

STEAMER AFRIC SUNK BY A SUBMARINE

Germans Laying For Two American Merchant Ships Now at Sea

PLAN TO THROW OPEN PORTS TO WARSHIPS OF ALLIED POWERS

Resolution to Abandon Neutrality Offered in the Senate, Understood to Have the Approval of the President.

PROPOSAL OPPOSED BY SENATOR STONE

Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of Senate Announces His Position—Resolution Introduced by Senator Saulsbury.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Senator Saulsbury today offered a resolution to throw down the neutrality bars and throw open all United States ports to allied warships.

He said "this might enable this government, without a declaration of war, to assist in preventing violations of rights to the sea by giving assistance to those at present engaged in combating these violations."

It is understood the Saulsbury resolution has the complete approval of President Wilson.

TEXT OF RESOLUTION.

The resolution follows: "Whenever a state or war exists between two or more nations with whom the United States is at peace and one or more of the belligerents shall upon the high seas enter upon, engage or permit a course of warfare or use a method not justified or warranted by the laws of war as generally accepted or as construed by this government, the ports, harbors and waters of the United States may, as freely as in time of universal peace, be resorted to, used and frequented by the warships or other vessels of any other belligerent, however armed, for the purpose of capturing, destroying, resisting or escaping from any vessel of the belligerent or belligerents engaged in such unwarranted course of warfare or using such illegal methods;

"Provided before the ports, harbors and waters of the United States may be resorted to, used and frequented, the president shall by proclamation declare that proper occasion has arisen therefore under the terms of this act."

WOULD PROVE EFFECTIVE.

"This step may be very effective," Saulsbury said, "without a declaration of war upon the part of the United States."

The resolution was referred to the senate foreign relations committee.

Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, to which the resolution was given, is opposed to the plan to throw open the ports to belligerent ships.

"I am opposed to any plan to throw open our ports to the battlefields of belligerent nations," said Stone. "I do not know how other members of the foreign relations committee feel toward it, but I personally am opposed to it."

TWO HELD IN CONNECTION WITH SHOOTING OF WOMAN

Chicago, Feb. 13.—William Decker, 30, a switchman, Mrs. Warran Freeman, his sister-in-law, and her husband, are being held by police in connection with the mysterious shooting of Decker's wife, Mrs. Carrie Decker, aged 29.

Police answered a call to the Decker apartment early today and found Mrs. Decker dead with a bullet hole in her head. Decker told the police she had been holding the revolver in her hand, and had either killed herself accidentally or intentionally.

KAISER TRIES TO STIFFEN UP ALLY; GOES TO VIENNA

London Sees the Weakening of Austria in Failure of Dual Monarchy to Back Up Germany.

London, Feb. 13.—Whether Kaiser Wilhelm's visit today to Vienna for conference with Emperor Carl was not brought about by a desire to stiffen up Germany's ally was the subject of considerable speculation here. Amsterdam dispatches, repeating meager advices from Vienna merely said the kaiser was paying a visit to the new sovereign of Austro-Hungary.

It was pointed out here today that the United States has not broken relations with Austria-Hungary and there have been hints that the American government was negotiating with Vienna hoping that Austria could not endorse the German policy of unlimited submarine warfare.

British officials think Austria, which has felt the pinch of hunger and of her war losses far more than Germany, has long been wavering.

BOY THOUGHT HE WAS FIGHTING GERMANS; SMASHED WINDOWS

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 13.—Lee's Summit, 12 miles southeast of here, looked today like it had been visited by a tornado. Six thousand dollars worth of plate glass windows had been shot into the work of Noah Adams, 23-year-old farmer boy, whose mind is said to have become unbalanced by war scares.

Shortly after midnight Adams borrowed a rifle and a horse. Convinced that he was fighting Germans, he drove along the sidewalk at Lee's Summit and punched in the windows with the butt and barrel of the rifle. Merchants known to him to be of German descent suffered most.

Six shots from rifles and revolvers were fired at Adams as he raced along the sidewalk punching in the windows. Finally the crazed boy was captured by his father and brought to Kansas City for examination as to his sanity.

Legislature Today

HOUSE.

After long parliamentary wrangle house votes to pay salaries of two attorneys who were engaged to draft bills and assist committees.

State division resolution reported without recommendation and sent to committee of the whole for future consideration.

Farm market bureau bills amended in committee of the whole and recommended for passage under suspension of the rules.

New bills introduced relating to county commissioners, city council and school district trustees entering into contracts, appropriating \$10,000 for establishment of hospitals for tuberculosis patients, creating office of state forester at salary of \$3000 per annum, amending school laws, authorizing state land board to investigate charges against violation grazing laws.

SENATE.

Killed by indefinite postponement long list of house jury and challenge bills or Nos. 44, 91, 85, 86, 81, 80, 120 and senate bill No. 52, requiring state audit of land department and making appropriation therefor.

Senate Elliott announces pump and automatic gun bill being held in senate pending disposal of administration fish and game bill now pending in house of representatives.

PROHIBITION IN ILLINOIS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 13.—The state prohibition bill passed the senate today by a vote of 31 to 18. It has not been voted on by the house.

CONGESTION OF FREIGHT IN THE RAILWAY YARDS GROWS SERIOUS

The Eastern Railroads Are Now Refusing to Accept Any Shipments for Export Because of German Submarine Embargo.

STEPS ARE TAKEN TO RELIEVE SITUATION

Orders Sent Out by Operating Departments of Western Roads to Reject Shipments for All Points East of Chicago.

Chicago, Feb. 13.—Refusal of eastern railroads to accept shipments, owing to the submarine embargo, is causing an almost unprecedented congestion of loaded freight cars in western terminals, according to officials on various western trunk lines.

Steps were being taken here today to relieve the situation here by adopting the measures taken by eastern roads. From the operating departments of several of the western roads went out orders to refuse shipments billed to destinations east of Chicago or the Atlantic seaboard, unless guarantees of storage facilities were presented.

EXPORT SHIPMENTS HELD.

In Chicago yards, according to officials of the Rock Island, there are more than 900 loaded cars consigned to the Atlantic seaboard from points on the Rock Island alone. Most of these contain grain for export. Eastern roads will not handle them until swift clearance is assured. At other Rock Island terminals are 700 additional cars.

That there are more than 10,000 cars tied-up in Chicago yards alone was the statement of Chicago, Burlington and Quincy officials. According to H. E. Byron, vice president, the C. B. & Q., alone has about 2000 cars on its hands. Many of these are from other roads, however.

A similar condition exists on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the Big Four. Officials of the Big Four stated that not a single western road was accepting shipments for the east except upon special orders and guarantees that the cars would be given clearance.

MANY CARS HELD.

More than 2000 cars loaded with lumber and cotton are being held in the Big Four yards, according to J. H. Porterfield, general superintendent of the Big Four. In addition to these 600 are held at Indianapolis and 400 at other Indiana and western Pennsylvania.

(Continued on Page Three.)

PROHIBITION IN ILLINOIS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 13.—The state prohibition bill passed the senate today by a vote of 31 to 18. It has not been voted on by the house.

MEXICO STILL A SOURCE OF WORRY TO GOVERNMENT

Feared the German-American Situation May Be Taken Advantage of by Both Villa and Carranza.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Mexican problems, though comparatively small beside the German-American situation, perplexed and worried officials here today.

Press reports that Villistas are camped below the border at Palomas, plus Carranza's anti-allied note, gave things a tinge that officials here disliked.

It appeared entirely likely that Villa might take advantage of our overshadowing international problems, to "start something" along the border.

AND CARRANZA, TOO.

General Carranza, either through German influence, or otherwise, has suggested cutting off supplies for the allies—which would include the British oil depots of Tampico.

Whether he will take action to back up his suggestions, no one here knows; but the possibility was sufficiently likely to prove a disturbing element.

CONSPIRACY BY THE PRESS IS CHARGED

Washington, Feb. 13.—A conspiracy of a section of the press of the United States to influence the American public opinion in favor of the allies, directed by J. P. Morgan & Co., munition makers and other big interests, was charged upon the floor of the house today by Representative J. H. Hampton Moore, of Pennsylvania.

RELIEF FROM COLD WAVE IN THE EAST

New York, Feb. 13.—Warmer weather today, with "fair and warmer," predicted for Wednesday, cheered things up slightly for New Yorkers. They experienced the coldest weather of the winter during the night when the mercury touched zero.

New York was a balmy resort, however, compared with up-state points, where temperatures as low as 54 below zero were recorded in spots.

East river is so full of ice today, following the continued cold that navigation by small vessels is impeded. The pack in the Hudson is farther south than it has been for years.

MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE ROBBERY OF STATE BANK

Windsboro, Ia., Feb. 13.—Directors of the Franklin State bank here today ordered a rigid investigation into the mysterious robbery of the institution last night. The robbery got \$30,000.

According to Samuel Hetherwick, vice president, the bandits entered while he was chatting with District Judge Hollstein, a friend. The robbers forced the two into the vault. Hetherwick and Hollstein made their exit from the value by taking the lock off. No one saw the robbers.

STOWAWAY, BELIEVED TO BE GERMAN AGENT, BEING HELD

San Francisco, Feb. 13.—George Kieft, believed to be a German agent, is held at the Angel Island immigration station today while United States secret service agents are investigating his activities. Kieft arrived from Manila on the transport ship Sheridan as a stowaway.

According to officers of the Sheridan, Kieft boarded the transport in the uniform of an American soldier. He was not discovered until the Sheridan was several days out. His trunk contained papers indicating he is a German agent.

(Continued on Page Two.)

UNITED STATES WILL BE READY FOR QUICK WORK IF WAR COMES

Plans for Mobilization of Men, Munitions, Labor, Capital and Transportation Mapped Out to the Minutest Detail.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF DEFENSE MEETS

Special Committees Appointed to Handle Various Angles of Work—Railroad Men Acting With the Government Officials.

Washington, Feb. 13.—The United States is rapidly preparing for war, if it comes.

Army men, railway heads, navy officials, heads of the biggest industrial plants in the world, the head of the American Federation of Labor and financial kings are co-operating. They have mapped out in almost complete detail plans for mobilization not only of men and munitions, but of labor, capital, transportation facilities and all things that would do to make for strength and power behind as well as "at the front."

COUNCIL OF DEFENSE.

Preparations for quick mobilization of Uncle Sam's military and industrial resources took definite shape today at a second meeting of the council of national defense, which was attended by Secretaries Baker, Daniels, Redfield and Wilson.

Brigadier General William Kuhn, military attaché in Germany at the outbreak of the great war, detailed at length the system by which Germany mobilized her men and materials.

E. S. Tettinus, of Morgan & Co., who has handled the details of all purchases in this country for the entente allies, will tell the council tomorrow of the best way for mobilizing supplies.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE WILL HANDLE THE VARIOUS ANGLES OF THE WORK.

The committee on labor will be headed by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

Transportation and communication will be put in charge of President Willard of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad.

Science and research, including engineering and educational problems, will be handled by Commissioner Godfrey of the council.

Bernard Baruch will be in charge of rounding up raw materials, minerals and metals.

MUNITIONS AND MANUFACTURES.

Munitions, manufactures and the work of standardizing industrial processes for war will be in charge of Howard E. Coffin, of Detroit, president of the Hudson Motor Car company.

The rounding up of supplies, including food, clothing, etc., will be in charge of...

(Continued on Page Two.)

WILSON SPENDS DAY IN SECLUSION AT WHITE HOUSE

Believed to Have Worked on Some Important Document and Speculation Is Rife as to Its Nature.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Belief that this government may be about to take another step bearing upon the international situation grew today when, after working in his study until after midnight, President Wilson gave up his usual morning golf game and spent his entire time in seclusion in his study.

No word was forthcoming from the White House as to what the president was working on. He excluded himself from all callers. The cabinet met this afternoon and it was held possible he might be preparing something for presenting to his advisors at that time.

SOME OF THE GUESSES.

Among the "guesses" as to what may be in the air, were:

A communication to Austria, with whom negotiations have been going on with for 10 days, following official report of the German U-boat decrees;

A possible communication to neutrals; or,

A possible address to congress regarding the arming of American merchant ships, resulting from Germany's declaration that she still holds to her original intention of sinking all ships in stipulated danger zones and that henceforth all neutrals traverse those zones at their own risk.

BULLETINS

ENGLAND MAY LAND TROOPS.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Great Britain is considering landing soldiers to protect her oil interests at Tampico, according to strong intimations in diplomatic circles this afternoon.

AUSTRIANS TO LEAVE.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Some members of families of officials attached to the Austro-Hungarian embassy have arranged to leave the United States with Ambassador von Bernstorff and his party. In some quarters these arrangements are regarded as significant in view of the indefinite state of relations with Austria-Hungary.

PERIOD OF GRACE ENDED.

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—All periods of grace for neutral ships entering the zone announced as prohibited by Germany have now expired, according to a Berlin official statement received here. The statement says immunity ceased in respect to the Atlantic and English channel zones on the night of Feb. 12, for the North sea zone on Feb. 6 and for the Mediterranean sea on Feb. 10.

SOCIALISTS CALLED TO COLORS.

London, Feb. 13.—A Reuter dispatch from Bern says the German authorities have suddenly called to the colors all officials of trade unions and socialist organizations. These officials, who aggregate 10,000 in number, had been previously exempt from military service.

STORMY SESSION BY THE WATER USERS

Caldwell, Feb. 13.—A stormy session of the Boise-Payette Water Users' association precipitated by efforts upon the part of W. L. Girard, secretary of the association for the past several years, but who was recently defeated for re-election by L. A. Magee, to declare invalid the recent election of G. H. Helm, the new president of the association, as a director of the board featured the regular monthly meeting of the board which was held in this city this afternoon. Girard whose opposition to Helm is believed to be due to his defeat for re-election as secretary, declared that Helm was not a land owner in the district.

The board, however, refused to consider the attack upon the qualifications of Helm, holding that it had no jurisdiction and the fight waged against the present organization was thereby terminated as abruptly as it originated.

The minutes of the last meeting written by former Secretary Girard, were termed incorrect by C. M. Rankins. The objections pertained to that portion of the minutes which stated that no provision had been made for the salary of Mr. Magee, the present secretary of the association by whom Girard was defeated. Director Rankins declared that he was the author of a resolution providing for the salary of Magee and that the minutes were reported incorrect.

By a motion which was adopted the minutes were ordered to be so corrected as to show that \$100 a month is to be paid Magee as a compensation for his services.

(Continued on Page Two.)

BIGGEST PRIZE OF SUBMARINE WAR TAKEN BY GERMAN U-BOAT

Twelve Thousand Ton Liner Torpedoed and Seventeen of the Members of Crew Are Reported to Be Missing.

STERN WARNING TO THE UNITED STATES

Berlin Announces That if American Ships Attempt to Break the Blockade Germany Will Not Be Responsible for Result.

London, Feb. 13.—(Bulletin)—"President Wilson wishes to make an attempt to break the German blockade. The American government must be responsible for what happens," says the Berlin Vossische Zeitung in commenting on the report that two American merchant vessels had left for the blockaded zone. The correspondent reports that the announcement of the vessels' departure caused a pronounced sensation in Berlin.

London, Feb. 13.—The White Star steamer Afric was sunk today by a German submarine. Seventeen of the crew were reported missing.

The Afric was a steel vessel of 11,999 tons, one of the biggest so far reported to have fallen victim to the German submarine warfare. She was the property of the White Star line and was registered at Liverpool.

The Afric was 550 feet in length with a beam of 63 feet.

AFRIC PROBABLY IN USE AS TRANSPORT

New York, Feb. 13.—Germany's biggest prize in the submarine warfare since Feb. 1, was recorded today when the 11,999 ton White Star liner Afric was sunk.

The biggest ship heretofore destroyed in the unbridled submarine warfare was the British steamer California, of 8662 tons; the port Adella, 8100 tons being third largest. Local officials of the White Star line said today the Afric was formerly in passenger service.

(Continued on Page Two.)

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Boise and vicinity, FAIR TONIGHT AND WEDNESDAY. Highest temperature yesterday, 35; lowest temperature this morning, 29; mean temperature yesterday, 32. Total precipitation for the 24 hours ending at 8 a. m., .02 of an inch.

Only two places reported below zero temperatures this morning—Buffalo, with —6, and Montreal, —12. At New York, Pittsburg and Boston the mercury was just at the zero mark while at Washington it was two degrees above. At isolated places in New York state, telegraphic reports say, the thermometer dropped to as much as 54 degrees below zero.

Fair weather is forecasted for all sections of Idaho for tonight and tomorrow.

STEAMER AFRIC, SISTER OF THE ADRIATIC, SUNK TODAY

