

The Sun

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1917—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

WEATHER.

Partly cloudy and warmer tonight. Tomorrow partly cloudy with showers...

DANISH WEST INDIES SHOW U. S. PROPERTY

Treasury Warrant for \$25,000,000. Purchase Price, Handed to Minister Brun.

STARS AND STRIPES RAISED

The final act of more than fifty years' struggle to bring the Danish West Indies under the American flag was completed...

Treasury Warrant Transferred.

At 11 o'clock Secretary McAdoo, at a formal gathering of State and Navy Department officials, handed to Secretary Lansing the Treasury warrant for \$25,000,000.

Known as Virgin Islands.

With the formal transfer, the islands become known as the Virgin Islands of the United States, a designation chosen by the natives of the islands and adopted by the United States government.

Admiral Oliver to Govern.

Rear Admiral James H. Oliver, chief of naval intelligence at the Navy Department, is en route to St. Thomas to assume the duties of governor, having been appointed by Secretary Daniels.

BRITISH MAKE BIG MESOPOTAMIA ADVANCE

LONDON, March 31, 3:55 p.m.—British forces in Mesopotamia, advancing to the north of Baghdad, have occupied the town of Kalaat Selujah and the areas of Deltawah and Sindiyah and Sheraban, according to an official statement issued today by the British press bureau.

SAYS BRITAIN IS IN PERIL

Rt. Hon. Hays Fishes Says Every One Must Enter National Service.

LONDON, March 31.—The Rt. Hon. William Hays Fisher, parliament secretary to the local government board, in an address at Hull last night said it was not exaggeration to say that the country was in deadly peril at the present moment.

Refuses to Congratulate Russia.

BERN, via Paris, March 31.—The Swiss national council has rejected a motion made by the socialists to send congratulations of good wishes to the new Russian government. The vote was 77 to 24.

Resumes Relief Work in Belgium.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the commission for relief in Belgium, who sailed recently from the United States on his return to Europe, has reached his destination according to a cablegram received from him at the American headquarters of the commission here.

Favors Universal Military Service.

HARTFORD, Conn., March 31.—A memorial to Congress favoring enactment of legislation to provide for "universal military service" has been adopted by both branches of the general assembly.

BREITLANDY CARROUS GERMAN POSITIONS

French Make Further Progress to East. South of Ailette River.

BATTLES IN CHAMPAGNE

By the Associated Press. PARIS, March 31.—French troops last night successfully attacked the German positions south of the Ailette river and made important progress eastward, the war office announced today.

German Attacks Broken.

In the Champagne the Germans redoubled their efforts against the positions which were captured yesterday west of Maisons de Champagne. In the evening and during the night the Germans made five violent counter attacks.

British Take Villages.

LONDON, March 31.—British troops have captured the villages of Ruyalcourt, Soreil-Grand and Eins, between Bertincourt and Roisel, on the front in France, according to the official statement from British headquarters issued last night.

Death of One American Established.

A later dispatch from Consul Frost definitely established the killing of one American, and said others probably had been killed. The Crispin was bound for Amvouth.

Report on the Snowdon Range.

The dispatch from Liverpool, reporting the sinking of the Snowdon Range, follows: "British steamer Snowdon Range, Philadelphia to Liverpool, with general cargo and powder, one gun aft, torpedoed without warning at 8:45 a.m., March 28, north of Roisel and south of Ripont in the Champagne region on the western front fighting has been active."

Fighting in Champagne.

BERLIN, March 31.—The supplementary German headquarters official statement issued last evening says: "The progress of the British and the French in the Champagne region has been active. The fighting in the Champagne region has been active."

SENATOR STONE WILL NOT AGAINST ANY WAR

Breaks His Silence and Announces Attitude Has Not Changed Since March 4.

Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, broke his silence today on the international situation and said that today war appears probable, that he will vote against a war declaration, but will give President Wilson his unlimited support if he is decided upon. Senator Stone said he did not know the President's program, but would co-operate in enabling "ones" to promptly express their convictions.

BRAND WHITLOCK SOON TO GO TO SWITZERLAND

LONDON, March 31.—Brand Whitlock, the American minister to Belgium, and the members of the American relief commission will shortly leave Brussels on a special train for Switzerland, according to Reuters' Amsterdam correspondent, who quotes Berlin advices as his authority.

Not Guilty of Killing Husband.

DENVER, Col., March 31.—Mrs. Stella Newton Moore Smith, a wealthy society woman, was yesterday found not guilty of murdering her husband, John Lawrence Smith. The jury was out only nine minutes. Smith was slain the morning of January 13. His wife maintained she was forced to kill him following a night of torture that culminated in threats by Smith to kill Mildred, Mrs. Smith's twelve-year-old daughter by a former marriage. Smith formerly was a chauffeur employed by Mrs. Smith's father, Fred Britton, a wealthy oil operator.

WANTS U. S. TO JOIN ALLIES.

American League of California Sends Telegram to President Wilson.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., March 31.—After organizing the American League of California, a group of leading men of the state have sent telegrams to President Wilson and members of Congress urging that the United States join forces with the allies and declare war against Germany.

WANTS U. S. TO JOIN ALLIES.

ALASKA TO CELEBRATE INTERESTING ANNIVERSARY WITH AN EXPEDITION, BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.

LAST GREAT STRUGGLE FOR SPEAKERSHIP OF THE HOUSE.

With another one at hand it is interesting to look back and read of a former contest for this great position in Congress.

TWO VESSELS SUNK; AMERICANS ABOARD

One on British Liner Crispin Known Dead—Others on Snowdon Range.

REPORT BY CONSUL FROST

Two British steamers, the Snowdon Range and the Booth liner Crispin, both with Americans aboard, of whom a number are unaccounted for, were reported to the State Department today to have been sunk without warning by a submarine.

Torpedo Struck Engine Room.

"Torpedo struck engine room starboard side, explosion killing five men, of whom two believed Americans. Submarine not seen, but wake of torpedo seen by American vessel carried gun and wireless. Latter was wrecked by explosion. Weather moderate, wind overcast sky, very heavy swells. Vessel sank slowly, but return on board not feasible owing to heavy sea."

Illness of Two Republicans May Make Champ Clark Speaker.

Democratic organization of the House seemed assured today when it became known that illness will prevent the attendance at the opening session Monday of Representative Henry T. Heigelsen, republican, of North Dakota. Mr. Heigelsen was operated on for appendicitis at Garfield Hospital last night, and while physicians say his condition is favorable, he will be unable to attend the sessions for some time.

Two Clark Men Republicans.

Backers of Champ Clark expressed confidence today that at least two republicans would vote for him for Speaker, although they declined to name the men.

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Records Show Three Americans.

PHILADELPHIA, March 31.—The records of the British consular office in this city show that three Americans, all freemen, were shipped from the port of Philadelphia on the Snowdon Range. They were A. P. Small, twenty-three years old, Philadelphia; Bert Thimball, forty-two, no address, and James Armitage, American representative of the American Red Cross, who was given as 4815 Delaney avenue, Bulk, Mo.

MISTAKEN NAVAL TARGETS.

Mistaken for Submarines Captured by American Warships.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The mystery of the eighteen submarines reported in some morning newspapers captured by an American warship in an anonymous cable message from Panama, said to have been seen by passengers on the steamship Advance off Watling Island, was cleared today by the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas H. Candor of the Presbyterian board of foreign missions, passengers on the steamship Carrillo, from Panama.

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DEMOCRATS SEEM SURE OF THE HOUSE

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BOY ROBBER FIRES

AT G. A. STIRLING

George A. Stirling, superintendent of the National Training School for Boys, Bladensburg road near the District line, this afternoon was held up by two white boys at the point of revolvers. When the superintendent refused to hand over the pay roll money he was carrying at the time he was fired at by one of the highwaymen, and the bullet passed through his trousers and slightly scratched his leg.

GERMANIC CLAIMS

STIR U. S. OFFICIALS

Secretary Zimmermann's speech to the reichstag charging the United States with responsibility for war, if it comes, brought forth today for the first time official admission that the United States government knew in the middle of January that the ruthless submarine decree was to be issued and that after its issue three days were allowed to elapse to give Germany opportunity to modify or repeal it before the severance of diplomatic relations was announced.

Effort to Fasten Responsibility for War on This Country Resented.

Officials here are much aroused by the United States' attempt to "convict" the United States of deserting war and intend to show that every possible opportunity was given Germany to avoid it. America's action, they point out, foreshadowed in the Sussex note, delivered eight and a half months before the German decree, merely followed out the policy then outlined. Germany, on the other hand, abrogated her promise on seven hours' notice to the government, and then in face of certain drastic action by this country, allowed three days to pass without any attempt to meet the United States.

Bears on Austrian Situation.

That Germany's decree was discussed two weeks ahead of its issue and that interest to the Austrian situation, led it was just at that time that Count Tarnowski left Austria for this country to become the new Austrian ambassador. Whether Vienna was convinced that the United States would not sever relations, whether Austria was a silent and unsympathetic party to Germany's action, or whether the new ambassador was intrusted by his government with special arguments to present the Teutonic viewpoint are not known.

Now for Patriotic Duty, Says Senator Johnson

Philadelphia Reconsecrate Themselves to Country and Business Places Close for Demonstration.

By the Associated Press. PHILADELPHIA, March 31.—Patriotic citizens of Philadelphia turned their faces toward Independence Hall today to reconsecrate themselves to their country and to pledge loyal support to the national government in any international crisis. All Philadelphia displayed the national colors and many stores and other business places closed at noon to give employees an opportunity to participate in the demonstration. The patriotic rally was planned to be the greatest held in Independence square since the centennial celebration in 1876 of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Police arrangements were made to take care of more than 100,000 persons.

Blockade Protested by Norway.

LONDON, March 31.—During a debate in the Norwegian parliament, according to the Standard's Copenhagen correspondent, Foreign Minister Thien announced that the government had officially protested against the German blockade of Norway's north coast.

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THE PACIFIST'S DREAM.

POSTMASTERS DUE TO BE RECLASSIFIED LIST

President Removes 10,000 High-Grade Offices From Spoils System.

APPOINTMENTS ON MERIT

More than 10,000 first, second and third class postmasters were placed under civil service today by executive order of President Wilson.

Postmaster General's Statement.

Postmaster General Burleson made this statement on the matter: "Incumbent postmasters rendering good service and who continue to administer the affairs of their offices with ability will be retained in their present positions. The name of the highest eligible candidate will then be submitted to the President. No person more than sixty-five years old shall be examined."

Called "Most Progressive Order."

"This is one of the most progressive orders ever issued by a President," declared George T. Nostrand, secretary of the National Civil Service Reform League, in a statement issued today relative to the new order. The statement says, in part: "The National Civil Service Reform League is happy to recognize this act of President Wilson as a long step toward democratic efficiency. It is particularly welcome because it requires the most economical and efficient use of the country's resources, there is no place for political patronage."

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PRESIDENT'S MIND NOW IS MADE UP ON WAR PROGRAM

Ready to Tell Congress of German Aggressions and Make Recommendations.

RECOGNITION THAT WAR NOW EXISTS PROBABLE

Approval of Cabinet Unanimous, and Administration Counts on Public Support.

President Wilson, having decided fully with his cabinet upon a course of action to meet the national emergency, today set about the task of reducing the conclusions to writing.

Exactly what these conclusions are will be disclosed officially when the President appears before Congress next week to deliver his momentous message.

Indications today, however, were that a formal recognition of the existence of a state of war between the United States and Germany would result.

No Division in Cabinet.

The disclosure that a definite decision had been reached was made following a final conference between President Wilson and his cabinet advisers yesterday. Decision was reached quickly and it was said there was no division of opinion on the question.

Just what part the United States would play in the war against Germany will not be developed until after Congress defines the nation's status and completes urgent defense legislation.

Administration officials are confident that the President will have the almost unanimous approval of the country and Congress in whatever recommendations he may make. Some opposition is looked for, however, from pacifists in the Capitol.

Among the measures Congress is expected to act on soon after President Wilson's message is received is extension of a large credit to the government; provision for raising an army of about 1,000,000 men; the conscription and pay bills; the regular army supply bill and emergency legislation for the army and navy.

While the details of recent conferences between the President and Secretaries Baker and Bryan have not been disclosed, it is assumed they related to questions concerning the strengthening of the defenses of the nation.

National Defense Problems.

Among these questions are: The early graduation of the first class at West Point, the putting of the coast and geodetic survey, with its fleet of vessels, under the Navy Department, transfer of supervision over privately owned wireless plants from the Post Office to the Navy Department, collection of large number of privately owned boats suitable for submarine chasers, and purchase of supplies of all kinds for the army and navy.

One of the first problems facing the government is the conscription of men and women do not get into the army or navy who are better fitted for industrial and agricultural work. Each effort is made to keep skilled workers of all kinds out of the military branches except in the case of the National Guard units have been called out to participate in the work of the public property in the United States.

To Report on Mobilization.

The entire membership of the Council of National Defense and its advisory commission is to meet tomorrow, which national resources will mobilize for war, assembled here today for reports on what has been effected.

Tentative plans have been formulated by the council, however, to govern the distribution of war orders and to provide for the maximum speed of deliveries and the minimum disarrangement of peace-time activities.

Some of today's bids were based upon the cost plus 10 percent profit, as in the plan for battle cruisers and destroyers.

CHICAGO'S PATRIOTISM.

Huge Demonstration Expected to Rival Civil War Days.

CHICAGO, March 31.—Citizens of Chicago today held a patriotic demonstration which is to conclude tonight with a mass meeting which its organizers predict will rival similar gatherings of civil war days. The day was set apart by Mayor William Hale Thompson as "Flag day," and thousands of the national emblems hung in the downtown thoroughfares. Farther also were planned by the 1st Illinois Cavalry, a detachment from the Great Lakes naval training station, Northwestern Military Academy Cadets, Spanish-American War Veterans, Boy Scouts and other patriotic organizations.