

# Ottumwa Tri-Weekly Courier

IOWA—Fair probably followed by increasing cloudiness slowly rising temperature LOCAL TEMP.—6 p. m., 4; 8 a. m., 5 below; 12 m., 10; min., 6 below.

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## APPAM CASE TO PROVE STICKLER FOR AUTHORITIES

Novel Phase of Neutrality Presents Itself With Captured Steamer

## INTERN OR RETURN IS THE QUESTION

Britons Claim Ownership; Germans Insist Boat Is Prize of War

London, Feb. 2.—It is understood here that the Appam carried 500,000 pounds sterling in bullion which probably will be claimed as a prize, as bullion is contraband.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2.—State department officials indicated today that if the Appam finally is held to be a prize the Prussian-American treaty of 1828 is more likely to govern the case than The Hague convention. This would mean that the Appam would be turned over to her German captors and in that case some German officials expressed the view that the prize crew, rather than let her fall back into the hands of the British, as would seem inevitable if she left port, might take the ship to the three mile limit and sink her.

In case she is held to have become a German fleet auxiliary, she will have the choice of leaving port after a certain time for supplies or repairs or internment for the war, as have the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm.

Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, formally asked Secretary Lansing for the release of the Appam and return to the British owners, under Article 21 of The Hague convention, which the British authorities claim has superseded the Prussian-American treaty. The secretary took the ambassador's argument under consideration.

"Moewe" Ship of Mystery. British officials here scout the theory that the raider Moewe slipped through Kiel canal under Swedish colors and got out into the Atlantic. They have a theory she is a German merchantman which got out of an Azores port nearly a year ago and has been missing since.

Collector Hamilton's report, which was placed before the neutrality board today, says Lieut. Berge made no request for time to make repairs or for any coal or provisions beyond food as is necessary for the crew and prisoners aboard for a short time.

Berge himself, the collector says, considers the Appam a prize and not a naval auxiliary. Mr. Hamilton thinks that some other armed merchant ship probably a little larger and faster than the Moewe made the capture and sank the seven merchantmen off the West African coast. He reported that Lieut. Berge would not reveal the name of the ship, but said it was clear that a submarine was not responsible for the capture.

One factor which must be weighed by the neutrality board is that several of the Englishmen on the Appam were gun tenders on the merchantmen which fought the unknown commerce raider before they submitted. Whether they must be released is one of the state department problems.

PRISONERS CLOSELY WATCHED. Old Point Comfort, Va., Feb. 2.—The British South African liner Appam was riding at anchor in Hampton roads today awaiting disposition by the United States government of the claim of the German naval reserve officer in command that she is a prize of war.

It is expected that the status of the vessel will be determined during the day and that she will be moved to either Norfolk or Newport News where the British subjects comprising the greater number of the 452 persons aboard will be permitted to disembark. Probably most of them will take immediate steps to secure passage for Liverpool, where the Appam was bound when she was captured by the German raider Moewe on January 15, five days out from Dakar, West Africa.

Hans Berge, the stocky German officer who brought the Appam from the Atlantic from a point near the Canary Islands with a prize crew of twenty-two men, waited further instructions from Custom Collector Hamilton, who ordered the ship kept at Old Point pending action in Washington.

The veil of silence by which he kept the stories of his prisoners aboard the Appam from the public yesterday was still drawn over the vessel, and armed German seamen kept close watch that none should come aboard except those with proper authority.

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## AIR RAID NOT AN ACT OF REPRISAL ASSERT GERMANS

ZEPPELINS VISIT TO CENTRAL ENGLAND PROMPTED BY DESIRE TO DESTROY SHOPS.

London, Feb. 2.—The Adevurul, a newspaper of Bucharest, declares that Greece and Rumania have signed a dual neutrality convention, according to a dispatch received here by wireless telegraphy from Rome.

Athens, Feb. 2.—Information received in military quarters here indicates that German and Bulgarian troops, supported by 150,000 Turks, are likely to begin an attack on the Franco-British forces at Saloniki about February 15.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—Rumors have been circulated here that the Zeppelin raid on England Monday night was in reprisal for the Baralong affair but The Associated Press correspondent is assured in authoritative quarters that the attack did not come under that head.

It is stated that the midland section of England was selected for the raid because it is the center of the munitions industry and because Liverpool is the center of England's commerce and that there was a purpose to bring home to the people of Germany the fact that the boasted defenses of London do not avail against Germany's aircraft. It was intended also to interfere with the preparations being made in England for the carrying on of the British operations in France and Flanders.

The admiralty office reiterates that not a single one of the raiding Zeppelins was injured.

## RAIDER IS SIGHTED.

London, Feb. 2.—A Zeppelin was sighted today off the coast of Amsland, an island of The Netherlands, says a Reuter's dispatch from Amsterdam. It was flying low and probably had lost its bearings owing to fog. The coast guard fired more than fifty shots and it is believed that some hit the airship, which finally disappeared to the northward.

The Zeppelin air fleet returning from its raid on the English province was heard in the vicinity of Amsterdam Tuesday. Officers of ships say that five Zeppelins traveling westward were sighted.

## ATTACK JUSTIFIED.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—The Lokal Anzeiger publishes an editorial today on the Zeppelin raid over England, saying that everyone will be convinced that the attack was fully justified on considering the places visited, and their military significance. It asserts that Liverpool, which the German admiral announced was bombarded, is to be considered as a port of entry of American ammunition "whose destruction is our sacred duty."

## FLOODS STOP ADVANCE.

London, Feb. 2.—A Reuter dispatch from Delhi transmits an official statement issued there regarding the fighting in Mesopotamia, saying:

"Gen. Aylmer's forces hold a strong position on the river Tigris. The recent floods have hindered and made a forward movement impracticable. Gen. Sir John E. Nixon who has handed over the command of the British forces in Mesopotamia to Lieut. Gen. Sir Percy Lake, will start homeward within a short time."

## RUSSIANS CLAIM GAINS.

London, Feb. 2.—Around Riga there have been several infantry engagements in which the Russians claim to have won the day. There has also been artillery fighting on this front.

On the Austro-Italian front the Italians repulsed the Austrians in a single infantry attack.

The Russians are still pursuing the Turks around Lake Tortum in the Caucasus, according to the report from Petrograd.

On the western front in Flanders the British and Germans were engaged along the river Somme in an artillery duel. In an official report the Germans claim to have captured "some British." The British report says the capture consisted of five men, of whom two escaped. The French and Germans have engaged in artillery engagements without decisive results.

## TEXTILES SEIZED.

London, Feb. 2.—According to Berlin newspapers as quoted by Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, a new order was put into force on Feb. 1, under which the greater part of all products of the textile industry was confiscated.

The Tageblatt says it is highly significant that on this occasion the government does not seize the raw material but finished articles.

## AVIATOR FALLS TO DEATH.

London, Feb. 2.—Lieut. J. S. Reed of the royal flying corps, died today as a result of injuries sustained at Aldershot by the fall of a new aeroplane on which he was acting as observer. Lieut. Browning, the pilot, was seriously injured.

## MID-WEST FOR PREPAREDNESS

President Finds This Part of the Country Is Not on Pacifists Side

## KANSAS CAPITAL GIVES HIM WELCOME

Wilson to Start on Return to Washington; Tour Is Held Big Success

Topeka, Kan., Feb. 2.—President Wilson reached Topeka, the turning point of his middle western tour, at 10:10 a. m. today. He was greeted with a salute of twenty-one guns and escorted by state troops to the residence of Gov. Capper, whose guest he was until 1 o'clock when he addressed an audience in the auditorium.

The president and Mrs. Wilson rode over snow packed streets in zero weather in open automobiles. A crowd cheered them at the station, but most of the city's 50,000 population lined the sidewalks along the way to the governor's residence.

American flags had been distributed in advance to the crowds along the way. Schools held no sessions and the state house employees were given a day off. The city employees had a half holiday.

Gov. Capper, a republican, who is not in accord with the administration preparedness program, introducing the president to the 6,000 persons gathered in the municipal auditorium, praised him for keeping the United States out of war and added that "many of us are not in accord with the program of vast armament." He continued:

"We welcome the fullest discussion. The president had spoken for peace, as we would speak for it. He has steadfastly kept us out of the terrible conflict in Europe. He has sat undismayed on the hottest lid that has sealed any president since Lincoln. Whatever our opinion in regard to armament, this day we Kansans all are for President Wilson—and for Mrs. Wilson, too."

## Suffragists Bailed.

Suffrage leaders who had planned to see the president to obtain his endorsement of a constitutional amendment enfranchising women, apparently were bailed by his going to Gov. Capper's home from the station.

"We cannot invade the governor's home, of course," said Miss Mabel Vernon, the representative of the Women's Congressional union. "There isn't a thing for us to do. The door seems locked against us everywhere."

## Gets Noddy Welcome.

Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 2.—In spite of zero weather, Lawrence gave President Wilson the noisiest reception of his trip when he arrived here at 9:20 a. m. today.

Half of the 13,000 people of the town were at the station. Students from Kansas university sang and gave their yells and a band played patriotic airs.

## PLEASED WITH IOWA.

Des Moines, Feb. 2.—"Do you want the situation to be such that all the president can do is to write messages and utter words of protest?" asked President Wilson here last night, in advocating preparedness before one of the largest audiences of his present trip.

"If these breaches of international law," he continued, "which are in daily danger of occurring, should touch the very honor of the United States—do you wish to do nothing about it? Do you wish to have all the world say that the flag of the United States that we have can be stained with impunity? Why, to ask the question is to answer it."

"I know there is not a man or woman within the hearing of my voice who would wish for peace at the expense of the honor of the United States."

## Appiaud is Generous.

The president's address was punctuated with thunderous applause. He spoke slowly and gravely, with emphatic gestures to enforce his words. His declaration that the United States wanted peace drew a quick response and his assertion that the self-respect of the nation must be preserved elicited another great demonstration. A throng of 8,000 persons cheered him to the echo.

The president declared he was trying to weigh carefully every word he said. He reiterated that he had been daily charged to keep the country out of war and also to uphold its honor.

"And many a night, when it has seemed impossible for me to sleep," he said, "because of the apparently inextricable difficulties into which our international relations were drifting, I have said to myself, 'I wonder if the people of the United States fully know what that mandate means to me.' And then sleep has come, because I knew that there was not a community in America that would not stand behind me in maintaining the honor of the United States."

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## GERMANS READY TO END USITANIA CASE IS REPORT

UNCONFIRMED RUMOR FROM BERLIN SAYS DEMANDS OF THE U. S. A. WILL BE MET.

Berlin, Feb. 2.—The Wolff bureau announces that instructions were cabled on February 1 to Count von Bernstorff on the Lusitania situation, "which give reason to hope for a final understanding."

The announcement, which is of a semi-official nature, is said by the Overseas News agency to have been made "in connection with alarming English reports about the nature of German-American relations." The text of the statement is given by the news agency as follows:

"It is true that on Saturday, January 29, a telegraphic report from the German ambassador at Washington arrived at Berlin, showing that up to that time it has been impossible to adjust the Lusitania case in a manner satisfactory to both sides by friendly verbal exchanges of views. On Tuesday instructions were transmitted by telegraph to the German ambassador, which give reasonable hope for a positive understanding."

## STILL NEWS TO BERNSTORFF.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2.—At the German embassy it was stated today that Count von Bernstorff had received no instructions from Berlin, and that if such instructions had been cabled by the foreign office on February 1 they would not be expected here much before tomorrow.

If the instructions come by cable they will be transmitted through the American embassy at Berlin, which, at the instruction of the state department, has placed its facilities for communication between Count von Bernstorff and his foreign office at the disposal of the German government so that the Lusitania exchanges would not have to pass through the British censorship.

None of the embassy officials would venture an opinion as to what the instructions referred to as giving "reasonable hope for a positive understanding" although they expressed the hope that they would be satisfactory to the United States.

## IOWA SHIPPERS MEETING

Representatives of Different Cities Gather to Discuss Freight Rate Case.

Des Moines, Feb. 2.—Representatives of many Iowa cities met today to prepare for the reopening here tomorrow of the Iowa rate case before the interstate commerce commission. Clifford Thorne, chairman of the Iowa railroad commission, is in direct charge of the case.

Traffic men are asking the interstate commerce commission to lower freight rates west of the Mississippi river proportionately across Iowa in order to place interior Iowa cities on an even basis commercially with Chicago and the cities on the Mississippi river.

## NORTH STRUCK BY GREAT BLIZZARD

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 2.—Rising temperatures throughout the Pacific northwest today indicated that the storm, which in western Washington was said to be the worst blizzard in twenty-three years, was abating, but apprehension was felt that a quick change in the weather, with its probable accompanying avalanches in the mountains and floods in the valleys, would do great damage.

Snow is general throughout Oregon and Washington, being drifted more than twenty feet in the mountain passes through which the transcontinental railroads are built.

Reports from Portland are that rising temperature turned the sleet to rain and gave indication that the worst of the "silver thaw" was over.

Public schools were closed today on account of the storm.

## TODAY IN CONGRESS

### SENATE—Met at noon.

Resumed debate on Philippine independence bill.

Foreign relations committee recommended ratification of Colombian and Nicaraguan treaties reducing proposed indemnity to Colombia from \$25,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

### HOUSE—Met at noon.

Keating bill to regulate child labor was debated.

New standing committee on food control, comprising fifteen members, was proposed by rules committee.

Military and naval committees continued hearings on defense legislation.

## POLICE TOLD OF LIQUOR SALES

Affidavits Made in Court Charge Three Men With Selling Whisky

## TRIO ARRESTED IN FIGHT EARLY TODAY

Bert Brown, Lew Fuller and Blanche Mills Figure in All Night Brawl

The police department broke up a little fight early this morning that resulted in getting two affidavits in police court, one against H. Spivak and the other against Al Dyer and Dennis Maloney for selling whisky. Officers Lightner and Kapp were called to the home of Lew Fuller on East Main street about 1 o'clock this morning where they arrested Bert Brown, Lew Fuller and Blanche Mills for disturbing the peace.

Fuller said the fight was caused by Brown who wanted to see Blanche after he had forbidden him. This morning Fuller made an affidavit stating that he had purchased during the past six months from one of three pints of whisky a week from H. Spivak, paying \$1 a pint. Blanche Mills then made an affidavit that in the past month she has purchased about six pints of whisky from Dennis Maloney and about twelve pints from Al Dyer in the last two months. She said that she has spent about \$300 with each of the men.

Brown was asked if he was willing to make an affidavit but he said that he had not purchased any liquor in Ottumwa. The trio was fined \$25 and costs each. Blanche Mills wanted to leave town and was allowed her liberty. Fuller arranged to pay his fine and Brown was committed to jail.

## COL. HOUSE HELD MOST DISCREET MAN

Paris, Feb. 2.—The Paris press comments on the discretion of Col. E. M. House, which is described as being impenetrable and admirable.

The Excelsior publishes an article on Col. House and uses, as an illustration for it, a composite photograph of the colonel and the sphinx. It heads the article, "A sphinx in a suit hat." It says that the most experienced interviewers admit that Mr. Wilson's envoy has baffled them as they had never before been baffled.

## SULTAN HONORED BY GERMAN RULER

London, Feb. 2.—A dispatch from Constantinople transmitted by the Reuter correspondent at Amsterdam, says that Emperor William in an autograph letter appointing Sultan Mohammed V of Turkey a field marshal, wrote:

"Your majesty's troops have proved themselves worthy of the old military glory. They have accomplished deeds with the most tenacious perseverance and recently by a victorious attack they repulsed the enemy in the Irak district."

"Reviewing the great events that have happened during my past life I recall today, on my birthday, the splendid performances of the Turkish army, and, wishing to express my appreciation and close friendly relations which personally connects with your majesty's hour, I beg you to accept the dignity of a field marshal in my army."

## NO APOLOGY TO COLOMBIA

Foreign Relations Committee Also Cuts Down Indemnity to Be Paid For Panama.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2.—Reducing the proposed payment to Colombia from \$25,000,000 to \$15,000,000, and altering the proposed apology of the United States for the partition of Panama to make it a mutual expression of regret on the part of the United States and Colombia, the senate foreign relations committee today ordered a favorable report on the long pending Colombian treaty.

The vote on the treaty was eight for to seven against. Senator Clarke of Arkansas was the only democrat voting against it.

By a vote of ten to three the committee also favorably reported the treaty to pay Nicaragua \$3,000,000 for a canal route and naval bases in the Bay of Fonseca.

## STATE DEMOCRAT COMMITTEE HAS IMPORTANT MEET

DATE AND SITE FOR IOWA CONVENTION TO BE SETTLED AT ONCE.

Des Moines, Feb. 2.—The state democratic primary convention will be held in Clinton in May, and the regular democratic state convention will be held in Des Moines in June. These convention cities were selected here today by the democratic state central committee. The exact dates will be selected late today.

Des Moines, Feb. 2.—Prominent democrats from every section of Iowa are in Des Moines today to attend the meeting of the democratic state central committee. The committee is expected to select the date and place for holding the state convention this year.

Clinton and Des Moines are reported to be the strong contenders. Most of the politicians came to the state capital yesterday to hear President Wilson speak last night. Approximately two-thirds of the members of the legislature were here yesterday, causing the hotel lobbies to take on the appearance of the opening days of the legislature.

All but three members of the committee had arrived before the state central committee was called to order. In connection with the meeting of the state central committee, democrats of the several districts also were meeting here to select delegates and alternates to the St. Louis national convention.

## ICE GORGE CAUSES FLOOD

Lowlands in the Vicinity of Davenport Are Inundated as Mississippi Recedes.

Davenport, Feb. 2.—The flood stage was reached in the Mississippi river at Davenport today. It is 15 feet above low water mark and is still rising. The ice gorge five miles below Davenport is tightening under the below zero temperature and the lowlands are flooded. Many residents in the flats have had to move out and their homes are inundated. The Rock river in Illinois has backed, flooding the valley for miles. The temperature here today was 6 below zero.

## MINERAL LAND REOPENED

Rich Mexican Tracts Thrown Open For Settlement Under Carranza Tax Ruling.

Douglas, Ariz., Feb. 2.—Thousands of acres of mineral bearing land in Mexico are open today for location because of the edict of the Carranza de facto government in Mexico, which named midnight of January 31 as the extreme hour at which delinquent mining taxes must be paid.

Many of the American land holders who were taxed eight pesos gold per pertenencia (two and one-fifth acres) allowed portions of their holdings to revert to the government.

## BEGIN TO REPAIR FLOOD DAMAGES

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 2.—Several hundred men started work today in many parts of the county as the first definite step to restore the roads, bridges and water pipe lines destroyed or badly damaged in the floods of last week. It is estimated that in another week more than 2,000 persons will have been given employment.

Roads which two days ago were almost impassable are now in fairly good shape and the task of reaching the more remote points and carrying on relief work has been expedited. Generous contributions of money, clothing and provisions continue to pour into headquarters.

It is the intention of Rear Admiral Fullam to maintain naval patrols in the Otay and Tijuana valleys until the situation is so composed that civil authorities can take entire charge. Order is being rigidly enforced in the stricken districts and a number of storekeepers who have marked up prices have been warned to lower them or suffer confiscation of their goods.

## DANGER IS LESSENER.

St. Louis, Feb. 2.—Railroad traffic to the west and southwest out of St. Louis was still interrupted today as a result of floods.

A light snow fell here today and the Mississippi and Meramec rivers continued to fall.

## LOST IN ICE FLOE.

Burlington, Feb. 2.—Charles Collier, who lives opposite Burlington in the bottom lands, is believed to be a victim of high water. He has been missing since last Wednesday when he started to cross the river in a row-boat amid the floating ice floes.

## ARRISON TAKES PRISONER AS HE LEAVES CHURCH

Deputy Marshal Arrests George Leisenring at Revival Service

## MT. PLEASANT MAN ARRAIGNED HERE

Charged With Violating the White Slave Act; Afton Girl Is Informant

As George Leisenring came out of a revival service at Mt. Pleasant about 10:30 o'clock Tuesday night he walked right into Deputy United States Marshal N. L. Arrison of Ottumwa, who had a warrant for his arrest on a white slavery charge. Leisenring was brought to the Wapello county jail early this morning and was arraigned today. His preliminary hearing will be held in a day or two before United States Commissioner A. W. Enoch at the federal building.

Young Leisenring is charged with taking Esther Devore from Afton to Omaha, Neb., and back to Sioux City and Salix. He has been a fugitive from justice since last April and on his way here he told the federal officer that he has been in Georgia, Florida, the Carolinas and all through the south. He is 28 years old and while a resident of Mt. Pleasant has not been there for eight or nine years until ten days ago.

Found at Revival Meeting. The information against him was sworn out by W. W. Exline, the deputy marshal for the Creston division, and was made before John C. Hunt, the commissioner in that city, after the Afton girl had told her story. Mr. Arrison was given the warrant late Monday night and left here for Mt. Pleasant at 11:35 Tuesday morning.

He spent the entire afternoon visiting the picture shows, billiard halls, restaurants and other places where he thought the lad might be but being unsuccessful finally thought of the revival services and there he landed his man.

According to the story told the Ottumwa officer at the sheriff's office is Mt. Pleasant the presence of the young man in that city was given out in an unusual manner. He had been staying at his grandfather's place and also stopping there was a man, Pleasant at the time of the hearing, the uncle of the defendant in this case, who had at one time been a patient in the state hospital at Mt. Pleasant. His condition having improved he was allowed to return home and it was he who first told that the lad was at his grandfather's house. The sheriff then communicated with federal officers.

## REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS ADVOCATED

Iowa City, Feb. 2.—Adoption by Iowa of a birth registration law, establishment of a child research station at the state university and encouragement of community organization within the country are advocated by the Iowa committee on child welfare, in a report which it completed today.

The report will be issued soon by the extension division of the University of Iowa as the Iowa Handbook on Child Welfare. The committee consists of leaders in eight women's organizations of the state.

## METHODISTS PAYING BIG PENSION FUND

Chicago, Feb. 2.—The Methodist church paid \$1,200,000 in pensions to retired ministers and widows and orphans of ministers during 1915, according to the annual report of the board of conference claimants submitted at the annual meeting of the board here today.

Fifteen million dollars is needed for the pension fund, the report said, and of this amount \$6,000,000 now is in the treasury of the conference. It is planned to obtain \$2,000,000 more before the end of March, the report added.

## ANOTHER CHICAGO POLICEMAN SHOT

Chicago, Feb. 2.—Four suspects have been arrested by police who are searching for the robbers who last night shot and seriously wounded Policeman John Aylward when he discovered them robbing a drug store.

Aylward has a chance to recover. He is the sixth Chicago policeman to be shot since January 1, 1915. Five of the officers died as the result of their wounds.

## VETERAN MECHANIC DIES.

Burlington, Feb. 2.—W. H. Bartlett, one of the oldest master mechanics on the Burlington railroad, died here today, aged 71.