

GERMANY MAKES MOVE TO AVOID WAR WITH UNITED STATES!

Communication Is Said to Be Enroute Through Switzerland Asking That Ways and Means Be Discussed for Preventing Open Hostility Between the Nations

NOTE WILL ASK AMERICA TO SUGGEST STEPS THAT WILL ELIMINATE DANGER

No Offer Is Made, So Far as Yet Known, to Modify Program of Unrestricted Submarine Warfare.

Information, However, Shows That Germany, While Holding That "Military Necessity" Prevented the Granting of a Period in Which Neutrals Might Adjust Their Maritime Interests, Agrees That Every Care Will Be Exercised so That Neutral Passenger-Carrying Ships Will Not Be Subjected to Unwarranted Attack.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Germany is understood here to have addressed to the United States a communication suggesting that the two governments discuss ways and means of preventing actual war between them. While information regarding the channel through which the communication was sent is lacking, it is probable that it is being forwarded by the government of Switzerland. Germany is understood to have made it clear that, although diplomatic relations have been broken, she greatly desires that peace be maintained. Preliminary outlines regarding the communication do not indicate that it carries with it any suggestion that Germany may modify her submarine warfare. However, the whole communication is said clearly to invite this government to make suggestions regarding steps it thinks might prevent war.

In connection with the coming communication, information obtained here is to the effect that while Germany was arranging for her new campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare, certain German diplomats in various parts of the world were informed that while "military necessity" prevented the granting of a period in which neutrals might adjust their maritime interests, every care would be exercised so that neutral passenger-carrying ships would not be subjected to unwarranted torpedo attack.

TWO AMERICAN FREIGHTERS OFF FOR FRANCE; FIRST TO LEAVE SINCE JANUARY 31

Both Have Freight Cargoes and Are Manned by Crews Composed Almost Entirely of Americans. One Has an American Captain. Several Big Liners Carrying Passengers Reach Liverpool in Safety. Freight Congests American Ports as the Result of the Reduced Number of Sailings.

New York, Feb. 10.—With the Stars and Stripes flying over her hull the steamship Rochester, owned by the Kerr Steamship line, which cleared yesterday with a general cargo for Bordeaux, passed quarantine, outward bound, shortly after 2 p. m. today. The Rochester is the second American ship to leave this port since the announcement by Germany on Jan. 31 of her new submarine campaign. The steamer Orleans of the Oriental Navigation company, also bound for Bordeaux, preceded her.

1,100 SHIPS MOVED SAFELY IN BRITISH WATERS SINCE FEB. 1

New York, Feb. 10.—More than 1,100 vessels arrived at or sailed unharmed from United Kingdom ports during the first nine days of Germany's unrestricted submarine war in British waters, according to an announcement made here today by persons in authoritative touch with British admiralty officials.

Baltic Is Safe. The arrival of the Baltic of the White Star line at Liverpool removes from the danger zone another British vessel carrying American citizens. Shippers, manufacturers and railway men said today that the reduced number of sailings from American ports was beginning to be felt, although as yet there was no serious congestion of cargoes at railroad terminals. It was said that many shippers are withholding their goods from the railroads at the point of production because they could not obtain the necessary ocean passage.

New York Near Port. The American line steamer New York from Liverpool, the first American ship out of that port after the outbreak of German submarine warfare, will reach New York late this afternoon, according to a wireless message received by officials of the line here today. The Kronland, which from Liverpool, will reach Sandy Hook at midnight tonight and dock early tomorrow morning, the line announced.

MOVEMENT OF SHIPS FROM NEW YORK SECRET

New York, Feb. 10.—All information with respect to the clearing of vessels at the custom house, including their names, is being withheld. Officials said today that this was being done for the present on orders from Washington.

"BOOTS AND SADDLES"



CHAMPIONS OF A LICENSE TAX FOR MINES RESORT TO FIGURES THAT MISLEAD

Findings of Special Committee Disappoint Both Sides of the Controversy. Conclusions Reached Without Due Regard to Actual Conditions. Official Organ of Society of Equity Deliberately Misstates Facts in Connection With the Assessment of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

Special to the Post. Helena, Feb. 10.—In legislative circles talk centered today on the findings of the senate committee to which was referred the matter of the assessments of mines and other specified classes of property in the state. Among those who had hoped that the committee would find a way to increase the revenues of the state without discriminating against any industry or class the report was received with disappointment. On the other hand the faction that hopes to place upon the mining industry burdens of taxation not borne by any other is not pleased with the showing made by the committee after an inquiry that took up five weeks. In short, the legislature finds itself in about the same position it was in when the investigation was begun.

Estimates Differ. Difference of opinion still exists as to the necessity for resorting to special measures of taxation. State Auditor Keating maintains that he was not in error in his first estimates as to the revenues of the state and probable outgo. He is firmly of the opinion that the deficit of the state in the period covered by his estimate will be less than \$40,000. On the other hand, the members of the special committee claim that the deficit will amount to \$1,000,000 or more.

German Government Will Be Held Responsible for Submarine Attacks.

Rio Janeiro, Feb. 10.—The note handed to the German secretary of foreign affairs by the Brazilian minister at Berlin, in reply to Germany's declaration of the resumption of unrestricted submarine warfare, was made public here today. The text is as follows: "I have transmitted to my government by telegraph your letter of Feb. 2, in which your excellency informed me of the resolution of the German imperial government to blockade Great Britain, its islands, the littoral of France and Italy and the eastern Mediterranean by submarines which would commence operations on Feb. 1. Your letter stated that the submarines would prevent all maritime traffic in the zones above mentioned, abandoning all restrictions observed up to the present in the employment of means for sea fighting and would use every military resource capable of the destruction of ships."

Its Figures in Error. In arriving at its conclusions the special committee assumed that the earning capacity of the property or industry should be taken into consideration. At the same time, its figures are obviously and grossly in error and would mislead only those who care to

The Warning. "The letter of your excellency said further that the German government,

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BERNSTORFF'S TRIP NOW COMPLETED

Washington, Feb. 10.—Arrangements today were completed for the departure on Wednesday of Count von Bernstorff and his staff aboard the

NO OBSTACLE IN PATHS OF AMBASSADORS

Gerard Departs Tonight—Von Bernstorff Will Sail on Wednesday.

Washington, Feb. 10.—American Ambassador Gerard will leave Berlin this evening for Zurich, Switzerland, with his entire staff and 50 American citizens, according to a dispatch received today at the Swiss legation here from Bern.

Notices of bills were given as follows: By Murray—Relating to the qualifications of conductors and flagmen. By Prosser—Relating to the powers of constables.

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SENATE DEMOCRATS REACH NO AGREEMENT

Proposal for a \$500,000,000 Bond Issue Will Probably Be Rejected.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Falling to agree on the administration bill at last night's caucus, senate democrats will caucus again tonight under an agreement to pass finally on the measure at that time.

Administration leaders expressed the opinion today that Senator Overman's proposal for a \$500,000,000 bond issue would be rejected and that a bill similar to the house measure would be approved. It was the proposal for a bond issue that precipitated a lively contest at last night's caucus.

The house bill provided for raising about \$250,000,000, chiefly by an excess profits tax and increased inheritance taxes, and authorized a \$100,000,000 bond issue.

WAGE PAYMENT BILL DEFEATED IN THE HOUSE

Brought Back From the Senate and Killed on Third Reading.

SENATE ON RECORD FOR NATIONAL PROHIBITION

Kills Measure Requiring Employment of Matrons in Jails.

Special to the Post. Helena, Feb. 10.—On third reading the house today killed H. B. 6, providing for the semi-monthly payment of wages. The vote was 43 to 46. The measure has had a checkered career. It reached the senate at one time, but was recalled from that body and was brought up today. There was much debate on the measure, but each member who spoke was limited in time.

Both houses today were engaged on purely routine business for the most part. The senate in committee of the whole recommended for concurrence H. J. M. 5 asking congress to establish national prohibition.

Killed on Third Reading. H. B. 95, providing for the extension of towns and cities, was killed by the house today on third reading. These bills were passed by the house on third reading:

S. B. 8, amending the law relating to the registration of voters. S. B. 27, providing for bills of lading at stations where there are no agents. S. B. 31, relating to the release of record of oil and gas leases.

S. B. 41, relating to the removal of officers by summary proceeding. S. B. 45, to empower cities to arrange for band concerts. H. B. 38, requiring railroad companies to report delayed trains.

H. B. 81, relating to the establishment of drinking fountains. H. B. 132, regulating the hours of firemen in cities. H. B. 152, respecting the tax levy of cities.

H. B. 152, giving cities power to regulate motor driven vehicles. H. B. 175, relating to paroles of inmates of industrial schools. H. B. 174, providing a penalty against those who aid inmates to escape from the industrial school.

H. B. 174, amending the antigambling law. H. B. 195, providing for a fish hatchery in Park county.

Bills Proposed. Notices of bills were given as follows: By Murray—Relating to the qualifications of conductors and flagmen. By Prosser—Relating to the powers of constables.

Bills were introduced as follows: H. B. 299, by Buell—Providing a penalty for running deceptive and misleading advertisements. H. B. 300, by Johnson—Relating to the regulation of motor driven vehicles. H. B. 301, by Phelps—Prohibiting the sale of liquor in territory outside

BIG VESSEL WAS TORPEDO'S PREY LLOYD'S REPORTS

Three Men of Steamer Dauntless Picked Up After Five Days in Boat.

WASHINGTON ANXIOUSLY WATCHES DEVELOPMENTS

Submarines Not Keeping Up Average of Sinkings That Was Expected.

London, Feb. 10.—The British steamer Mantola has been sunk, Lloyds shipping agency announced today. The Norwegian vessel Solbakken is believed to have been sunk, the agency states. Two of her crew were lost. Lloyds also announces that the British steamer Lullington, 2,816 tons, has been sunk. Her crew was landed yesterday.

The Mantola was a steamer of 6,324 tons gross, built at Greenock in 1915. She was last reported at London on Jan. 3, about to sail for Calcutta. The Solbakken was a steamer of 2,616 tons gross. She sailed from Buenos Aires on Jan. 3 for Cherbourg. She was built at Middlesbrough in 1915.

FOUR MEN AT SEA IN SMALL BOAT FIVE DAYS RESCUED BY TRAWLER

London, Feb. 10.—Three Englishmen and one American, a negro, members of the crew of the torpedoed steamer Dauntless, have been picked up in a small boat at sea by a trawler, according to a Reuter's dispatch from Madrid. The men had been without food for five days.

KEEN INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENTS OF SUBMARINE WAR

Washington, Feb. 10.—Late reports of ships sunk by German submarines were scanned eagerly by government officials today for a double reason. First, there was the ever-present fear that any hour might bring a dispatch saying an American ship had been sunk without warning or Amer-

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FORD PEACE BUREAU TO CLOSE MARCH 1

London, Feb. 10.—A Reuter's dispatch from The Hague says that the Ford peace bureau, established by Henry Ford, the American manufacturer, will be closed on March 1, on account of the breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany.

FEDERAL TRADE BOARD TO MAKE EXHAUSTIVE PROBE OF HIGH COST OF LIVING

Action is Taken Under Letter From President Wilson Directing Investigation Into All Phases of the Problem, Including Production, Transportation, Marketing and Methods Employed by Food Distributors. Charges of Restraint of Trade Agreements to Be Thoroughly Looked Into.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The federal trade commission today announced that at the direction of the president it would begin immediately an investigation of high cost of foods with special reference to alleged violations of the anti-trust acts. The department of agriculture will assist in the investigation. Alleged conspiracies in distribution of food will be gone into particularly.

President Wilson's letter directing the inquiry is as follows: "An adequate supply of food products is a matter of concern to the nation at all times. It is of peculiar importance at present. Our domestic food supply is normally very large and has become increasingly varied. In some respects it has steadily expanded and has kept pace with the increasing population. Unfortunately, this is not true, however, of a large number of important staple products,

including certain cereals and particularly meats.

Not Keeping Up. "While the population of the nation has increased 28,000,000 since 1900, the production of the two leading cereals, corn and wheat, while tending to increase, has shown only a slight advance and that of the meat products in the same period has shown an increase of only 3,500,000,000 pounds, a decrease of 29 pounds per capita. "Much can be done and is being

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