

WILSON DECIDES HE HAS THE POWER TO ARM SHIPS; CALLS EXTRA SESSION

President Expected to Exercise Authority to Place Guns on Merchantmen. Congress Is Summoned Only to Enact Needed Legislation that Had Failed.

CONGRESS TO CONVENE ON APRIL 16; MERCHANTMEN WILL BE ARMED AT ONCE

President Will Not Depend Upon Congress Enactment of Armed Neutrality Measure That Was Killed at Last Session.

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson today decided an extra session of congress in April, and also decided that he had power to arm American merchantmen against German submarines operating in violation of international law. The president is expected to exercise his authority to arm American merchantmen forthwith. The session of congress was set for April 16. The president in a formal statement announced that he is free to exercise at once the power to arm American merchantmen. The proclamation for the extra session was issued at a white house this afternoon. The president said he called congress because so much necessary legislation was pressing for consideration. It was learned definitely that some American merchant ships sailing for the prize zone will be armed by the government at once. Preliminary arrangements have been completed and it is expected that vessels will be ready to sail in the near future.

Names of the ships which will be armed will not be made public by the government and are not expected to be published in the newspapers.

The Statement. The following statement was issued: "Whereas public interests require that the congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the 16th day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the executive; Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol on the 16th day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice. "Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America the ninth day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-first."

Orders to Navy Department. The president signed the proclamation of the extra session while lying in bed with a cold. He also approved orders given out at the white house for carrying out the president's decision to arm ships were immediately sent to the navy department. The president decided to arm ships by setting formal orders from Assistant Secretary of the Navy, General Gregory and Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Daniels, that he had such authority in the old statutes which forgave it.

Wilson has the backing of the cabinet in taking the step. Guns being merchantmen have been placed at navy yards along the Atlantic coast and everything is ready to put the policy announced by the president. The navy department will issue an order to the American newspapers to stop publishing any information whatever of the nature of armaments of ships and already has appealed to cable companies to suppress information of ships crossing the Atlantic in either direction.

Congress Behind Him. The passage of the bill by the house of armed neutrality and the signing of the manifesto approving it as a step by a majority of the senators during its last session, the president has congress and the country behind him. As soon as congress convenes additional legislation on the subject will be asked for. A bill passed near the end of the last session the amount of money at the disposal of the government war risk bureau for insuring American ships, was increased to \$15,000,000. Under the present rule of the bureau the government does not insure ships carrying arms or ammunition.

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President's Call. The president's proclamation calling the extra session of congress follows: "Whereas public interests require that the congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the 16th day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the executive; Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol on the 16th day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are hereby required to take notice. "Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America the ninth day of March in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-first."

POPE CALLS CONSISTORY TO MEET IN ROME MAR. 22

Rome, March 9 (via Paris). — The date of the next consistory has been fixed by Pope Benedict as March 22. It will be held only for the appointment of bishops. No new cardinals will be named.

TRANSPORT LOST 625 PEOPLE PERISH

London, March 9. — The British transport Mendil, carrying South African native laborers, was sunk after a collision on Feb. 21 and 625 persons lost their lives.

DROP IN PRICE OF POTATOES IS EXPECTED

Butte. A wave of low prices, which will be only temporary in regard to potatoes, has set in with surprisingly low quotations received today. The onion market was broken this week in the big centers by immense shipments from Spain and New Zealand, which have arrived in New York and Pacific coast points. The potato market dropped when Idaho farmers discovered they were not able to get 5 cents a pound, and the unexpectedly large cabbage crop of California and Texas has changed conditions. It is expected by the commission men that the cabbage prices will drop steadily as more come in. Potatoes are expected to rise about seeding time and break (Continued on Page Five.)

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WILL THESE THREE MASTER MILITARISTS SOON SET THEIR HANDS AGAINST AMERICA?



This is one of the greatest news pictures to arrive in this country since the start of the European war. It shows the three master minds of Germany going over the map of Europe and planning a campaign against the allies. They are, left to right, General von Hindenburg, Kaiser Wilhelm and General von Ludendorff. President Wilson's announcement today indicating that American ships soon may be armed against German submarines brings this country one step nearer to war with Germany.

REVISED RULES NOW OPERATIVE IN THE SENATE

Cloture Rule Preventing Organized Filibuster Passes 76 to 3.

Washington, March 9.—The senate today began its deliberations under the rule which will forever and organized filibusters in that body. It will, if enforced, prevent a "little group of willful men," whom President Wilson held responsible for blocking the passage of the armed neutrality bill, from staving off a vote upon a bill before the senate.

The new rule was adopted by the senate last night by a vote of 76 to 3. Under it two-thirds of the senators present and voting can in the future limit debate and say when a vote shall be taken on a pending measure. Senators La Follette, Gronna and Sherman voted against the rule.

A resolution was offered by Senator Lewis yesterday which declares it to be the sense of the senate that the president has the right to protect the merchant commerce of the United States upon the high seas with the same authority and power that he has to protect interstate commerce. No action was taken upon the resolution.

In the 10-minute session of the senate today, Senator McLean, republican of Connecticut introduced a resolution prepared last night, requesting the president to call congress in special session March 29 to enact measures of vital importance to the nation. It was not discussed and the senate adjourned until Monday. The resolution was introduced before the announcement that the president had determined to call an extra session.

BRITISH MERCHANTMAN THROWS GUN OVERBOARD

Action is Taken to Secure Entry to the Port of Rotterdam.

Berlin, March 9 (by wireless to Sayville). — The British merchant steamer Princess Melita was refused permission to enter the harbor at Rotterdam on Tuesday because she was armed, says the Overseas News agency (the official German news bureau). She left that evening and returned to Rotterdam the next day after throwing overboard her gun and its mounting. "The Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant" says that in the week from Feb. 25 to March 3 only seven ships arrived in Rotterdam harbor as compared with 57 in the corresponding week last year and 197 in that week of 1913.

COLLAPSE OF THE REVOLT IN CUBA IS NOW AT HAND

Capture of Gomez is Said to Have Finished the Rebel Army.

Washington, March 9.—Official dispatches to the navy department today established that Cuban government forces have regained control of Santiago, the stronghold of the rebel uprising. President Menocal has notified this government that Governor Munoz, in command there, represents him and the recognized Cuban government. American marines have been landed to protect foreign interests.

The repositioning of Santiago and the capture of the rebel leader, Gomez, and his staff, are regarded here as marking the collapse of the rebellion. Today's dispatches do not say whether there was a fight, but say the rebels, "realizing they were traitors about to be captured," threw away their arms and fled to the outskirts.

It appears from the dispatches, which are incomplete, that the Munoz forces took the city by a coup within it and before the Menocal troops marching on Santiago had arrived. Munoz previously had declared himself loyal to President Menocal and the government and at his request American forces were landed to protect foreign interests in case the departing rebels should attempt to re-enter after having gathered their forces outside.

U. S. MARINES OCCUPY THE CITY OF SANTIAGO

Washington, March 9.—Landing of American marines and bluejackets at Santiago, Cuba, to protect lives of Americans and other foreigners and their property was reported today in dispatches to the state and navy departments. The reports said there had been no fighting in the city or its suburbs up to midnight last night.

The naval forces were sent ashore by Commander Belknap, commanding the United States squadron in Santiago harbor, on his own responsibility and at the request of the civil governor. An attack on the city by rebel forces was impending and Commander Belknap sent his men ashore to prevent loss of foreign lives and destruction of foreign property.

PRESIDENT STILL IS CONFINED TO HIS BED

Washington, March 9. — President Wilson was still confined to his bed with a cold today, and as a result the usual Friday cabinet meeting and all other engagements were cancelled. Although the president's condition was somewhat improved this morning, his physician advised that he remain in bed and see no callers.

U-BOAT LETS AN AMERICAN SHIP GO UNMOLESTED

German Examines Steamer's Papers—Lets Contraband Cargo Proceed.

New York, March 9.—The presence of a vessel suspected as a German raider in the sea lane traveled by ships running between New York and Mediterranean ports was reported by Capt. D. M. Nicoll of the American steamship Suruga, which arrived here today from Havre and the Azores.

Captain Nicoll said that when the Suruga was north of the Azores on Feb. 26, in the direct track of the New York-Mediterranean trade, he sighted a strange vessel which steamed around the Suruga, stopped and then bore off in a new direction. The stranger was of the cargo type, a large vessel with two masts, armed with a stern gun and other pieces, painted gray and carried a funnel which did not parallel the masts. She did not signal the Suruga, Captain Nicoll said, and he did not learn her identity.

U-Boat Lets Her Go.

While at Havre, Captain Nicoll met the master of the American steamship City of Memphis, New York to Havre with cotton, who told him of an experience of a submarine off the Scilly Islands on Jan. 20. The U-boat sent a shot across the American's deck as she signaled to stop and the American, after obeying, sent a mate aboard the submarine with the merchantman's papers. The U-boat captain was quoted as telling the City of Memphis' mate: "You've got a contraband cargo. I ought to sink your ship but on account of friendly relations between the United States and Germany I'm going to let you go."

Another American vessel beside the Suruga passed safely through the German submarine zone and arrived here today—the Virginian, which left Marseilles on Feb. 21. Both ships sailed in ballast.

GREAT DECREASE IN COLD STORAGE EGGS

Washington, March 9.—Cold storage holdings of eggs in the United States on March 1 showed a decrease of 97.2 per cent compared with Feb. 1 holdings. The department of agriculture's monthly report today shows 183,718 dozen in storage. Compared with a year ago holdings show a decrease of about 85.3 per cent. American cheese in cold storage was 12,069,756 pounds, a decrease of 35.3 per cent during February and about 29.3 per cent less than a year ago.

WITNESS SAYS HE GAVE MAYOR \$4,000 BRIBE

Billingsley Swears He Paid Seattle Mayor to Suppress Evidence of Crime.

IMPORTED LIQUOR INTO SEATTLE BY CARLOAD

Many Bribes Given to Detectives—Tells of Battles With Police.

Seattle, March 9.—Logan Billingsley, chief witness for the government in the trial of Mayor Hiram C. Gill and others, charged with conspiracy to violate the United States statutes by importation of liquor into the state of Washington, swore today that he gave a bribe of \$4,000 in bills to Mayor Gill in the mayor's office on Aug. 30, 1916, and that the mayor turned over to him documentary evidence against Billingsley seized in the latter's drugstore. Billingsley took the stand when court opened and resumed his story of his operations in Seattle, which he had brought up to the middle of June last night.

Tells of Many Bribes.

He told today of more payments of bribes to Detective Peyster, one of the defendants, of the battle at his West Lake avenue warehouse, July 25, 1916, in which two policemen and his Japanese porter were killed; of the raid the next day on his drugstore, in which all his business correspondence was taken; of his arrest and confinement in the city jail on Gill's orders; of his hearing and dismissal on the charge of murder; of the filing of (Continued on Page Sixteen.)

CAPTIVES OF THE YARROWDALE ARE SET AT LIBERTY

American Sailors, Taken to Germany on Prize Ship, Sent to Switzerland.

ONE PARTY COMPOSED OF FIFTY-NINE MEN

Spanish Ambassador Investigates Condition of the Detained Sailors.

London, March 9.—A dispatch from Berlin says that the Americans and other neutrals who were on board the captured British steamer Yarrowdale left Germany Wednesday. The Spanish, American and Brazilian Yarrowdale prisoners were sent from the prisoners' camp at Brandenburg to Switzerland by way of Linden on Wednesday afternoon, according to a Berlin dispatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam. Members of other neutral crews were sent home through various frontier towns.

59 SENT TO SWITZERLAND.

Berne, Switzerland, March 9 (via Paris).—There are 59 of the men from the Yarrowdale in the party which has left Berlin for Switzerland.

CONDITION INVESTIGATED BY SPANISH EMBASSY

Washington, March 9.—The following telegram was received at the state department today from Ambassador Willard at Madrid under date of March 7: "According to a report received from the Spanish ambassador at Berlin, the steamer Yarrowdale prisoners at Brandenburg were visited by the Spanish embassy doctor on March 1, who found that the conditions were as the German authorities had reported. He gave his approval of the quarantine."

"The typhus case appeared on the 29th of February, and unless new cases of the disease appear the quarantine will be ended March 7. The doctor stated that the men complained of the diet and were pleased to learn that they were soon to be released. They said they had no other complaint. Only five of the 57 Americans were in the hospital with slight colds and five men of other nationalities are under observation by the doctors."

SALVADOR OPPOSES A U. S. NAVAL BASE

The Court of Central America Holds it Would Prove a Menace.

San Salvador, Republic of Salvador, March 9.—The decision recently made by Central American court of justice upholding for the second time the claim of Salvador in the Nicaragua canal treaty dispute says that the naval base which the United States is to establish in the Gulf of Fonseca would constitute a menace. The court rules that this provision of the treaty between Nicaragua and the United States is in violation of Nicaragua's treaty obligations to Salvador and of the joint ownership of the gulf.

LAD AVENGES IN BLOOD SLAYING OF HIS FATHER

Jury Finds He Shot Parent's Murderer in Self-Defense.

Crowburg, Kan., March 9.—Eleven-year-old Joe Vinardi went back to school today, freed by law for having avenged in blood the killing of his father. A coroner's jury late yesterday returned a verdict that freed him from blame in connection with the death here last Monday night of Mike Gillo, suitor for the hand of his sister and enemy of Giacinto Vinardi, the boy's father.

A feud sprung up between the two men because of Gillo's attentions to Vinardi's daughter. They met Monday night, one with a shotgun and the other with a revolver, and both, next day, were found dead. It was believed at first they had killed each other.

But the inquest revealed that another had stepped into the tragedy. It was the 11-year-old boy.

When Vinardi, the elder, lay mortally wounded, according to the story told yesterday, he instructed the boy to obtain vengeance. The boy, his father's shotgun in hand, found Gillo. Gillo had a shotgun also. He pointed it at the boy and laughed. Joe Vinardi shot.

"Self-defense," the coroner's jury ruled for the boy. Today he trudged back to school.

AUTO SHOW TO CLOSE WITH CARNIVAL TOMORROW NIGHT

Parade is to Be Staged During the Day. Dealers to See Their "Prospects" in Afternoon and the Evening to Be Given Over to Merrymaking.

Because of the evident demand by the public and despite the fact that the dealers are tired, the second annual Butte Automobile Show will continue tomorrow afternoon, ending tomorrow night with a grand carnival. A parade will be staged during the day. "Because of the demand by the public and because the dealers wish it, the auto show will continue for another day," said Howard Pierce, chairman of the committee. "There are many people in the city who have been unable to attend and who seemed to have had the impression that the show would last until Saturday night. "Anything goes tomorrow night as it will be carnival night. Dancing will be permitted in all parts of the building and will not be confined to the dance floor. The dealers themselves intend to have a good time and will join in the merry-making. "The use of confetti will be permitted so long as the confetti is confined to the ribbon variety. The small flake-like stuff will not be permitted. Anyone who chooses may appear in costume. (Continued on Page Three.)