

For the Active Development of Idaho

The Newspaper That Goes Home

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No. 52.

PRESIDENT MAY ARM MERCHANT SHIPS WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

Understood Legal Authorities Have Advised That Executive Has the Power to Furnish Guns to Ship Owners.

FORMAL RULING ALL THAT IS AWAITED

Scores of Telegrams Received at the White House Urge That President Go Ahead—Senate Leaders Consider Cloture Rule.

Washington, March 6.—President Wilson probably will announce his decision today on arming American merchantmen.

There were strong intimations that the decision of his legal advisers will give him the power of furnishing guns to shipowners.

The president is represented as waiting only for such a formal ruling on his authority to act promptly and arm the ships and thereby establish a state of "armed neutrality" for the United States.

PRESIDENT URGED TO ACT.
Out of scores of telegrams received at the White House today from all parts of the country, it develops that an overwhelming majority suggest that the president go ahead with the course which a majority of congress approve.

Out of all the telegrams received today only one attempted to uphold the hands of the "little group of wilful men" in the senate who prevented a formal vote in favor of the armed neutrality measure.

CLOTURE RULE CONSIDERED.
If some reform of the ancient hide-bound rules of the senate can be obtained, the president will undoubtedly call an extra session and try to put over the armed neutrality measure.

But there is grave doubt that the senate rules can be reformed. At any rate, the senate cloture fight promises to be spectacular.

Senator Owen, now engineering the move, claims 32 senators will support a rule he plans to introduce. But some senators have said that they are unyieldingly opposed to a change.

Such men, under the very unlimited debate rules the president seeks to amend, could check the revision plan. President Wilson, however, hopes public sentiment will force the senate into line.

FOR MODIFIED PLAN.
Perhaps, if a broad cloture plan cannot be wrung from the senate, some modified cloture can be forced where by bills touching upon a national emergency cannot be talked to death.

The Democrats planned to caucus today. Some of the southerners particularly are strong against the cloture plan for fear a "force bill" might be used against them later—that Republicans might pass a measure providing use of federal troops at southern baling places. The single weapon against this measure, touching the black and white question, has been in past times a filibuster.

LIVES OF CHICAGO MEN THREATENED IN NUMBER OF LETTERS

Chicago, March 6.—Threatening letters, received within the last few days by J. Ogden Armour, Nelson Morris, Mackey, and Joseph P. Griffin, president of the board of trade, today were occupying the attention of federal authorities and the local police.

The motive for the threats, federal officials believe, lies in indignation at the high cost of living. Guards are reported to have been watching the homes of the three men for several days.

Federal officials are not taking the threats seriously, however, believing that they came from fanatics or practical jokesters.

PLOT TO KILL THE BRITISH PREMIER GIVEN AN AIRING

"Poison Quartet" Arraigned to Answer Charge of Conspiracy to Murder Lloyd George.

London, March 6.—All the elements of a Sherlock Holmes detective story were presented today when the crown called to the bar the famous "poison plot" quartet to answer to the charge of conspiring to murder Premier Lloyd George and Minister Arthur Henderson. The four were Mrs. Mary Wheelton, Miss Harriet Wheelton and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mason. They were arraigned before Justice Low in Old Bailey.

First of the surprises in the case came when a dark-skinned man, S. H. Riza, arose in court and entered his appearance as counsel for the defendants. For the crown, Attorney General Sir F. E. Smith was in charge of an array of counsel.

DEFENDANTS DENOUNCED.
Attorney General Smith, opening the crown's case, bitterly denounced the four defendants as "a desperate and dangerous group, bitterly hostile to the country, and one which had done its best to injure the British in the present crisis."

Inspector Herbert Booth, of Scotland Yard, one of the secret agents who succeeded in establishing himself as a confidant of the Wheeltons, was the first witness on behalf of the crown. He told the whole amazing story of the poison plot and the conspirators' bitterness against the government officials they had marked out for slaughter.

HOUSE AT WEISER DESTROYED BY FIRE

(Capital News Special Service.)
Weiser, March 6.—Fire at 10 o'clock last night totally destroyed a large nine-room house in East Weiser belonging to E. A. Clark, a former Caldwell banker. Two families lived in the house, those of Charles Sandy and Howard Smith. They lost almost everything, including \$75 in currency. There was no insurance except \$500 on Sandy's household goods. No one was at home when the fire broke out. Clark's loss is \$3000.

DROPPED TO DEATH TO ESCAPE FIRE IN HIS ROOM IN HOTEL

Detroit, Mich., March 6.—After clinging for five minutes to the window ledge of his room on the seventh floor of the Hotel Tuller here, E. D. Voorhees, Jr., a salesman, dropped to his death to the roof of one of the hotel dining rooms six stories below.

While he clung to the ledge with death grip, a dozen guests and employees of the hotel leaned from windows in the court, watching.

Voorhees was known as one of the highest salaried salesmen in Detroit. The fire and smoke drove some 400 of the Tuller's guests from their rooms, but only nominal damage was done.

NO ADAMSON LAW DECISION. WASHINGTON, MARCH 6.—The supreme court failed to give a decision in the Adamson eight-hour case today. Prominent railway attorneys had crowded the courtroom to hear the opinion.

Legislature Today

HOUSE.
While members clapped and otherwise demonstrated their joy, the house adopted by unanimous vote a concurrent resolution setting midnight March 8 as the date and hour on which the Fourteenth Idaho legislature shall adjourn sine die.

Passed workmen's compensation act introduced in senate, as amended and transmitted it to senate. House action will result in conference committee being appointed to endeavor to reach an agreement on compensation act.

Passed general county enabling act, by Peckham, and house bill No. 353, appropriating \$28,642.26 for the relief of A. S. Whiteway for construction of Warren's Big Creek wagon road. Killed bill to increase salaries of public utilities commissioners and proposed constitutional amendment to cut down juries.

SENATE.
Passed Hill bill creating two congressional districts in state of Idaho, the first composed of north Idaho territory, and the second composed of south Idaho territory.

Defeated Hawley county division bill by one vote and house bill No. 222 strengthening law governing the adoption of children from homes conducted by Children's Home Finding and Aid society.

Passed Anderson bill providing for investigation of water resources of state, and Shearer measure relating to spraying of orchards.

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS FOR THE FIXING OF FOOD PRICES

Fifty-five Individuals and 108 Corporations Accused by United States Jury in New York of Arbitrary Action.

COMBINATIONS OF PRODUCERS ALLEGED

Selling Agencies Charged With Arbitrarily Fixing Prices on Coal—Conspiracy Covering Period of Past Three Years Alleged.

New York, March 6.—Two indictments handed down by the federal grand jury, which has been probing food and coal price fixing, name 55 individual defendants and 108 corporations, Special Assistant Attorney General Swacker announced this afternoon.

Combination among the selling agents and producers of 22,000,000 tons of coal, out of the \$5,000,000 produced annually in the Pocahontas and New River districts of Virginia, to arbitrarily fix prices is charged.

THE FIRST RETURNS.
The indictments are the big returns from the country-wide food and coal price investigation, directed by George W. Anderson, who was appointed a special assistant by Attorney General Gregory when the president ordered the probe.

The first of the two indictments charges conspiracy to fix prices over a period of three years; the second charges 16 corporations and 10 individuals with price fixing and pooling the proceeds of their sales, in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Under the alleged agreements the price was jumped from \$1.25 a ton to \$3 at the mines, Swacker charges.

LIST OF INDICTMENTS.
The officials and corporations charged with price fixing and pooling receipts follow:
William Beury, president, and William J. Beury, secretary, treasurer and manager of Algoma Coal & Coke company.

W. C. Stephenson, president, and R. H. Poff, secretary of Buckeye Coal & Coke company.

Worth Kilpatrick, president, and J. A. Armstrong, secretary and treasurer of United Pocahontas Coal company.

William M. Lewis, president, Samuel W. Patterson, vice president and general manager of Bottom Creek Coal & Coke company.

James A. McQuail, secretary and treasurer, and Edward V. McQuail, vice president and general manager of Turkey Gap Coal & Coke company.

W. J. Richards, president of Ashland Coal & Coke company.

William A. Phillips, secretary and general manager of Ashland Coal & Coke company and president of Pemberton Coal & Coke company.

M. K. Watkins, secretary and treasurer of Pemberton Coal & Coke company.

Horace L. Haldeman, president of Pulaski Iron company and A. Vought, secretary of E. E. White Coal company.

CALLS MEMBERS OF SENATE TRAITORS
New York, March 6.—Denouncing as traitors the "little group of wilful men" in the United States senate who filibustered the president's armed neutrality bill out of existence, Colonel Joseph P. Colt, chairman of the board of trustees of the American Defense society, today issued the following statement:

"These senators are unworthy Americans and unfit to represent American citizens. There is no place in our social life for such men. They simply do not belong.

"Perhaps their treacherous conduct is a blessing in disguise. It will be if it opens the eyes of their constituents to their true, or rather untrue, Americanism.

"They belong in Mexico or Germany. If they were on the payroll of the Kaiser, their conduct could not suit him better."

SENATOR MARTIN NAMED AS FLOOR LEADER IN SENATE

Democrats of Upper House Unable to Reach the Cloture Rule Question During Morning Caucus.

Washington, March 6.—Senator Thomas S. Martin, Virginia, succeeds ex-Senator Kefauver, Indiana, as Democratic floor leader.

Martin was chosen chairman of the Democratic caucus that met today. The position carries the floor leadership.

Senator King, Utah, was elected secretary of the senate.

After two hours of caucusing, senate Democrats were unable to reach the cloture question at noon and the caucus adjourned. The matter will come up when the Democrats meet after senate adjourns today.

Selection of a president pro tempore of the senate to succeed Senator Sausbury was under way when the recess was ordered.

THOUSANDS FORCED TO ABANDON HOMES BECAUSE OF FLOODS

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 6.—Four thousand persons were forced to abandon their homes here last night when the dangerously rising waters of the Tennessee river burst bounds and inundated large sections of the city.

Officials said today there is little hope of the high waters receding until Thursday. They said instead they fear the rise will continue.

School houses have been turned over to refugees and every effort is being made to care for the flood sufferers without calling in outside help.

WOMAN OBJECTS TO USE OF HER PICTURE IN A BATHING SUIT

New York, March 6.—When Mrs. Anna York, clad in a bathing suit, braced bare feet on a door, grabbed a rope in one hand and raised behind a motor boat she made a lovely picture—a \$50,000 picture. It developed today she has sued the Anasco company, charging the picture was used for trade without her consent.

The company, in court today, will endeavor to prove that the bathing suit may have been hers, and the figure, but another head was used in their "ad."

STEAMER POUNDED ALMOST TO PIECES BY A RAGING GALE

Mobile, Ala., March 6.—Her fires extinguished by mountainous seas, the steamer Druid, Pensacola to Havana, is wallowing helplessly in a raging gale 70 miles off Pensacola, a radio from the cruiser Columbia said today.

The pounding seas have ripped wide the Druid's seams and she is leaking badly so she will be abandoned tonight unless help arrives soon.

The tug Nellie has been rushed to the Druid. The Columbia wireless says she is speeding with all steam up to the scene.

The Druid carried sulphate ammonia.

MUST STOP SENDING BREAD TO BELGIUM

London, March 6.—After Saturday, Holland will be compelled to prohibit the export of bread to Belgium, on account of the German submarine warfare, according to announcement made here today from Dutch sources.

ADVANCE IN FLOUR.

Minneapolis, March 6.—Flour registered an advance of 30 cents a hundred pounds today following gradual advances in wheat amounting to 12 cents in a fortnight.

SUPREME COURT CONVENES.

Washington, March 6.—The supreme court convened today after several weeks' recess. The Adamson eight-hour law is one of the big cases in which a decision is expected.

VIRGINIA FILES REPLY.

Washington, March 6.—Attorney General E. T. England of West Virginia, today filed in the supreme court, the state's reply to Virginia's petition for a writ of mandamus to compel payment of \$13,000,000, West Virginia's share of the Virginia state debt when the states separated.

LITTLE GROUP OF WILFUL MEN TRY TO EXPLAIN THEIR ACTION

Time of the Special Session of Senate Taken Up in Discussion of Filibuster on the Armed Neutrality Bill.

MANY DENY TAKING PART IN THE MOVE

Claim They Merely Insisted on Their Constitutional Right to Discuss Any Question That Comes Before the Senate.

Washington, March 6.—Sofe of the "little group of wilful men" who prevented 77 United States senators from voting President Wilson the power he asked to protect American lives and property at sea, took up most of the first hour and thirty minutes of the senate's time when it convened today.

Those who spoke today denied they participated in a filibuster.

They said they "merely insisted on their constitutional right to discuss any question before the senate."

THOSE WHO DID NOT SIGN.
Those who did not sign the round robin circulated to show the senate overwhelmingly favored giving the president the power he asked, are: Republicans—Clapp, Minnesota; Cummins, Iowa; Gronna, North Dakota; Kenyon, Iowa; LaFollette, Wisconsin; Norris, Nebraska; Works, California.

Democrats—Stone, Missouri; Kirby, Arkansas; Lane, Oregon; O'Gorman, New York; Vardaman, Mississippi.

ELEVEN MENTIONED.
The president, in referring to them as the "little group of wilful men," mentioned "eleven." He either intentionally or otherwise did not count Stone among the number.

Senator Vardaman, Mississippi, Democrat, was the first to take the floor to express his opinion.

"True, I was among those who have become famous as the 'wilful men,'" said Vardaman, "but I did not take part in the filibuster as charged. I am not displeased with the characters of the other 'wilful men' nor am I displeased that the bill failed to pass."

Vardaman promised to co-operate with the majority to bring about a change of the rules so that the will of the senate may be made known at all times.

KENYON WOULD HAVE SIGNED.
Senator Kenyon, Republican, was next to deny he took any part in the filibuster.

"I would have signed the round robin," he said, "had it been amended somewhat."

Jones told the United Press he saw no reason for replying to the criticisms of the president.

KIRBY WROUGHT UP.
Senator Kirby was greatly wrought up at having been placed in the "wilful men" class.

"I did not filibuster," Kirby told the United Press. "I only spoke 10 minutes on the bill. I opposed the bill and would not have voted for it but I did not filibuster."

Kirby favored a cloture rule as a means of preventing future filibusters and permitting the "majority opinion of the senate to be made known."

LANE FAVORS NEW RULE.
Lane favored a "limited cloture," but declined to discuss the president's criticism.

"I was against the bill," said Lane, "and would have voted against it unless it had been amended considerably."

LaFollette, who led the filibuster, refused to discuss the bill, the president's statement or the proposed cloture rule. It is generally understood, however, that LaFollette is merely waiting an opportunity to completely express his opinion of the entire situation, including the president's statement.

EXPRESS LOYALTY TO THE PRESIDENT

Madison, Wis., March 6.—A telegram expressing unwavering loyalty to the president and urging him to omit no steps to protect American lives at sea was today sent to the White House over the signatures of 80 per cent of the University of Wisconsin faculty. Senator Robert M. LaFollette is a citizen of Madison and a graduate of Wisconsin university.

WORKMEN'S LAWS IN THREE STATES UPHELD BY COURT

Many Acts Affected by the Decision Concerning Liability for Employer on Interstate Roads.

Washington, March 6.—Declaring valid the New York state workmen's compensation act, the supreme court held today that railroad employees in interstate commerce may recover damages for personal injuries under its provisions. Many similar state laws are affected by the opinion.

IOWA LAW SUSTAINED.
Washington, March 6.—Iowa's workmen's compensation law was today declared constitutional by the supreme court in the case of J. C. Hawkins, Newton, Ia., manufacturer of paper clips, against John L. Bleakley, Iowa state auditor, and Warren Garst, state industrial commissioner.

WASHINGTON'S ACT VALID.
Washington, March 6.—The workmen's compensation industrial insurance law of the state of Washington, was today declared constitutional by the supreme court in a test suit of the Mountain Timber company.

EIGHT LIVES LOST IN HOTEL FIRE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver, B. C., March 6.—Eight lives were lost this morning when the Coquahalla hotel at Hope, B. C., 80 miles east of Vancouver, burned. The building was an old frame structure. There were 30 persons in the hotel and 23 escaped in their night clothes, some being forced to leap from upper stories.

The known dead are: TOM WILSON, Dominion government fruit inspector of Vancouver. BERT READ, a miner. WILLIAM McKEEVER, a miner. ROBERT CAMPBELL, a miner. THOMAS TAYLOR, lumberman of Vancouver.

TOM KEHOE, lumberman of Vancouver. The hotel is a total loss and was not insured.

MUST STAND TRIAL FOR ALLEGED PLOT TO DESTROY BRIDGE

Washington, March 6.—Warner Home, German army officer, charged with responsibility for a plot to blow up the Canadian Pacific railroad bridge crossing the Canadian border at Vanceboro, Maine, must stand trial on charges of illegally transporting explosives from New York through Boston to Vanceboro, the supreme court held today, dismissing Home's appeal.

ARMED NEUTRALITY BILL INTRODUCED IN SENATE BY LODGE

Washington, March 6.—Senator Lodge, Republican, this afternoon introduced an armed neutrality bill in the senate. Senator Owen moved that the introduction of the bill was not in order.

Owen held that the senate foreign relations committee, to which the bill was referred, had died with the Sixty-fourth congress Sunday.

Vice President Marshall, in the chair, sustained Senator Owen.

Senator Thomas then declared that inasmuch as congress was not in session, Senator Lodge's bill was not in order. The chair sustained Thomas.

The Lodge bill is identical to the same one defeated by the 12 "wilful men" Sunday.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC CASE IS LEFT OPEN

Washington, March 6.—The interstate commerce commission today announced it would hold over for 60 days its decision in the case of the Southern Pacific railroad, in which the railroad company asked to be allowed to operate its Atlantic steamship line between New York, Galveston and New Orleans as a competing company. The Panama canal act prohibits two companies under the same ownership from operating but the railroad company holds in this case competition is to the public interest.

BRITISH STEAMER APPAM AWARDED TO ORIGINAL OWNERS

Washington, March 6.—Lieutenant Hans Berg's heroic trip across the Atlantic with the British steamer Appam, captured by the German raider Moeve, proved futile today when the supreme court awarded the vessel to her British owners.

Justice Day, reading the opinion, said the Appam's use of a United States port in the circumstances—when she could have touched at an European neutral port and saved 3000 miles of its journey was a clear violation of neutral rights of the United States.

WAY LEFT OPEN BY AUSTRIA FOR A CONTINUANCE OF RELATIONS

Refuses to Give Up Right to Sink "Enemy Merchantmen" but Does Not Include Neutral Ships in Her Specifications.

NO ACTION UNLESS THERE IS OVERT ACT

American Government Expected to Continue on Friendly Terms With the Dual Monarchy for the Present at Least.

Washington, March 6.—Austria cannot give up her right to sink "enemy merchantmen," she declares in her reply to the American aide memoire received at the state department.

Austria does not, however, include neutral merchant ships under this right. Hence, authorities are inclined to feel that she has stretched a point in order to meet the American effort to avoid a break.

The government, upon first reading of the reply, was inclined to wait for Austria. Her words, officials said, indicated a desire on Austria's part to avoid a break with the United States, even though she supports the "theory" of Germany's unlimited submarine warfare.

More significant still is the fact that Austria apparently has no submarines of her own wherewith to carry out even her threat against enemy merchantmen.

Authorities feel that in view of Austria's effort to prevent a break, it would be advisable at this time to await developments to see if she carries out submarine warfare against vessels other than enemy merchantmen.

The government is not inclined to break over indorsement of a "theory." Austria's reply is far less conclusive than her original note sent shortly after Germany's barred some decrees, and in which she upheld strongly the German intentions.

TENDS TO GIVE CONCESSIONS.
The reply is the most lengthy diplomatic note received at the state department in a long time. It covers about 20 typewritten pages.

Officials who had made a brief study of it this forenoon all agreed that it tended to give concessions to the American position and all felt it would serve to avert a break.

FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM OF SEAS.
Austria-Hungary Approves Course of Germany in Formal Answer to the Request of United States.

Amsterdam, March 6.—Austria-Hungary supports the theory of unrestricted submarine warfare. Approval of Germany's course was reiterated by the Viennese government in a note handed American Ambassador Penfield today, according to dispatches here. The note was in formal answer to America's request, through Penfield, for an explanation whether Austria-Hungary's pledges in the Ancona and Peraia submarineings still held, or whether she, like Germany, supported the unlimited use of submarines.

A summary of the note received here asserts that while Austria supports the essential beliefs of the American government as to protection to be afforded to neutral shipping.

(Continued on Page Two.)

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Boise and vicinity, FAIR TONIGHT AND WEDNESDAY. Highest temperature yesterday, 40; lowest temperature this morning, 30; mean temperature yesterday, 34. Total precipitation for the 24 hours ending at 6 a. m., .02 of an inch.

The thermometer is lower today in the Atlantic states but has risen rapidly in the northern plains states and in Canada. There are no below zero temperatures reported, the lowest being six degrees above at Buffalo. The mercury is slightly higher in the southern states.