

GERMAN REPLY FRIENDLY; NO BACKING UP

Reply Made to Protest of U. S. Against Blockade.

SHORTAGE OF FOOD GIVEN AS REASON

Blockade Made Necessary Because of Great Britain's Efforts to Starve Germans—Suggests Pressure Be Brought to Induce England to Change Policy Not Recognized by International Law.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The reply of Germany to the protest of the United States against a blockade of British waters is couched in most friendly terms but firmly maintains the contention of Germany as already announced. The document was converted into code at the United States embassy and has been transmitted to Washington.

The note explains that this action is necessary because of England's policy of attempting to cut off the food supply for the German civil population by a method never recognized in international law. England's course in ordering merchantmen to fly neutral flags, equipping them with artillery, the German reply contends, render negatory the right of search, thus giving Germany the right to attack British shipping. Germany holds she can not abandon the right under the stress England has forced on her.

Stand Taken Is Necessary. Since Germany must compel nations which she is at war to return to the recognized principles of international law, she argues the stand she has taken is necessary.

The note recommends that the United States send warships to England to convoy merchant vessels thru the danger zone as security against attack. Hope is expressed that the American government will understand the position in which Germany has been placed and appreciate the reasons for its course.

Suggests Pressure on England. The reply closes with an expression of the hope that the United States may prevail on Great Britain "to return to the principles of international law recognized prior to the outbreak of the war," and return to recognition of the London declaration of the recognition of belligerents by Germany, would recognize in this, says the reply, an invaluable service toward a more humane conduct of the war and would act in accordance with the new situation thus created.

Not Received in Washington. Washington, Feb. 18.—Germany's reply to the American note on the naval war zone around the British Isles had not been received today by the state department. Dispatches from other quarters from Ambassador Gerard, said he had delivered the American note but that the German reply had not been delivered to him. Outline of the German reply, as shown in news dispatches, attracted the entire attention of the diplomatic circles.

Also Replies to Scandinavia. Copenhagen, via London, Feb. 18.—Germany's reply to the joint note of the Scandinavian powers on the blockade question has been received but no announcement has been made regarding its contents. The Danish commercial and political situation was discussed yesterday at a secret session of parliament.

COMMENT IS MORE VIGOROUS.

German War Expert Says Note Conveys Threat to United States. Berlin, via London, Feb. 18.—Count von Rosenlow, the German naval critic, comments in today's issue of the Tageszeitung on the answer of the German government to the American note on the subject of the marine war zone around Great Britain. The writer declares the tone of the German note, in spite of the tone of the American note, shows Germany is prepared to go to the utmost limit compatible with the situation. "No fault can be found with the declaration in the German answer, Count von Reventlow declares, that the German government, like the American, desires to prevent occurrences which could disturb existing friendly relations."

Admits German Bitterness. "One can read only with pleasure those parts of the German answer which refer to American supplies to England and France," the writer says. "We add to this that the shipments of weapons to our enemies have filled the public of Germany with bitterness against the United States. Statistics of these shipments show the Germans are not now justified in speaking of friendly relations."

Count von Reventlow then refers to the government's assumption that neutrals do not intend to offer opposition to the forcible suppression of the weapon trade with Germany's enemies and even if the German government finds itself disappointed in this assumption it will carry its firm decision thru to the end.

Conveys a Threat. "Submarine commanders," the writer continues, "have been instructed to avoid damaging American ships recognizable as such, but it must be pointed out that American ships will be recognizable as such only when accompanied by American warships. To assume that

American flags make ships recognizable and assure their safety would be a gross misconception of the note."

The National Zeitung says it believes the United States will understand this is a life struggle for Germany and that the friendly, the firm tone of the German note will make a good impression, the more so because Germany at the same time gives the United States the friendly advice to have warships accompany its vessels.

No Excuse For Misunderstanding. The Tageblatt calls Germany's answer, "in its form, in its friendly tone and in its calm firmness, an excellent document." It says it removes every excuse for misunderstanding of the German declaration as being directed against legitimate commerce.

President Wilson, this paper says, can not expect that weapon shipments of Americans to the enemies of Germany will be allowed to pass, nor can he demand that American ships can be protected from the consequence of Great Britain's misuse of the American flag.

"The answer exceeds the demands of courtesy by pointing out to America a way of assuring the safety of her ships, namely by a convoy of warships. We can only hope that the United States will understand the spirit breathed by the German note, which goes beyond the limits set by mere courtesy."

BRITISH REPLY PLEASES.

English Press Comments on Answer of Sir Edward Grey to U. S. Protest.

London, Feb. 18.—The reply of Sir Edward Grey to the United States protesting against a blockade of British waters is given hearty approval in an editorial in the Times, which says:

"It is a powerful defense of the British position, founded upon those arguments of law which appeal with particular force to American minds as to our own. It comes appositely on a day when Germany boasts her intention to trample all laws and customs of the sea under her feet."

The immediate effect of the German submarine blockade of the British Isles beginning today was to tie up all passenger traffic from England to Holland, the Scandinavian lines, however, have not yet been affected.

Both the Zealand and Bavarian lines have canceled all passenger service to Holland. The Wilson line to Scandinavian ports is running as usual.

No Action by Parliament. The house of commons after a debate which lasted until late last night, refused to take a division, on the motion of the labor party that the government take the means of transport and fix maximum prices for food and coal. Also the laborites urged a division, their plea was rejected and the subject therefore is closed as far as parliament is concerned.

The reply of Sir Edward Grey to the American note on the subject of the seizure and detention of American cargoes, Germany's threat of a submarine blockade of Great Britain, and England's retaliatory measures against British ships which her submarines could approach, her blockade ultimatum has caused little alarm.

Sir Edward's long and carefully considered reply concerning American complaints to delay to which her cargo ships have been subjected by the British navy, was disclosed, but not the German threat and Great Britain's preparations to counteract the effects of a blockade, were uppermost in the minds of ship owners and traders. As Germany has for some time been attempting to sink all British ships which her submarines could approach, her blockade ultimatum has caused little alarm.

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GERMANY'S SEA BLOCKADE ON STEAMSHIP LINES TO HOLLAND

Quit Business Pending Results.

SHIPPING INTERESTS PROFESS NO ALARM

Escort of War Craft For All Steamships Flying Colors of Allied Powers—Officials of Trans-Atlantic Lines Confident German Decree Will Have Little Effect on Shipping—Movements of Passenger Vessels.

London, Feb. 18.—The blockade of the United Kingdom by Germany is on. With the dawn of Feb. 18 there went into effect the German notice warning neutral shipping to avoid British waters. What will be the effect of this declaration will take a day or two to demonstrate. British shipping interests profess to feel no alarm, nevertheless all passenger traffic from England to Holland has been tied up.

Meanwhile the British public is perusing the German note answering the American note. It preconceives no yielding on the part of the imperial government and it now awaits the announcement of Great Britain's expected retaliatory campaign.

Illustrations showing German and British submarines are now being circulated among skippers to distinguish between the two types.

It is not known what the admiralty instructions to the skippers are, although a hint was found in the recent declaration of the captain of the British steamer Laertes, who refused to surrender to a German submarine.

Lines to Holland Quit. The immediate effect of the German submarine blockade of the British Isles beginning today was to tie up all passenger traffic from England to Holland, the Scandinavian lines, however, have not yet been affected.

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Turkey Apologizes to Greece for Insult to Legation Attache

London, Feb. 18.—Turkey has yielded to the demands for satisfaction made by Greece, because of the insult offered an attaché of the Greek legation at Constantinople.

The director general of police of Constantinople has visited the Greek legation in that city, it is officially announced, and in the presence of the members of the staff he formally expressed the regret at the insult offered the Greek naval attaché. He promised further that no official statement would be published in the Turkish press.

The Greek minister left Constantinople last week, because the port was slow in carrying out its agreement to give satisfaction to an insult offered a Greek naval attaché. The incident was not regarded as serious and it was felt Turkey would apologize.

Our beloved East Prussia is free from the enemy. The British press now concedes that the Russians must have evacuated their retreat in East Prussia, but the newspapers refuse to credit Field Marshal von Hindenburg with a great victory pending the outcome of the rear guard action on the Niemen river.

It is argued that the German double bluff is now being played. The German press has been so confident that the Russian advance has failed, and this view is held at Petrograd as well as in London.

In the Champagne and the Artois regions in the western theater, the Germans seem to be putting forth all their strength to capture the ground they are reported to have lost last week.

Austrians Occupy Kolomea. Successes Claimed Following General Attack on Russian Positions. Vienna, via London, Feb. 18.—Official reports given out in Vienna say that after two days of hard fighting the Austrians have occupied the town of Kolomea, in Galicia.

"This success was achieved yesterday afternoon by means of a general attack on the Russian positions," the report says.

We drove the enemy, in spite of his machine guns, out of his last positions in front of Kolomea thus reaching the town at one operation. We prevented the Russians from blowing up the Pruth bridge.

The town was occupied by us. We captured 2,000 prisoners and several machine guns. The Russian losses are reported to be heavy.

In the Carpathian section as far as Vyschok fighting continues with great ferocity. Four thousand additional prisoners have been brought in.

Hindu Soldiers Revolt. Japanese and French Marines Suppress Rebellion at Singapore. Tokio, Feb. 18.—A revolt has broken out among the Hindu soldiers at Singapore, one of the Straits settlements.

News of the revolt was reported to newspaper dispatches received here today from the Malay Archipelago.

Marines were landed at Singapore from Japanese and French warships and some fighting has taken place.

The Hindu mutineers numbered about 800, but later half of this number is reported to have surrendered, and the revolt is said to be subsiding.

Merry-making Must Cease. Berlin Cafe Owners Object to Early Closing Hours. Berlin, via London, Feb. 18.—While the proprietors of large cafes are pleading for an extension until 2 o'clock of the recent 1 o'clock closing order, on the ground that they are facing rain, the police are reported to be considering the advisability of forbidding all afternoon cabarets and vaudeville teas. Falling to obtain satisfactory results merely by making appeals, the police have issued an order which becomes operative Friday.

Explosion Destroys Zeppelin. Fourteen Members of Crew Rescued and Interned by Danish Authorities. London, Feb. 18.—Fourteen members of the crew of the Zeppelin dirigible which was destroyed by an explosion on Fance Island, were rescued and will be interned by the Danish authorities, says a dispatch from Copenhagen to Reuters' Telegram Company. The Zeppelin was cruising over the island when it caught fire and was compelled to descend.

Prisoners Number 64,000. Number Taken in East Prussia Increased by German Reports Today. Berlin, via London, Feb. 18.—The official report on the progress of the fighting given out today says that the Russians taken prisoner by the Germans in East Prussia now amount to 64,000 men.

Tennessee Relieves South Carolina. London, Feb. 18.—A dispatch from Alexandria to Reuters' Telegram Company says the United States cruiser Tennessee will leave tomorrow for Beaufort to relieve the North Carolina, which is going to Alexandria for coal.

Blast Kills Eight Miners. Six Others Injured by Explosion in Pennsylvania Colliery. Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 18.—Eight miners were killed and six others seriously injured by an explosion of gas at the Prospect colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company yesterday. Two of the injured probably will die.

A pocket of feeder gas leaked to the naked lights of the miners, ignited, causing a terrific explosion. The blast swept out thru the chamber of miners and boys were eating their lunch. It was worse than most of the killed and injured were found.

A fire was caused by the explosion but gained little headway.

ABANDON EXTRA SESSION PLANS

Understood Congress Will Not Reconvene Even if Ship Bill Fails.

WILSON PLANS WESTERN TRIP

Arrangements for Visit to San Francisco Exposition Go Forward, Which Strengthens Belief That Congress Will Not Sit March 5—Hamburg-American Line Officials Declare They Have No Ships For Sale.

Washington, Feb. 18.—President Wilson virtually has decided not to call an extra session of congress on March 5, no matter what the fate of the ship bill. No official announcement was made, but in congressional quarters his intention is well understood.

Plans for the president's trip to the San Francisco exposition were being mapped out today, and this was taken as added evidence there will be no extra session.

Liners Not for Sale. Hamburg-American Line Would Sell Only Nine Old Vessels. Washington, Feb. 18.—Only nine of the Hamburg-American line's smallest and oldest vessels are for sale, William G. Sichel, one of the two American vice-directors of the corporation today told the senate investigating committee. Advices from headquarters in Hamburg, he said, showed the corporation was able to sell the losses of the war for five years.

He said he and his assistants had instructions to make no sacrifices because of financial conditions in Germany. He testified he had no reason to believe 100 or more persons, who inquired if the company would sell the ships, represented the United States. At no time, he said, had any Hamburg-American ships been offered for sale.

Withdraw Boats From Sale. Prior to last October, he added, the American directors had considered selling twenty of the forty ships tied up, but instructions came from Herr Ballin, managing director in Hamburg, to withdraw all but nine out-of-date boats.

Under Senator Burton's questions, Mr. Sichel testified he sought a loan of \$2,500,000 thru Kuhn, Loeb & Co., of New York, and other bankers, soon after the outbreak of the war, but was refused.

Sichel said Secretaries McAdoo and Garrison had consulted his associates about ships to bring Americans home from the war zone.

"We never solicited the sale of ships at that time," he said.

Declined to Meet McAdoo. In November, Bernard Baker, of Baltimore, asked him to meet Mr. McAdoo.

"I wired him," said Sichel, "that if I was to see the secretary on the question of the sale of ships I preferred not to meet the gentleman. Our financial condition placed us in a position where we would sell but a few old ships. Mr. Baker replied that Mr. McAdoo wanted to see me only on the general situation."

"You made no offer to the government and the government made no effort to buy any boats of you," asked Senator Reed.

"That is correct," replied Sichel.

Allen Introduces Bill to Encourage Co-operative Organizations. Des Moines, Feb. 18.—In the senate Senator Allen filed a bill today to encourage the forming of co-operative associations in Iowa for agriculture, dairy, mercantile, manufacturing and other purposes. The dividends are to be limited to 6 per cent and none of the profits are to go to a reserve fund until it equals 30 per cent of the capital. Five per cent is to be used in educational work along co-operative lines.

Senator Kimball introduced a joint resolution to disallow claims between \$50,000 and \$60,000 which have been filed by fourteen Greeks of Council Bluffs. A mob on May 29, 1913, destroyed a number of business places in Council Bluffs owned by the Greeks.

The city council of that city refused to allow the claims. The state is now asked to refuse to pay the damages.

Graft Committee Shies at Job. The senate "graft" committee will meet this afternoon to discuss the proposal that the committee ask the senate to reconsider its action directing a probe of the state house working force and the salaries paid. Members of the committee say the investigation belongs properly to the retrenchment and reform committee and should be turned over to that body.

AMERICAN-GERMAN WAR RISK GREATER

Lloyd's Insurance Rate Against Conflict During Next Six Months Increased Four-fold—Ask 20 Guinea Per Cent Today.

London, Feb. 18.—Insurance was placed at Lloyd's today at 20 guineas per cent on policies covering the holder against war between the United States and Germany within six months. One month ago the premium was 5 guineas per cent.

In 1913 the death rate of infants in England per 1,000 of population was 109. This figure has been declining for a number of years.

T.-R. BULLETIN NEWS OF THE DAY

The Weather.

Sun rises Feb. 19 at 6:49, sets at 5:40. Iowa—Rain tonight and Friday, and possibly in northwest portion Friday; colder in north and west portions Friday.

PAGE ONE.

Telegraphic News: German Blockade in Effect. British Shipping Not Alarmed. Germans Reply to U. S. Protest. Firm But Polite in Tone. No Point Yielded. Destroyers to Convey Neutral to Plans. Wilson Abandons Extra Session.

Iowa House Finishes Mule Law. Passes Clarkson Repeal Bill. PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR. Iowa News: Retrenchment and Reform Committee Down to Business. House Committee Changes Front. Aged Man Goes to Prison. Iowa Building Dedication March 10. Sugar Factories Quit Too Soon. Man Missing; Trunk Found. PAGE FIVE.

General News: Merchant Marine Live Topic. PAGE SIX. Editorial: How About That Garden? Station Cities Borrowing Trouble. Unloading a Just Debt. Farm Department. PAGE SEVEN.

General News: England Replies to U. S. Protest. Shirts Blame For Business Depression. PAGES EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN City News: Mrs. Marlon Mansfield Gets Divorce. Nuese Estate Wins Old Lawsuit. Former Resident Meets Tragic Death. Open Evils Hotel March 15. PAGE TWELVE.

Markets and General: Wheat Declines Because of Shipping Peril. Selling Corn Down. Little Change in Cattle Prices. Hogs Recover Part of Early Losses.

DESTROYERS TO CONVOY LINERS

British and French War Craft to Escort Ships Thru New War Zone.

PROTECTION FOR SHIPS OF ALLIES

Suspension of Traffic Over One North Sea Route Only Visible Effect So Far—London Expects No More Activity Among German Submarines Than Has Prevailed For Some Time Past—Steamers Go to Scandinavian Ports.

New York, Feb. 18.—Swift British and French destroyers will meet all threatened steamships flying flags of the allies and escort them into port, according to cable messages received by steamship companies with offices in this city.

Receipt of these messages, announced by French and British lines today, made them confident that the German decree would have little effect on shipping.

Inquiry at the big steamship lines brought forth statements that there was no intention to change routes.

Convoy For Limer Adriatic. The White Star liner Adriatic, from this port, with many prominent passengers, is due at Liverpool at noon on Friday. Officials of the line say she will undoubtedly be convoyed thru the war zone by war vessels.

Harold A. Sanderson, president of the International Mercantile Marine was a passenger on the White Star liner Megantic yesterday. He said he did not believe the danger to passenger steamers was any greater now than before Germany's decree went into effect. The Megantic will call at Halifax, N. S., and should reach Liverpool next Thursday.

The Manneviska, of the Atlantic Transport Line, was to depart from London yesterday. She probably will have no more than a dozen first class passengers and little freight.

Few First Class Passengers. The White Star liner Zealand will sail on Saturday from Liverpool for Halifax and Portland, Me., with second class and steerage passengers and freight.

The French liner Chicago, escorted by destroyers, still leave Havre on Saturday for this port. The American liner New York will leave Liverpool on Saturday, and a large number of passengers, some of whom gave up berths on other liners that fly the British flag.

The commission for relief in Belgium today gave out a list of forty-seven chartered steamships plying between American ports and Rotterdam, thru the war zone declared by Germany. A majority of these ships fly the British flag but the entire fleet is operating under American control and with full sanction of the German as well as the allied governments.

CRUSHED BETWEEN CARS.

G. F. Brannon Meets Instant Death in Illinois Central Yards at Fort Dodge, Special to Times-Republican.

Fort Dodge, Feb. 18.—G. F. Brannon, aged 30, a freight conductor on the Illinois Central, was crushed between two freight cars last night at Dixie combe, while superintending some work. Death was instant. He leaves a wife and four children, residing at Waterloo.

CARRANZAISTS QUIT CAPITAL.

Mexico City Again Evacuated and Zapata Force Re-enters.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Carranza forces have again evacuated Mexico City, official dispatches today to the state department report, and the Zapata forces have re-entered. It was not stated to where the Carranza troops withdrew.

HOUSE AIDS IN KILLING MULET LAW

Passes Clarkson Senate Bill by Large Vote, 79 to 29.

UP TO GOVERNOR FOR HIS APPROVAL

Clarke Will Sign Measure and Muleit Saloon Will Go Out of Existence Jan. 1, 1916—Efforts of Wets to Amend Measure and Throw It Back Into Senate Fails—Several Freak Amendments Offered—Legislative News.

Special to Times-Republican. Des Moines, Feb. 18.—The house finished the job of making prohibition effective ten months hence without a hitch in the program. The Clarkson senate bill was passed, 79 to 29, every member present.

When the Clarkson bill came up it was found there were eleven proposed amendments on file, and after some sparring as to the procedure the house started in to dispose of them one by one, with a result on every one.

Wets Planned Delay. The wets had planned for delay or to so back to the senate, where it was known the chance of passage again would be small. When a second special order was passed for the bill to provide detectives, it was deferred for a day. Most of the amendments related to the time for going into effect, some cutting it all out and others extending time. These were offered by Griffin, Rayburn, Rogers, Sawyer, Kane and Tucker.

One Freak Amendment. One amendment was to appropriate \$100,000 to reimburse for property confiscated and pay persons thrown out of employment. Another was to give the governor a fund of \$150,000 for enforcement. The amendments were all defeated on a division substantially like that on the main question. Spirited speeches in favor of amending were made by Kane, Klinker and Jamison, and Crozier.

Wets Gave Up Hope. Even in the ranks of the liquor forces of the house there seemed but little doubt that the dregs would win, as they did in the senate last Friday, when the Clarkson bill was passed. The question appeared to be the size of the majority, sanguine dry leaders claimed that they would have close to eighty votes.

Prior to the opening of the session there was reported to be strong support of the Crozier bill, which would make the repeal of the muleit law effective six months' earlier than the measure which has received