becoming plainer and that a number of persons seemed to be imprisoned in a sort of a black-hole grotto arched over by fallen timbers.

Seven different investigations were begun by various city and county departments. Morris Feldman, the janitor, was sent for to confirm his story to the police. He told the latter that on various occasions complaint of the odor of gas was made to the gas company and that repairmen sent out wrapped the leaks with pieces of tape. One who came out yesterday, he said, said that he could not handle the job alone and Feldman said he went away without doing anything.

The water thrown on the ruins froze as fast as it fell. The gas continued to burn long after the inflammable material of the building had been consumed, lighting up the ice-covered objects in weird fashion.

Many Hastily Leave Homes.

Many whose homes were in no danger from the flames or who heard the explosions carried their household goods into the street. Pavements and sidewalks were littered with cradles, chairs and tables—meager exhibits, testifying to the poverty of the neighborhood. Those driven from their homes found refuge from the cold at Hull House settlement, hospitals, police stations and in stores, whose proprietors, when alarmed by the explosion, opened their doors.

In one little grocery store there was a scene typical of many others. The place was crowded with excited men and women crying and talking excitedly in Yiddish. Among them was Mrs. John Lancowski. She wore a nightgown, a shawl, one slipper and one boot.

She had brought her six children safely out of the building, but in the excitement had lost them again. The oldest, she said, was ten.

Patrick Donohue, an assistant fire marshal, said that when he reached the scene a great flame of gas was leaping across West 14th place.

Little Chance to Escape.

"A lot of those people," he said, "were in bed asleep and had no chance to escape. Where gas and flames did not cut them off falling stairways and crumbling walls did."

Others who were upon the scene early assert that they saw women with hair and clothing ablaze carrying or dragging their babies into the street.

A score or more of persons were injured in adjoining structures by broken glass or in their rushes to escape into the street. Most of these were cared for at the County Hospital.

Morris Feldman, janitor of the building, said that sixty-seven persons were or should have been in the building last night. Of these he said forty were missing and probably dead.

Among the buildings damaged was the Garfield School. When the children assembled and learned of the situation they shouted with joy to each new comer: "No school today! No school today!"

An incident disclosed by the coming of daylight was that of a seven-year-old boy, Stanley Stilowitch, found freezing to death. The explosion shut off the gas and electric lights in the district and in the darkness the child, clad only in a union suit, ran into a secluded nook, where, benumbed with cold, he fell asleep. He was sent to a hospital.

Two tenants of the building who recovered, but would not give their names, said that the odor of gas was observed yesterday afternoon and was reported to the gas company.

Completely to extinguish the fire it was necessary to dig down to the gas main. This, owing to the frozen ground, was slow work, and seven hours after the explosion the main had not been reached.

Belgian Relief Ships to Sail.

NEW YORK, February 2.—Steamships flying the flag of the Belgian relief commission will continue to sail from this port without fear of destruction or interference because of the new naval policy of Germany, it is announced by Alexander J. Hemphill, chairman of the New York committee. Mr. Hemphill asserted that no new arrangement had been made with the German government, as had been reported, but that supplies would be sent on the strength of the previous agreement exempting vessels of the commission from attack and seizure.

RAISE FOR CLERKS IN DISTRICT BILL

Measure, With Smoot Increase Provision, Ordered Reported Favorably to Senate.

OVER $1,000,000 ADDED

The District appropriation bill, carrying the Smoot amendment providing for increases in pay to District employes receiving $1,000 and less a year, was ordered reported favorably to the Senate today by the Senate appropriation committee.

The committee added items to the bill aggregating more than $1,000,000.

The total amount carried in the bill as recommended by the committee is $14,860,558.66. The bill as it passed the House carried $13,443,529.66. The increase over the House bill amounts to $1,417,029.

While the Smoot amendment was placed in the bill by the committee it was with the understanding that the increases allowed the District employes should be the same as those given the federal employes under the legislative appropriation bill which is now in conference. The legislative bill as it passed the House provided for increases as follows: Ten per cent for all those employes receiving up to $1,200, and from $1,200 to $1,800, 5 per cent.

The bill as it passed the Senate, with the Smoot amendment, allows the following increases: Those receiving $480 and less, 15 per cent; those receiving from $480 up to and including $1,000, 10 per cent. The District employes will receive the same increases as are agreed upon finally for the federal employes.

A legislative rider was inserted in the bill by the Senate committee providing that the surplus revenues of the District, after all the expenses of the District have been paid under the half-and-half plan and under other appropriations made by Congress, shall be applicable to the funded debt of the District.

For Purchase of Dean Tract.

One of the largest items of increase provided by the Senate committee was $625,000 to purchase the Dean tract, at Connecticut and Florida avenues, for a public park. This action was taken by the committee because it was feared that in the near future the Dean tract might be sold for building purposes and would not be available longer for purchase as a park except at a very high figure.

Provision is made also for the erection of the proposed Gallinger Municipal Hospital on reservation 13, where the Washington Asylum Hospital now stands. The sum of $150,000 is made immediately available, and the limit placed upon the expenditure for this hospital is $500,000.

The public schools are given generous increases by the committee. Nineteen additional matrons are provided at $500 apiece. For an addition to the Wheatley School, $96,000 is allowed; for an addition to the Takoma School, $90,000; for an addition to the Buchanan School, $97,000; for additional ground for the Emery School, $12,000; for improvements in the Woodburn School, $5,500.

Increases for Roads and Streets.

A provision is inserted which would admit free of charge to the public schools of the District the children of army and navy officers and men stationed outside the District.

Considerable increases are allowed for suburban roads and street improvements.

The committee added $65,000 to the bill for the construction of the proposed South Dakota Avenue bridge.

The Norris proposal for the establishment of a bathing beach in the tidal basin in Potomac Park was adopted by the committee and an item of $35,000 for this purpose placed in the bill.

The committee provided $36,000 to purchase a new public playground near Sibley Hospital.

A provision was inserted in the bill suspending until further action that part of the District appropriation law for the present fiscal year which provided for the widening of 14th street northwest between Pennsylvania avenue and F street.

The committee increased the rent allowance for the National Guard of the District by $4,000.

A provision was inserted in the bill which will make it possible to supply communities in Maryland near the District line with water from the District's water system, to be paid for by the Maryland communities.

Provision is made for the appointment of the register of wills by the justices of the Supreme Court of the District instead of by the President.

Provision is made increasing the pay which is allowed employes in the recorder of deeds' office for the recording of deeds.

Pay for Legal Holidays.

The provision inserted in the bill by the House appropriations committee, but which went out of the bill in the House on a point of order permitting per diem employes of the District to receive pay for legal holidays, was replaced in the bill by the committee.

The House committee provision relating to the establishment of a license bureau was replaced in the bill by the committee also.

An item of $32,500 for a suburban police station between the ninth and tenth precincts was increased to $40,000.

The committee also added $2,000 to the bill for a new gasoline launch to be used by the police harbor patrol.

For the National Library for the Blind the committee added $5,000, and for the Columbia Polytechnic Institute for the Blind, $1,500.

The Potomac Electric Power Company, under another provision of the bill, is instructed to put its wires underground in Water street.

HELD TISSUE OF FALSEHOOD.

British Admiralty Denies Misuse of Hospital Ships.

LONDON, February 2.—Referring to a German wireless dispatch repeating allegations of the misuse of British hospital ships, and especially to the Britannic, which, on the sworn testimony of an Austrian named Messany, carried 2,500 troops, the British admiralty says:

"The whole message is a tissue of falsehood, and the only true statement in the story attributed to Messany is the fact that he was brough home in the Britannic, as he was an invalid at the time, and repatriated for this very reason.

"As may be expected, German press messages at this moment are filled with false statements of this kind in order to manufacture a pretext for the latest method of warfare announced by Germany. It cannot be too emphatically restated that on no occasion since the beginning of the war have any persons but invalids and members of the hospital staff been embarked on board any of his majesty's hospital ships."

VILLA'S GROUND HOG DAY REFLECTION.

AMERICAN VESSELS ARE HELD IN PORT

Passenger Ships Await Word From U. S. Authorities Before Sailing for Europe.

BUT FREIGHTERS START

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, February 2.—Owners of American vessels in transatlantic trade probably will follow the example of the ship owners of the entente nations and abide by the instructions of their government in regard to running the risks of the new German blockade regulations. They awaited today the reply of the State Department to a measure sent by P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine, seeking advice as to the future movements of steamships of the American line. Unless orders to the contrary are received from Washington the American liner St. Louis will sail from here Saturday for Liverpool, her regular port of destination. No efforts have been made, Mr. Franklin said, to send wireless instructions to the vessels of the line now at sea.

The ship of the American line whose safe arrival is awaited with the greatest anxiety is the Philadelphia, from New York to Liverpool. This morning the Philadelphia was believed to be about 1,200 miles from Liverpool. Her port engine is out of commission, due to the breaking of a crank shaft last Saturday, and it is believed that she cannot make port until late Monday. The Philadelphia carries 148 passengers, of whom thirty-five are Americans. Among those on board are Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, Misses Helen and Ethel Crocker of San Francisco, Lieut. John Eager, U. S. A., and Capt. Roald Amundsen, arctic explorer.

The Finland of the same line, also from New York, is due to arrive at Liverpool Sunday. Forty-six of her 111 cabin passengers are Americans. The Kroonland of this line left Liverpool for New York Wednesday, with 191 passengers. It is believed that half of these are Americans.

Other Ships Carrying Americans.

The French liner Chicago, which carries a number of American passengers, is thought to be due at Bordeaux today. Another vessel on which Americans sailed is the Baltic of the White Star line, which steamed from this port Monday for Liverpool. She is due to arrive Wednesday. The St. Paul of the American line, which left Liverpool last Saturday and is due here Sunday, is believed to be outside the danger zone by this time.

No passenger steamers have left New York for Europe since the declaration of the German blockade, but several freight ships sailed yesterday and last night. The shipping embargo on this port which at first was intended to continue every night until the situation cleared, was modified last night and several vessels were allowed to pass out. First, however, they were subjected to careful examination by the United States destroyers stationed at the Narrows to guard the neutrality of the port.

A number of American citizens are here today anxious to sail for Europe despite the dangers of submarine warfare. Most of them are buyers anxious to get to Europe to prepare for the summer trade. A few women who wish to serve in European war hospitals also have booked passage on the St. Louis.

Ships Await Orders.

Agents of Dutch and Danish steamers have discontinued sailings while awaiting orders from their governments. Cable advices received here say that the Dutch government has provisionally forbidden the sailings of all vessels from Holland, and that Denmark has suggested that ship owners do not permit their ships to leave port without first consulting the government.

The excitement caused by federal officials and the police in increasing the guard that is watching the thirty-one ships of Germany and Austria laid up in the harbor subsided today. The authorities announced that they could find no evidence of preparations to disable these vessels or to make a dash for the high seas.

Army officers commanding the forts that guard New York harbor have detailed extra guards to the most important batteries and stationed additional sentinels to patrol the water front and the country inland for some distance from the fortifications. Maj. Gen. Wood, commanding the Department of the East, said, however, that no instructions to this effect had been issued from his headquarters.

Not to Halt Belgian Relief.

According to information given out at headquarters of the Belgian relief commission, Germany's new naval policy will not interfere with the passage of relief ships between this country and Europe. Supplies will be sent, as usual, on the strength of Germany's previous agreement exempting vessels of the commission from attack and seizure. In the event of a break between Germany and the United States, it is stated, the commission is prepared to withdraw the fifty Americans on its staff in Belgium and northern France and substitute workers from other neutral countries, unless Germany should permit Americans to continue the work.

The commission has forty-two ships under charter. Four of these are now loading in United States ports. From ten to fifteen are on the way to Rotterdam and the others are bound from Rotterdam to the United States. No anxiety is expressed by officers of the commission for the safety of any of these vessels.

PROVIDES BUILDING OF 100 SUBMARINES

Senator Poindexter Introduces Bill Calling for Immediate Action.

WEST COAST UNGUARDED

Immediate construction of 100 submarines, eighty for coast defense and twenty for fleet operations, was proposed in a special bill introduced today by Senator Poindexter of Washington. These would be in addition to the eighteen submarines proposed in the regular naval bill now pending in the House.

The bill would direct that not less than six of the fleet submarines and not less than twenty-five of the coast submarines would be built on the Pacific coast.

Pacific Coast Unprotected.

"Regardless of any recent international incident," said Senator Poindexter in presenting his bill, "I want to call attention to the fact that the Pacific coast is in a wholly unprotected condition. The submarine construction directed in this bill would be entirely supplementary to the construction program outlined in the regular navy bill.

"If this should be passed the United States would have about 200 serviceable submarines, and that would be a smaller number compared to other great navies.

"The most complete guaranty of strength of a nation is its defense at sea. Mastery of the sea is complete defense at home, and so we can afford to spend this money for such an addition to our navy. We cannot afford to neglect longer this element of defense."

One provision of the measure, which was referred to the committee on naval affairs, would give the Secretary of the Navy authority to construct the new ships either by private contract or in government yards.

Senate to Meet Tonight.

The Senate agreed today to hold a night session tonight from 8 until 11 o'clock to consider unopposed bills on the calendar.

U-Boat Torpedoes U. S. Schooner.

PENSACOLA, Fla., February 2.—The American schooner William Jones, while en route from Alicante, Spain, for Pensacola, was torpedoed by a German submarine without warning and badly damaged several weeks ago, according to a letter received here from Capt. Charles Schrader, master of the schooner, written from Spain.

U. S. Holds Sunken Freighter.

CHARLESTON, S. C., February 2.—Collector of the Port Peters today formally took charge of the German freighter Liebenfels, which sunk in the harbor yesterday under conditions leading marine men to believe she was scuttled. The vessel is lying in thirty feet of water.

New Belgian Minister Named.

PEKING, China, February 2.—Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, the Belgian minister at Peking, has been appointed minister of Belgium at Washington. The baron will sail for his new post in March.

U. S. TRIES TO HALT ALIEN LAND BILLS

Japan's Protest Against Those Pending in Idaho and Oregon Considered Serious.

STATES ARE APPEALED TO

SALEM, Ore., February 2.—Oregon's anti-alien land bill was withdrawn from the legislature here today by Senator George R. Wilbur, democrat, who introduced it, because, as he said, he did not want to handicap President Wilson with possible Japanese complications during the present international crisis.

Representations made by Japan to the United States against the anti-alien land bills pending in the Idaho and Oregon legislatures, although made informally through her embassy here, are considered no less serious at this critical juncture of international affairs than her protests against the California laws four years ago.

Absolutely nothing has been permitted by the administration to become public, until the protest was disclosed by appeals to the Oregon and Idaho delegations in Congress to use their influence at home to prevent passage of the bills at this time.

The state of feeling in Japan, probably much disturbed by the recent crisis in the government, has been represented to the State Department as being so serious that the Japanese statesmen who wish to preserve friendly relations with the United States fear the passage of more legislation in this country directed against their country may force the situation at home beyond their control.

Protest Against Bills.

BOISE, Idaho, February 2.—The State Department at Washington, it became known today, has sent telegrams to members of the legislature and to Gov. Moses Alexander, protesting against the passage of the bill pending in the legislature to bar subjects of Japan from land ownership in this state.

The bill passed the house and is now before the judiciary committee of the senate. Senator W. E. Borah, who is in Washingon, has already sent telegrams to the legislators and to Gov. Alexander, asking them not to embarrass the government at this time. In a telegram to the members of the Idaho legislature Senator Borah said, in part:

"I am sending this at the earnest request of the State Department. This bill is causing the government deep concern. I suggest that only for the most substantial and imminent reasons should we embarrass the government, particularly at this time. In this critical hour we ought not to exercise our state rights unless the situation compels us to do so.

Would Not Add to Task.

"I have taken the liberty to assure the President that neither the legislature nor the people of our state would want to add to his task at this juncture of our foreign affairs other than for vital and controlling reasons."

The Idaho Daily Statesman, quoting a telegram from Senator Borah, printed with his authorization, says:

"Secretary Lansing and Mr. Polk paid a second call Thursday night at Senator Borah's residence and represented that Tokio fears the enactment of such legislation at this time may so incense the Japanese people as to force the government in self-preservation to signify a willingness to register by force of arms its protest against the Idaho bill."

YAMACRAW KEEPS WATCH OVER INTERNED VESSELS

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., February 2.—The coast guard cutter Yamacraw was rushed here last night, presumably to keep a close watch on the German prize ship Appam, anchored in James river, and the German steamer Arcadia and the Austrian steamer Buda Pest, tied up at a pier not far from the Appam.

The Yamacraw took her position near the Appam and where she also could observe the Arcadia and Buda Pest, and at frequent intervals throughout the night flashed her searchlight on the Appam.

The battleship Arkansas at daybreak today proceeded to the entrance to the Virginia capes on emergency duty.

HOPED GERMANS WILL WARN SHIPS

Senators Say Break May Be Avoided if United States Vessel Is Not Destroyed.

MANY COUNSEL DELAY

The only hope held out by senators today that a break would not come with Germany over the newest submarine declaration was that Germany might still observe international law and give warning to merchant vessels appearing in the restricted zones before sinking them.

It was pointed out that Germany, through her submarines, might be able to attempt a real, and not a paper blockade, and that if such was the case the United States would not be justified in breaking off relations with Germany, unless there were violations of international law in the conduct of this blockade.

Other Neutrals Might Break.

But should Germany sink an American vessel it was the general opinion that a break would follow between this country and Germany. It was the belief of many of the senators that should a break occur between this country and Germany, and for this reason, other neutral countries also would break with Germany.

Some of the senators retained their optimism, saying that they did not believe that a break with Germany would come. Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, Senator Shafroth of Nebraska, Senator Lewis of Illinois all expressed this hope. They maintained that they would not believe that Germany actually intended to sink American merchant vessels without warning and unless they carried contraband of war.

Many Counsel Delay.

Many of the senators counseled a delay in severing diplomatic relations with Germany until it has been learned just what she intends to do, and even until an overt act upon the part of that country. Little, they said, was to be accomplished by severing diplomatic relations with Germany unless such action was to be followed by a declaration of war.

That the President would be entirely justified in severing diplomatic relations with Germany in the event that she resumed ruthless submarine warfare was the general opinion of those who would answer this question.

"The President would be entirely justified in such a course," said Senator Walsh of Montana, "but would it be advisable to do so? It is a matter of vast moment to this people. The breaking of diplomatic relations may be followed by war. There is a question whether it would not be better to attempt to settle our difficulties through diplomatic channels."

Sees Early Close of War.

An opinion expressed by one republican senator was to the effect that Germany's decision to attempt submarine warfare of the kind described in her note meant the early close of the war.

"I believe that it is the last desperate effort of a nation that is hard pressed and knows that defeat must come," said this senator. Unless Germany is successful in this effort the end of the war will follow soon."

Senator Stone of Missouri, chairman of the foreign relations committee, reached Washington from St. Louis at 1 o'clock today. He had an engagement to see the President at the White House this afternoon.

THIRTEEN VESSELS SUNK BY TORPEDOES AND MINES

Steamers, Tug, Trawlers and Smacks Sent Down, According to Lloyds.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, February 2.—The Norwegian steamer Portia, of 1,127 tons gross, has been sunk, Lloyds shipping agency announces. The crew was landed.

The steamer Ravensbourne has been sunk, Lloyds also announces. Three members of the crew of this steamer were lost, the announcement states.

The Norwegian steamer Hecla, of 524 tons, is reported sunk, says another Lloyds announcement.

Further announcement reads:

"British steamer Trevean (3,081 tons gross) and the Belgian steamer Euphrates (2,809 tons gross) sunk.

"Steamer Dundee of Hamilton, Ontario (2,278 tons gross), submarined. One man killed and one injured. Tug Ida sunk, presumably by striking a mine, while towing barges. Five men lost.

"Two trawlers and three smacks sunk, with the loss of two men."

Lloyds announces that the Russian steamer Egret struck a mine January 28 and is a total loss. The steamer registered 2,599 tons net.

AMERICANS HURRY HOME, RESULT OF GERMAN NOTE

LONDON, February 2, 12:40 p.m.—The German note has resulted in a rush of Americans to procure passage to New York on the first available boat. Large numbers who expected to sail within a fortnight have decided to leave Saturday, and before noon all the first-class accommodations on the steamer ——— were booked. Among those applying for passage are 120 persons who intend to sail on the Holland-America liner Nieuw Amsterdam, which was to have left Falmouth on Tuesday. This vessel, however, has been recalled to Rotterdam, whence she sailed two days ago.

PARIS, February 2.—The American embassy has sent a message to the State Department at Washington for instructions respecting Americans in France who may ask counsel as to how they are to return home. About 2,500 Americans now are in Paris, according to the passport records. Most of them have residences here, occasionally visiting the United States. They are for the most part engaged in business requiring them to voyage to and from America.

NEW SUBMARINE CRISIS LIKELY TO BE PUT UP TO CABINET THIS AFTERNOON

President and His Advisers Expected to Discuss Plans of Administration to Meet Germany's "Ruthless" Undersea Warfare.

COMMUNICATION NOT YET SENT BY U. S. TO BERLIN AUTHORITIES

Secretary Lansing Makes This Positive Announcement, But Refuses Statement as to Cause of Delay—Officials Generally Convinced Break Is Inevitable.

The new submarine crisis seems to have resolved itself into another day of waiting.

Secretary Lansing authorized the statement today that so far no communication had been sent to Germany.

The Secretary refused to say whether any instructions had been sent to Ambassador Gerard, and declined to give any explanation for the delay in announcing the course of the United States. He said he was unprepared to disclose whether any announcement would be made today or not.

President Wilson had no conference on the submarine question during the morning, but played golf for two hours.

Tonight or tomorrow the American people may know what course their government has decided upon to answer Germany's declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare. It was expected generally that some announcement would be made tonight.

President Wilson and the limited few who know his plans continued their silence today, but it was expected that this afternoon the cabinet would be informed of what steps have been taken or are proposed.

Convinced Break Must Come.

On every hand officials are convinced that nothing less than a break in diplomatic relations is the ultimate development. It may be delayed, but they all expect it to come unless there is some wholly unexpected development in the situation.

As another day of tension began opinion was about even as to whether any communication actually had been dispatched to Berlin. There was no doubt that Secretary Lansing yesterday had prepared a document for President Wilson, but whether it had gone further was not known.

There seemed to be no doubt, however, that some communication had gone to Ambassador Gerard, probably warning him of the steps the United States felt compelled to take and giving him an opportunity, however limited, to make some arrangements to alleviate the possible hardships of Americans in Germany. The government's best information is that there are about 3,000 there. Doubtless some efforts would be made to get them over the line into Holland or into some of the other adjacent neutral countries.

Embassy Silent, But Confident.

The German embassy continued its official silence, calmly prepared for the break Count von Bernstorff has said privately he expects, but serenely confident that the German government's action, irrespective of the protests of neutrals, will be the winning factor of the war.

The entente embassies, fully expecting the United States to break with Germany, seem to be confident that the new campaign of ruthlessness will be of little greater effectiveness than the campaign which the entente governments contend the German submarines have been waging all along despite the pledges given in the Sussex note. A few more ships may be sunk, they think, but they expect the British navy to meet the new attack successfully.

Whatever measures are being taken in the United States by the administration to prepare the country physically for a break with a first-class power, which in history always has been followed, sooner or later, by war, are being carried out secretly, but with expedition. It is officially denied that any orders whatever have been given to army, navy or coast guard, but there are evidences that the agencies of the government are ready to take any steps necessary to follow a diplomatic break.

No Word Yet From Austria.

The State Department has made no reply to the telegram from the International Mercantile Marine asking instructions for movements of American ships. No announcement similar to Germany's has been received from Austria.

From the official refusal to affirm or deny that any message had gone forward to Ambassador Gerard an impression grew that some such message had been sent, but it was thought at most a message to outline a preliminary statement of the American viewpoint without definitely committing the country till a final decision has been reached.

It was pointed out to officials that the country was waiting for some statement, or at least an official interpretation of the attitude of the administration. Officials declined, however, to express themselves in this way or to say whether the situation was becoming more or less serious. While yesterday it was said flatly that no announcement would be made for the rest of the day, officials refused today to commit themselves to a similar announcement.

Mr. Stone May See President.

In addition to the expected outline of the President's decision at the cabinet meeting this afternoon it was believed probable Chairman Stone of the Senate foreign relations committee would see the President.

Apparently no plans had been made for the President to address Congress, and a high official close to the chief executive, stated that no communication had been sent to Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador.

Col. E. M. House left here last night after spending the day in conference with President Wilson and several close advisers of the President.

It was pointed out that one reason for withholding knowledge of the President's course is the necessity of completing certain arrangements, many of a physical character, to prepare the country for eventualities which would be expected to follow a diplomatic break. The safeguarding of American ports, safety of Americans in Germany, the presence of German ships in American harbors and other considerations are among them.

The latest correspondence with Germany which demanded the total abandonment of such submarine warfare as the central powers are about to resume, declared that the United States would sever diplomatic relations "altogether." That is interpreted as leaving no opportunity for halfway measures; it means the withdrawal of Ambassador Gerard and the whole embassy staff from Berlin, and the closing of the German embassy here.

Would Notify Berlin First.

Inasmuch as any action by the United States would be directed against Germany as a nation, and not against her ambassador as an individual, it was thought unlikely that a severance would be announced by the delivery of passports to Count von Bernstorff, but would be preceded by formal notification to Berlin of the American government's decision. The delivery of passports to the ambassador would be left as a formality of the future.

There was no denying, however, that Count von Bernstorff fully expected the action of the United States to be swift and decisive. It became known that several times during the last week he had attempted to discourage Americans from sailing for Europe. He has declined to write letters of introduction for friends and on other pretexts, without disclosing his knowledge of what was about to happen, has done his best to discourage them from going to Europe.

Germany's view, as expressed here, is that neutrals should not object to the German blockade, inasmuch as they have been unable to raise the British blockade. American ships venturing into the barred zones, it frankly was said, would be in danger of being sunk, but it was declared that Germany and her allies would give up the campaign of ruthlessness should neutrals, acting together, cause Great Britain to raise her blockade or should there be a peace conference.

Ambassadors Confer.

The first act of Count Tarnowski, the new Austrian ambassador, after installing himself in his embassy here today, was to hold a long conference with Count von Bernstorff. It was said that Count Tarnowski would arrange to present his credentials to President Wilson as soon as possible.

The only note of dissent from the general opinion that President Wilson was preparing to meet Germany's new warfare with drastic action came from groups in the capital which have been urging peace moves upon the administration. They professed to believe that the President's first step to meet the new situation would be a bold stroke for peace, and they professed to believe that every effort would be made to maintain relations with Germany rather than to break them. This view, however, was wholly opposite from that of officials who ought to know the administration's disposition.

Ambassador Riano Calls.

Ambassador Riano of Spain called at the State Department apparently as a seeker of information for the benefit of his government. He was in conference several minutes with Counselor Polk, but is understood to have received no intimation of the intentions of the United States.

No information was available here regarding the attitude which Spain will assume toward the German submarine operations.

U. S. Makes Public Second Note of Germany Prepared Before President's Speech

A second memorandum delivered Wednesday with the German note was made public by the State Department last night. It differs in some respects from the substance of the note itself. The understanding is that it was prepared at the German embassy on instructions from Berlin prior to President Wilson's peace address to the Senate and withheld then on account of the address. When Count von Bernstorff received the note and memorandum from Berlin he decided to deliver with them the original document prepared by him.

The memorandum follows:

"After bluntly refusing Germany's peace offer the entente powers stated in their note addressed to the American government that they are determined to continue the war in order to