

PRESIDENT WILSON RESOLVED TO STAND BY POLICIES IN FACE OF THE CONGRESSIONAL REVOLT

In Note to Senator Stone, He Says, "The Honor and Self Respect of the Nation Is Involved," Is Confident His Policy Will Be Successful in Solving Question of Sea Warfare.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE WILL BE REPEATED TO LEADERS

Washington, Feb. 24.—President Wilson, at the end of two days of agitation in Congress, for some action warning Americans off armed merchant ships of European belligerents, tonight wrote Senator Stone, of the Foreign Relations committee, that he could not consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect.

"The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved," he said. "We covet peace, and shall preserve it at any cost, but the loss of honor."

Makes Views Clear.
The president expressed hope that explanations of the declared intentions of the central European powers to sink all armed merchant ships without warning would put a different aspect on a situation which now seems to present unsurpassable obstacles.

"We have had no reason to question their good faith or fidelity to their promises in the past," he added, "and I for one feel confident we shall have none in the future."

The letter was in answer to one written late this afternoon by Senator Stone, outlining the situation existing at the capitol, where since yesterday morning persistent demands had been made for some action which might lessen the possibility of war between the United States and Germany.

The president's statement will be repeated tomorrow morning to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, majority leader, and Representative Flood, chairman of the house foreign affairs committee, who late today asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the house found itself and asked the president for a statement of the administration's views.

Does Not Want War.
In his letter, the president said: "I will do everything in my power to keep the United States out of war," continuing in part:

"I think the country will feel no uneasiness about my course in the respect. Through many anxious months I have striven for that object, amidst difficulties more manifold than can have been apparent upon the surface and so far I have succeeded. I do not doubt that I shall continue to succeed.

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation or group of nations has the right while the war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war, and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied, by any such actions, we should, it seems to me, have in honor no choice as to what our own course should be.

"It is important to reflect that if in this instance we allowed expediency to take the place of principle, the door would be inevitably open to still further concession.

Will Lose Potency.
"What we are contending for in this matter is of the very essence of a sovereign nation. She cannot yield, then without conceding her independence as a nation, and making vital surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world."

The president wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself up in his study. His decision was to end all speculation over what the position of the government was.

At the state department today it was stated that in its international aspect, the situation had not changed in the slightest degree for three or four days. Officials said nothing had been heard from Germany, in response to the request of the United States for assurances that previous pledges made in the Lusitania and Arabic negotiations would not be nullified by the campaign against armed ships.

Today's developments in congress showed the administration leaders holding their lines against any such action as the president opposes. A canvass of the senate disclosed sentiments in favor of President Wilson's proposition dominating.

May Warn Americans.
In the senate, Senator Gore made an unsuccessful effort to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sentiment of congress that Americans should keep off armed ships and also a bill requiring Americans in procuring passports to take oath that they would not travel on such ships. Tonight Senator Gore said he would ask tomorrow that the concurrent resolution lie on the table for a day.

On the House side, Representative (Continued on Page Two)

GERMANS MAKE FIERCE ATTACK NEAR VERDUN

Both Wings of French Army Are Forced Back by Teuton Onslaught.

FRENCH GUNNERS ANSWER GERMANS SHOT FOR SHOT

Russians Continue to Press Turks Back in the Caucasus Region.

London, Feb. 24.—Inspired by the presence of their emperor and led by Crown Prinz Frederick William, the German troops are engaged in one of the greatest battles of the war on the western front, centering around the fortress of Verdun. Attack has followed attack against the French line, after bombardments, incessant and terrific, continuing for several days.

While the Germans have not been able despite the rain of shells and furious onslaughts by the infantry, to break the French lines, nevertheless, the French on their right and left wings have been compelled to withdraw their lines, respectively to the south of Ornes, and behind the town of Samogneux, six miles north of the fortress.

Germans Force Fighting.
Only between Malancourt and the left bank of the Meuse has there been any diminution in the intensity of the artillery fire. With Brabant Haumont and Samogneux, and the wooded sections north and northeast of Beaumont in their possession, the Germans from the Meuse eastward to Fromezey, forcing the fighting, seemingly regardless of the cost of life.

The French guns have answered the German guns shell for shell, and the casualties on both sides are very great. The French official report describes the battlefield between the Meuse and Ornes as piled with German dead.

Russian Successes.
On the Russian front, from the Riga region to East Galicia, there have been engagements at various points, but no great results have been obtained by either side. In the Caucasus, the Russians report continued successes in pressing back the Turks. The usual activity by the Austrians and Italians on the Italian front continues.

Von Pohl Dead.
Admiral von Pohl, whose retirement because of ill health from the position of commander of the German battle fleet was announced two days ago, died in Berlin. Von Pohl was born in Breslau, August 25, 1865. He received a commission as lieutenant when 21 years of age.

Mauretania Released.
The government has decided that the Cunard liner Mauretania can be released from hospital duty and returned to her owners. This statement was made in the house of commons today. The vessel will return to the Atlantic service.

Interest in Battle.
The great Verdun battle, which is being watched in England with keen interest, is regarded here as the long expected big German spring offensive. It is pointed out that the French, profiting by their earlier experiences in the war, now rarely hold their advance trenches strongly, and that, therefore, their withdrawal at some points to the second line is no sign of weakness.

On the other hand, it is believed the Germans generally are pursuing the tactics of allowing the enemy to assault in masses which involve enormous sacrifices to the Germans.

Message from L-19.
A bottle has been picked up from the sea containing last messages of Zeppelin L-19, which was wrecked in (Continued on Page Two)

ROBBERS HOLD UP N. P. TRAIN NO. 2

Uncouple Mail and Baggage Car and Force Engineers to Run Ahead. Blow Up Safe.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 24.—The Northern Pacific eastbound North Coast Limited train No. 2 was held up tonight a mile and a half east of Covington, 25 miles east of Seattle. The robbers uncoupled the baggage and mail cars and compelled the engine crew to haul the two cars up the track into a mountain forest. A short time after the baggage, mail cars and engine disappeared, passengers in the cars left standing on the tracks heard an explosion. It is supposed the robbers dynamited the express safe. Automobiles filled with deputy sheriffs were dispatched to the scene.

The amount of loot obtained is not known here.

POLICE STILL HUNT FOR ANARCHIST-CHEF



Jean Cronos, the anarchist-chef who tried to poison Archbishop Mundelein and three hundred of his guests at a dinner in Chicago, is still at large. He has written several letters to New York newspapers and to the police, who hope to apprehend him in the near future.

GILBREATH OFFERS EXPOSITION SURPLUS FOR NEW LIBRARY

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 24, 1916
C. L. Young,
President Commercial Club,
Bismarck, N. D.

Dear Sir:
I desire to inform you that I have placed in escrow, with the First National Bank of Bismarck, an equivalent of \$2,200, to be delivered to the proper official or officials of the proposed Bismarck Public Library, when certain progress has been made in establishing such library, and when certain conditions have been complied with by such organization.

Portugal Seizes 36 Vessels

Lisbon, Portugal, Feb. 24.—The official Gazette publishes the decree, under which 36 German and Austrian merchant ships, lying in the Tagus river, were seized by the commander of the naval division here yesterday.

It appears that the seizure was under a law passed by parliament on February 7. The premier, in an interview, affirms that the seizure is not an act of war, but simply a measure in the public interest.

The Portuguese minister in Berlin has been instructed to explain to the German government the significance of the seizure, and give assurances that the rights of the owners will be respected.

BREAK SIX-DAY RECORD. Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 24.—Reggie McNamara and Ed Se Madden tonight won the six-day bicycle race here. The racers covered 117 miles, announced by the management as 51 miles ahead of the world's record.

CAPACITY HOUSE FOR "BIRD OF PARADISE"

A capacity house will greet Carlotta Monterey and the all-star cast which will present "The Bird of Paradise" at the Auditorium, tomorrow night. The house was entirely sold out yesterday, and any number of orders have been left for tickets which may be recalled for at the last minute. The attraction is reputed to be one of the best on the road. The company which appears here is the only company presenting "The Bird of Paradise," and is practically the same as the original company. Carlotta Monterey, the leading lady, is said to be even better than her predecessors in the role of "Luana," the Hawaiian girl.

USSELLMANN IS SELECTED TO FILL VACANCY

Ticket Selected by Republicans of State For Convention Delegates; File Monday.

NO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AS YET

Tuesday Is Last Day for Presenting Petitions Under Primary.

August Usselmann, Mandan, one of the best known republicans on the Slope, has been selected as the candidate of the Twelfth Judicial district republicans for delegate to the national convention at Chicago. He was selected to fill a vacancy.

F. H. Sprague, Grafton, chairman of the state central committee, made the announcement yesterday. He will be in the city Monday to file the ten candidates selected by the judicial districts.

These men are representative republicans and have the support of the republican organization behind them. They are all sworn to support the presidential candidate who receives the endorsement of the North Dakota voters at the primaries March 21.

The ticket as it will be filed with the secretary of state is as follows:

- Presidential Electors.**
C. E. Johnston, Langdon, First Congressional district.
A. B. Cox, Valley City, Second Congressional district.
Walter F. Kelley, Hettinger, Third Congressional district.
Robert Westacott, Grand Forks, First Judicial district.
Albert J. Ross, Stanley, Eleventh Judicial district.
Delegates to the National Convention
James McCormick, Churchs Ferry, Second Judicial district.
John E. Paulson, Hillsboro, Third Judicial district.
P. T. Kreischmar, Venturia, Fourth Judicial district.
Luther L. Walton, Carrington, Fifth Judicial district.
C. B. Little, Bismarck, Sixth Judicial district.
E. Smith-Peterson, Park River, Seventh Judicial district.
Geo. P. Honnes, Crosby, Eighth Judicial district.
Albert Weber, Towner, Ninth Judicial district.
Claude C. Turner, Gladstone, Tenth Judicial district.

August Usselmann, Mandan, Twelfth Judicial district.

Next Tuesday is the last day for filing petitions for the presidential primaries. It is anticipated that La Follette's and Estabrook's names will be the only ones filed for president. Cummins' manager is in the state now, enroute to Montana and western states, but it seems doubtful whether the Iowa senator will enter the North Dakota lists.

Comment over the state generally has been very favorable to the ticket named by the various judicial districts through separate caucuses. Every section of the state is represented and the ticket is one the republicans of the state can depend upon to carry out the instructions of the voters as recorded at the primaries next month.

PERRY-BRUEGGER FIGHT WARMS UP
Ellendale boosters at a meeting Wednesday evening adopted unanimously the following resolution:
"Whereas, Hector H. Perry of this city is a candidate for democratic national committeeman and reposing special confidence in his integrity and ability, we, the Ellendale Boosters' club, do hereby express our full endorsement of Mr. Perry and extend (Continued on Page Two)

AUSTRIANS ATTACK G. N. SUPPLY TRAIN

Train Laden With War Supplies Cut in Four Pieces by Sym-pathizers.

Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 24.—Attacking a Great Northern railroad train laden with war supplies and automobiles for shipment to Russia, in the Northern Pacific freight yards in Tacoma today, six or eight men cut the air hoses in five cars and cut the train in four sections.

The train crew, led by Conductor McLoughlin, fought them off and captured two, who gave the names of Sam Rusky and John Ross, and their nationality as Austrians.

ENTHUSIASTIC CELEBRATION MARKS OPENING OF CAPITAL CITY'S FIRST PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presages Success for Project at Election To Be Held Next Monday; W. C. Gilbreath Offers to Turn Over \$2,200 Exposition Earnings to Assist New Public Institution.

DEFINITE STATEMENT IS MADE BY C. L. YOUNG

Between 400 and 500 Bismarck people—young, old and middle-aged, attended the opening of the Capital City's first public library and reading room in the Commercial club chambers last evening. The interest shown by the Bismarck public in the infant institution was received by those who are back of Bismarck's library movement as a most favorable augury for the success of the permanent institution, whose fate is to be determined at a special election next Monday, and this election was given especial attention by the speakers of the evening.

GILBREATH'S OFFER
Coincident with this comes the announcement of W. C. Gilbreath, former Commissioner of Agriculture, that he has placed \$2,200 in escrow at the First National Bank to be given over to the proper official, provided the matter meets with success at the polls and other conditions are met. Mr. Gilbreath's letter appears in another column and is self-explanatory. The offer should give additional impetus to the library project, for it means an immediate fund for books and periodicals.

President Young Talks.
President C. L. Young, who acted as chairman, in an interesting and inspiring address, traced the library movement from the first application for a Carnegie appropriation, made by Mayor F. H. Register in 1901; down through the years in which the Civic league, under the direction of Mrs. C. M. Dahl, was practically the only force in the capital city which kept the effort alive; down to the time, less than a year ago, when the Commercial club took up the effort, interesting the city commission in Bismarck's need of a public library, and finally to the crowning of the city commission's campaign with success, when Secretary Bertram of the Carnegie Corporation of New York advised President Lucas a few weeks ago that an appropriation of \$25,000 will be available for a library when the latter shall have been regularly established.

Mr. Young laid particular emphasis upon the loyalty of the Civic league to the library cause, telling of the splendid work done by the ladies of this organization in keeping the spirit alive and, within the past few weeks, in conducting a city-wide canvass for books, which netted more than 1,500 volumes. Mr. Young told of the work which has been done by Mrs. Minnie C. Budlong, secretary of the North Dakota Public Library commission; Miss McPhee of the state historical library and the 20 public-spirited Bismarck women who assisted in the trying work of indexing and cataloging all of these books.

The speaker referred to the establishment of the temporary library by the Commercial club and the setting aside of a room in the club headquarters for this purpose.

The Future.
The Commercial club library is, at best, however, a makeshift, said Mr. Young. The club has temporarily surrendered space which it cannot well spare; executives are working in cramped, inadequate quarters, in order that a beginning may be made in the matter of a public library. This reading room will not be permanent; the club cannot afford to maintain it, and until a library is formally established, by a vote of the Bismarck people, there will be no funds for the maintenance of a library anywhere.

The Carnegie Corporation offers Bismarck \$25,000 for the erection and equipment of a library building. All that is asked of Bismarck in return is that this library be maintained, and for this purpose a fund of \$2,500 is specified. Mrs. Budlong, secretary of the North Dakota Public Library commission, said Mr. Young is authority for the statement that no library worthy of the name can be suitably maintained for less than \$2,500.

To establish a library and to provide this minimum sum for its maintenance is the purpose of next Monday's election, stated President Young. Should the proposition be rejected at the polls next Monday, Bismarck will be left in the same position it has occupied, the unenviable one of a city of 7,000 without a library; it will have on its hands the equipment of a temporary library, with no quarters in which to house it, and with no funds with which to maintain it.

The speaker described the modus operandi, as follows: If a majority of the electors vote next Monday to establish a public library in Bismarck, the city commission will appropriate for the maintenance of the institution, but it will have nothing to do with the selection of a site or with expending the money so appropriated.

The board of education elects the library commission, which selects the (Continued on Page Two)

LOUISIANA TOWNS APPEAL FOR AID

New Orleans, Feb. 24.—Reports of improved conditions among flood victims in the vicinity of Newellton and St. Joseph were offset tonight by appeals for aid from three Louisiana towns, which previously had not been reported in distress.

Immediate relief was requested in messages to Governor Hall from Bayou, Cortabreau, in St. Landry parish; Seneca, in Catochu parish and Lismore in Concordia parish.

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