TODAY'S PRICES
Mexican bank notes, state bills, 9@17c; pesos, 58c; Mexican gold, 58c; centavos, 18½c; bar silver, 81 c. N. Y. quotations, 76½c; copper, $21.50@21.75; grains higher, livestock steady, stocks active.

EL PASO HERALD

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOME EDITION
WEATHER FORECAST
El Paso and west Texas, fair. New Mexico, fair. Arizona, fair, colder.

LATEST NEWS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS. DELIVERED ANYWHERE 60c A MONTH. EL PASO, TEXAS, SATURDAY EVENING, MARCH 10, 1917. SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS. 28 PAGES, 3 SECTIONS, TODAY.

U. S. NEAR WAR; WILL FIGHT U-BOATS

Urges Fire Test In Premier Death Plot

LET WOMEN WALK UPON HOT IRON

Counsel For 4 Defendants Proposes To the Court a Trial By Ordeal.

JUDGE AMAZED BY SUGGESTION

Defence Insists On Innocence Of The Alleged Plotters Against Lloyd George.

LONDON, Eng., March 10.—In an eloquent and vigorous speech today in summing up the case of the four prisoners on trial charged with conspiring to murder premier Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson, member of the war council, S. H. Riza, the Mohammedan lawyer who is acting as attorney for the defendants, startled the court room by suggesting a trial by ordeal. He referred to the medieval form of judicial trial in which, in place of evidence, supernatural aid is invoked, as in a test by fire, water, poison or other agencies.

Attorney Riza had been endeavoring to impress the jury with the alleged sinister significance of the failure of the crown to produce a certain witness against the four defendants, Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, her two daughters, and Alfred George Mason, husband of one of the daughters. This person, he said, was a "man who should have been its principal witness, namely, the mysterious secret government agent known as Gordon."

Calls Gordon Police Spy.

The attorney said Gordon was a police spy who had started the whole plot, who had lured the defendants on and then, when he had placed them well within his net, had handed them over to another agent named Booth so that his own connection with the case would not be so flagrantly apparent.

Suggests Different Arrangements.

"Why wasn't it possible for Gordon to come into court and face the jury?" asked the lawyer. "Because from him," he continued, "the jury would have drawn a very different version of the case. The case rests wholly on the evidence of Booth, who, moreover, was allowed to read the whole of his evidence. In the absence of this mysterious Gordon, this trial is not a trial.

"Before the jury commits the defendants it should insist on the production of Gordon in the interests of the public and the safety of the country."

Would Walk Over Hot Irons.

Then after a long and impressive pause attorney Riza suddenly said:

"In the absence of Gordon, I would suggest tha the defendants should have a trial by ordeal."

The judge was puzzled and and said: "I fear that would be impossible. It has been abolished. Do you seriously suggest the women should walk over hot plowshares in order to prove their innocence?"

Riza: "I do."

The judge: "It is no use submitting such a suggestion. You are not serious."

Riza: "I do seriously suggest it."

Planned to Use Poison.

The defendants are alleged to have planned to kill the national leaders with poison. One idea was to drive poison tipped nails into their shoes. Another was to shoot at them from ambush with poisoned arrows. The defendants yesterday admitted having used a secret code but said it was merely in furtherance of plans for getting conscientious objectors to military service out of the country.

Mrs. Wheeldon admitted on the witness stand having expressed the wish the premier were dead, but denied she had planned to kill him. Miss Alice Wheeldon testified yesterday she had said Lloyd George might soon be with the Almighty, but said she referred to the perils of a trip he was to make to Rome.

ALBANIA TO BE GIVEN FREEDOM

Autonomy Extended By Austria-Hungary; Levy of Men is Expected.

London, Eng., March 10.—Official announcement was made here today that Austria-Hungary has issued a proclamation to the Albinians stating that it has granted autonomy to Albania under its protectorate. Influential Albanians have published from Saloniki, the statement says, a protest saying the Austrian measure is useless because it is directed toward a country which, already independent, has declared war on the enemies of the entente.

The purpose of the Vienna government in issuing this proclamation, the statement adds, obviously is to justify the levy of men for its armies.

After the occupation of Servia and Montenegro by troops of the central powers, all of Albania was taken over with the exception of the section in the south below Avlona which is still held by the Italians. Essad Pasha, provisional president of Albania, served with the Turkish army early in the war but later left it and declared war on the central powers.

8 GERMAN OFFICERS SENTENCED

DECLARES I. W. W. BEGAN FIGHTING

Witness Tells of Wounding of Sheriff and Deputy in Everett Battle.

Seattle, Wash., March 10.—Harry W Shaw, a fuel dealer, who was a member of the sheriff's posse at Everett, Wash., last November 5, when a pistol battle occurred between the posse and a "free speech" expedition sent there by the Seattle headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World, testified on cross examination at the resumption here today of the trial of Thomas H. Tracy, one of the alleged leaders of the expedition, who is specifically accused of the murder of deputy sheriff Jefferson Beard.

Two of the posse and five of the expedition were killed. Tracy and 73 other alleged members of the expedition were arrested on the charge of murder and he was the first to be placed on trial.

Says I. W. W. Began It.

Shaw yesterday testified that the sheriff, having learned of the intended invasion by the 200 "free speech" advocates aboard the steamer Verona assembled his posse of about 160 citizens on the wharf, that when the vessel tied to the dock and as the sheriff was warning those aboard they would not be permitted to land, a volley of shots was fired by the men on the boat.

The sheriff was wounded, but drew hisrevolver and returned the fire and his example was followed by others of the posse, the witness said. While the fight was in progress Shaw assisted Beard, who had been shot in the chest, to a hospital, where he died.

GOVERNOR SIGNS MANY MEASURES

One Joint Resolution and One Concurrent Resolution Also Are Signed.

Austin, Texas, March 10.—Governor Ferguson today signed 22 bills, one joint resolution and one concurrent resolution, the great bulk in bills, however, being of a local nature.

The house joint resolution signed is one proposing an amendment to the constitution providing for the taking of depositions by the state, of out of state witnesses in prosecutions for violation of the anti-trust laws of the state.

The general bills signed are: House bill increasing the pay of jail guards; house bill increasing the salaries of the members of the state fire insurance commission and giving the fire marshal additional authority house bill providing a closed season of 25 years on antelope; house bill prohibiting the killing of bats; senate bill repealing the incount witness fee bill.

Ask For Nearly $20,000,000.

Appropriations asked for the support and maintenance of the state government for the next two fiscal years has reached the stupendous sum of of $19,118,216 which is an increase of $6,259,706 over the amount appropriated by the 34th legislature for the past two fiscal years, according to figures compiled by E. V. Nichols, secretary to senator Hudspeth, chairman of the senate finance committee. This does not include a large number of special appropriations not enumerated in the four appropriation bills.

REDISTRICTING BILL PASSES BOTH HOUSES

A telegram received at the city hall from representative R. E. Thomason states that the congressional redistricting bill has finally passed both houses. Acording to the telegram Blanton county has been taken off the El Paso district, while Val Verde county and three other counties have been added.

Centenarian Chews and Smokes; Also Drinks and Still Lives Happily On

Chicago Ill., March 10.—Dr. Herman Berry celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday. Until 14 years ago he practiced medicine. He was born in New York, where his grandfather lived to be 103 years old, his father 100 and his mother 97.

The doctor said he had chewed tobacco and smoked since boyhood and had used liquor for the greater part of his life.

STEEL PRICES ADVANCED; U. S. ORDERS ARE FAVORED

Pittsburg, Pa., March 10.—Compilation today of the advances in the price of finished steel as announced by Pittsburg mills, the past few days shows the following increases: Merchant bars, $7 a ton to $3.33 per 100 pounds. Structural shapes, $2 to $2.60 per 100 pounds, and plates, $15 to $4.40 per 100 pounds.

Light rails were advanced $5 a ton. The market authorities declare, is sold to the limit with the exception, of course, of government requirements. Such orders take precedence over all others.

UNIVERSITY CLUB WILL RESUME TUESDAY LUNCHEONS

The Tuesday luncheons of the University club will be resumed next week at the University Club grillroom, it was decided Friday night at a meeting of the board of directors of the club. The Tuesday luncheons were held during the time the club had its rooms in Hotel Paso del Norte and proved a popular feature of the club.

PACIFISTS ARE AGAIN ACTIVE

Peace Federation Begins Campaign to Keep United States Out of War.

New York, March 10.—The Emergency Peace Federation began an organized campaign today to keep the United States out of war with Germany. Prominent pacifists have been summoned here to direct the movement. More than $4000 has been raised to meet the costs.

The money was subscribed last night at a mass meeting. Mrs. J. Sergeant Cram headed the list with $1000. Resolutions were adopted declaring the country could not allow itself to be drawn into the war nor enter upon relations of "veiled hostility likely to lead to war."

The resolutions advocated the appointment of a "joint high commissioner" to endeavor to settle the questions at issue between this country and Germany and urged president Wilson to summon all the great powers to discuss plans for peace.

Bryan's Voice Is Heard.

A message from Wm. J. Bryan, read at the meeting, stated Mr. Bryan's opinion that "an overwhelming majority" of the American people favors keeping Americans off belligerent ships and would exclude arms or ammunition from all American and neutral ships carrying passengers between the United States and Europe. Mr. Bryan said he did not believe the government should arm vessels carrying munitions.

POE IN LETTER HITS GOVERNOR

Former Temple Banker Testifies at Investigation; Deeds of Trust Read.

Austin, Texas, March 10.—Sensational developments crowded one upon the other at the morning session of the investigation into the affairs of Gov. Ferguson and the Temple State bank. With H. C. Poe on stand, a letter he wrote to Ferguson in which he called him an "damnably cowardly cur," was read. In the letter he asks the governor if he "is man or any part of man," and again if "you have one speck of manhood left in your hide." He tells the governor in the letter that he is not afraid of him at any time or place, or under any conditions and that his "rough neck bluffer methods will not scare me one bit." He also tells the governor that he is not afraid of him because he is governor. He concludes the letter by calling attention to the fact that he is "placing this in writing" and is "not afraid to sign it."

This letter was written by Poe said, because Poe discovered that Ferguson had written to Spitzer and company, of Toledo, Ohio, a letter of inquiry with reference to Poe which, Poe considered an attack upon his personal reputation.

Poe Tells of Governor's Notes.

Poe testified that at one time the governor's indebtedness to the bank reached practically $170,000 and he notified the governor that he would be compelled to put a stop to it. He also declared that the governor's notes were not adequately secured and that he did not regard them as good, though under questioning he admitted that he had sworn the notes were good and collectible in making a bank statement. Poe succeeded governor Ferguson as president of the bank upon the governor's inauguration.

"Do you know that the governor has since paid off his indebtedness?" asked the attorney representing governor Ferguson.

"He may have, I can't say," replied Mr. Poe.

In this same letter Poe warned the governor that he knew of two other such letters to reserve city banks.

Reports of Bank Examiner Read.

Reports of bank examiner Eli Marks on the condition of the Temple State bank during various periods of 1916 were read in the reports. The examiner says the law is being violated by the excessive Ferguson loans and that he had ordered them reduced as early as possible. He called the condition "very serious and one demanding immediate attention."

Deeds to Trust Read.

Deeds of trust were read to show that the governor mortgaged the Bosque county ranch and other property near Sparks, Tex., twice and that in each instance the Temple State bank had the first mortgage made but recorded it after the other mortgage holder had recorded his, so that the Temple bank became a second mortgage holder.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP WITH AMERICAN ON BOARD, SUNK

London, Eng., March 10.—Official information was received here today to the effect that the Norwegian steamer Storstad, a Belgian relief ship, which had one American citizen on board, had been sunk by a submarine.

GOV. JOHNSON DENIES HE WILL RESIGN SENATORSHIP

Sacramento, Cal., March 10.—Gov. Hiram W. Johnson will announce next Monday how long he will continue in the governorship, in view of his position as United States senator-elect.

Reports that he would resign the senatorship were pronounced untrue.

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ARE CONVICTED OF SINKING LIEBENFELS

Sinking Ship In Charleston Harbor Is Violation Of Navigation Laws.

ARE ACQUITTED OF CONSPIRACY

Year in Atlanta Prison and Fine of $500 Is Sentence Which Is Imposed.

FLORENCE, S. C., March 10.—Eight officers of the steamship Liebenfels, sunk in Charleston harbor the night of January 31 last, were today sentenced to a year in the Atlanta federal prison and to pay a fine of $500 each. They were convicted of sinking a vessel in a navigable stream in violation of the navigation laws.

They were acquitted however, on one count charging conspiracy to sink the steamer.

Is Menace to Ships.

The Liebenfels was observed to be sinking in port almost simultaneously with the break in relations netween Germany and the United States. Officers declined assistance in keeping her afloat. It was manifest the ship had been scuttled. She now rests in about 30 feet of water, only partly submerged and a menace to navigation in the harbor.

Sinking Had Been Ordered.

It became known that the scuttling of the Liebenfels and the disabling of other German ships in American ports was done on orders from Germany, transmitted through ambassador von Bernstorff at Washington.

Counsel for the defence in the Liebenfels case maintained the crew of the Liebenfels should not be held responsible for the act, inasmuch as it had been committed on orders from higher authority. For this reason the men were acquitted on the charge of conspiracy.

BERNSTORFF AND HIS PARTY ARE NOW AT CHRISTIANIA

London, Eng., March 10.—Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador at Washington, arrived at Christiana, Norway, this morning, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen.

Big Hotel For Girls In New York Planned; Courting Is Favored

New York, March 10.—Plans for the erection of an apartment hotel in the heart of New York's shopping district where unmarried working women may rent rooms for $4 a week were announced today. The structure will be 12 stories high and will contain 400 rooms.

Provision for the hotel was made in the will of Charles Bertram Webster, for many years head of a department store in this city, who set apart $1,325,600 for that purpose.

All the directors of the hotel believe that marriage is the ultimate goal of all single women and it is their intention "to give all the young women who live in this hotel an opportunity to be courted."

MEXICANS TO VOTE ON SUNDAY: PRIETO CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY

National elections to select a president and national congress for Mexico will be held Sunday in Ciudad Juarez, at the same time that the elections are being held in every other city in Mexico. Venustiano Carranza is the only candidate for the presidency and Manuel M. Prieto, former mayor of Juarez, is the candidate from Juarez, for election to the house of deputies from the Juarez district. Prieto was the delegate from Juarez to the constitutionalist convention held recently at Queretaro.

The gubernatorial election in Chihuahua will be held in a few weeks and a proclamation calling for the election will be issued shortly by governor Gonzalez, at Chihuahua.

SIGNS NEW COURT BILL; APPOINTS CORNELL JUDGE

Austin, Texas, March 10.—The governor today signed the bill creating the 83d judicial district, to be composed of the counties of Crockett, Edwards, Sutton, Reagan, Upton and Pecos.

The governor has appointed James Cornell of Sutton county, to be the judge of this court.

CAN'T USE FEDERAL BUILDING FOR LOCATION OF SCAFFOLD

Washington, D. C., March 10.—Treasury department officials today declined to permit the custodian of public buildings at Spokane to use the roof of the federal building there as a location for a scaffold for the execution of Edward Mayberry, sentenced to die March 26, by the federal court. Capital punishment being forbidden in Washington, a federal reservation is the only place where the man could be executed.

CONFERENCE OF SOCIALISTS HAS BEEN ABANDONED.

Paris France, March 10.—The conference of Socialists of the allied countries, which was to have taken place in Paris from March 15 to 18 has been abandoned. The administrative committee of the French Socialist party who originated the idea of the conference has given up the plan as the result of the refusal of the British labor party and a great part of the Russian and Italian Socialists to participate.

CLAIMS GERMANS KILL CHILDREN

Put Infants to Death Rather Than See Them Starve, Says Deputy in Diet.

The Hague, Holland, March 10.—Germans are killing their children rather than let them starve to death and the number of suicides is steadily increasing, according to a sensational speech made by the Socialist deputy, herr Hofer, during the food debate in the Prussian diet, as reported by the Berlin Vorwaerts.

The Vorwaerts quotes herr Hofer as saying:

Hints at Revolution.

"The government vacillates between fear of the agrarians and fear of the masses like a reed in the wind. If you insist on carrying on war you must see that the people are adequately fed. Does it not suffice for the government to incur the hatred of the whole world or do they also want revolution at home? The people have been fed on fine words long enough. We demand deeds."

The Vorwaerts says that herr Hofer was frequently cheered. Elsewhere the paper says that it has latterly received numerous complaints of the poor quality and indifferent preparation of the food supplied in the popular food kitchens at midday and declares the evening meals in these places are unfit for consumption.

Epidemics Spreading.

"The mortality among elderly people is increasing at a terrible rate," Hofer continued, "while epidemics are spreading everywhere, owing to the decreased powers of resistance. The situation is much more serious than admitted. The number of suicides is increasing and parents are killing their children, owing to their inability to obtain food for them."

BRITISH HAVE A NEW SHELTER

Semi-Circular Hut, Speedily Erected, Easily Transported, Holds 25 Men.

Toronto, Ont., March 10.—A recent invention adding to the comfort of the British and Canadian field forces at the French front is described in a dispatch received here today from London. It is known as the "nissen hut"—a semi-circular shelter with the appearance of a gigantic bit of stovepipe half buried on the earth and containing doors and windows. There is room for 25 men in each. One thousand of these huts are under order. The convenience of transportation and the speed with which they can be erected enable men hitherto forced to sleep in the open during an advance to obtain shelter. Already the hut is the subject of an army song—"Put me in my little nissen bed."

The event of the week at the Canadian army headquarters at the French front, according to the dispatch was a visit by Sir Robert Borden, Canadian premier and Robert Rogers and J. D. Hazen, members of the premier's cabinet. The famous first brigade of the dominion's original division passed in review. Only a few of the men in line were present at Ypres. The men appeared splendidly fit.

NEW ARRESTS ARE MADE IN TUTONIC PLOT IN ROME

Paris, France, March 10.—A number of fresh arrests have been made in Rome and elsewhere in connection with what is known as the Gerlach case, according to a Milan dispatch to the Matin. The names of the accused will not be made public until the trial, which will be a secret one.

Monsignor von Gerlach, an Austrian, was private chamberlain to the pope. He was forced to leave Rome in January through pressure brought to bear on the vatican. Prior to his departure, an Italian named Ambrogetti, who claimed to be monsignor Gerlach's financial agent, was arrested, charged with being implicated in the blowing up of the Italian battleships Benedetto Brin and Leonardo Da Vinci.

GERMANS TRY TO RECAPTURE LOST GROUND BUT LOSE MORE

Paris, France, March 10.—Violent fighting occurred in the Champagne district last night in consequence of a German attempt to recapture the ground won by the French between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne. Today's official statement says after several desperate charges had been made with alternate advances and retreats, the French succeeded in holding all the ground they had gained and in making fresh progress.

RUSSIAN FOOD GROWS SHORT REGULATION IS NOW PLANNED.

London, Eng., March 10.—The management of all food supplies in the Petrograd district is to be placed in the hands of the municipal authorities. This decision was reached, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent telegraphs, at an extraordinary conference held to deal with the food problems at the capital which is said to be urgent.

During the discussion it was stated that there were reserves of rye and wheat flour in Petrograd and that sufficient fresh supplies were arriving.

12 SHIPS SUNK IS GERMAN REPORT

Account Is Given of Recent Submarine Operations in the Mediterranean.

Berlin, Germany, March 10, (Wireless to Sayville.)—The following account of submarine operations was given out today by the admiralty:

"In the Mediterranean there have been sunk nine steamships and three sailing vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 32,000. Among the ships sunk were:

"Morino, armed Italian steamer, 4159 tons, laden with cotton sunk February 14.

"Rosalie, Indian transport steamer, 4257 tons, with ammunition and oats from New York to Saloniki; sunk February 14.

"Wathfield, armed British steamer, 3013 tons, with 4500 tons of magnesium for England; sunk February 21.

"French steamer of about 1000 tons; sunk February 22.

"Trojan Prince, armed British steamer, 3196 tons, with a cargo of feed; sunk February 23.

"Burnby, armed British steamer, 3665 tons, with 5200 tons of coal from Cardiff for Algiers; sunk February 26.

"Armed hostile transport steamer of about 5000 tons, with cargo of coal; sunk February 26

"Victoria, Greek steamship, 1388 tons; sunk February 26.

"Craigendoran, armed British steamer, 3789 tons; sunk March 3.

Italian Troops Perish.

"According to reports from two Italian soldiers rescued from the Italian troop transport Minas, sunk February 15, in the Mediterranean by a German submarine, the vessel had on board one general, three colonels, two majors and 1000 Italian soldiers belonging to three regiments. On account of the rough sea these men perished."

SAYS CARRANZA REVEALED NOTE

American Asserts German Proposal Turned Over To U. S. By Mexico.

The Zimmerman note which invited Mexico to join with Germany against the United States was made known to president Wilson by Venustiano Carranza, according to a statement made Saturday by an American who has arrived here from Mexico City. He said that he had learned this from government officials in the Mexican capital. The American said that Carranza sent the German note by a special messenger to Wilson as soon as he received it from Germany and as a result of this action threats against the life of Carranza are being publicly made in Mexico by German residents of the Mexican capital.

The American said that Carranza has been negotiating for a secret alliance with the United States to join this nation in case this country goes to war with Germany and the sending of the Zimmerman note to the United States government was his first act toward accomplishing this.

BERLIN PRAISES ZEPPELIN; HOLD FUNERAL AT STUTTGART

Gerlin, Germany, March 10.—The Berlin press is filled with reviews of the life and achievements of count Ferdinand Zeppelin, who shared with field marshal von Hindenburg the honor of national popularity. Berlin today recalls the time not long gone by when airship rides from Dusseldorf to Berlin, by way of Hamburg and Bremen, were luxurious thrills to be enjoyed at 200 marks a head.

Count Zeppelin was ill for less than two weeks and the immediate cause of his death was pneumonia. His death shroud is his favorite Uhlan uniform in which he was best known to the public. Of the long list of orders and decorations which were conferred on him he was probably proudest of the iron cross, which he won in 1870.

The massive oak and metal casket in which he will be buried was sealed this afternoon and taken to Stuttgart where the funeral will take place.

SMUGGLING FROM RAIDERS IS UNDER INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pa., March 10.—Alleged attempts to smuggle goods on and off the two German commerce raiders interned at the Philadelphia navy yard, are under investigation here today by agents of the federal government. A sergeant of marines who is alleged to have failed to search wagons conveying foodstuffs to the Kronprinz Wilhelm and the Prinz Eitel Friedrick, is said to be involved.

Some of the articles reported to have been smuggled from the ships are said to be part of the merchandise seized by the cruisers while raiding. There is no confirmation of the report that ammunition was smuggled aboard the ships.

BRITISH PAPERS NO LONGER ADVERTISE BY POSTERS

London, Eng., March 10.—Beginning today street news venders will no longer display posters to indicate the contents of the newspapers which they are selling. With the object of conserving the paper supply the government has issued an order prohibiting the use of the "contents bills," as they are called, which have been so familiar on the streets of London.

NO NEED TO WAIT FOR AN ATTACK

Mere Sight Of Submarine Or Periscope Sufficient Ground For Shooting.

BASE ACTION ON GERMAN HOSTILITY

Announcement That All Ships Are to Be Sunk Is Considered Sufficient.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 10.—The consensus of opinion today in diplomatic quarters was that the United States is nearer war with Germany than at any time in the nation's history.

Th eappearance of a German submarine or its periscope in the presence of an American armed merchant vessel would entitle that ship, according to the state department opinion today, to take all measures for protection on the presumption that the U-boat's purpose was hostile.

Need Not Await Attack.

Under this ruling, an American armed merchantman could fire on a German submarine the moment it is sighted, without being considered as taking aggressive action. This view is based on Germany's declared intention to sink on sight, within certain zones, all vessels, neutral as well as belligerent, and whether passenger vessels, freighters or contraband carriers.

The United States was said to stand flatly on its armed merchantmen warning of March 27 last, in which it definitely recognized the "right to prevent capture," as part of the "right of self protection," which could be exercised by flight or resistance.

Hostile Intent Is Assumed.

The mere presence of a German submarine is declared ground for assuming hostile intent because of the deliberate statement by Germany that all vessels are to be sunk on sight. Denial by Germany of the old rule of visit and search makes all its U-bots actually hostile.

Arm Ships at Once.

Guns, gunners and ammunition will be placed aboard American merchant ships immediately and they will be sent to sea.

Navy yards were ordered today to equip the vessels as fast as possible and the action will put the United States in the position of armed neutrality, the next step beyond the severance of diplomatic relations with Germany and possibly the preliminary of war. What ships are to be armed first and when they will sail, will be kept secret.

Congress Meets April 16.

President Wilson issued the necessary orders yesterday in the belief that he has ample executive power without special authorization from congress. Simultaneously, however, he called congress to meet in special session April 16, to be in position to support him if necessary.

Actual work of equipping the vessels only awaited the navy department's approval of applications from ship owners. In the various navy yards along the Atlantic coast are stored guns, ammunition and other necessary equipment ready for installation.

Appeal to Newspapers.

In official circles today confidence was expressed that secretary Daniels's appeal to newspapers not to seek nor publish specific news of the arming and sailings of American merchantmen would be observed. A similar appeal was made to telegraph and cable companies.

"The best news the readers can have," said the secretary, "is that the government will protect the rights of America to the freedom of the seas. The publication of details can serve no good purpose and might jeopardize human life."

Congress to Back Up President.

The new congress probably will be asked to consider the armed neutrality bill, specifically authorizing president Wilson to arm American merchant ships and appropriating funds for the purpose, despite the president's decision yesterday that he already has executive power to put navy guns, gunners and ammunition aboard merchantmen.

The organization of the new house cannot be foretold at this time for a majority is 218, and the standing is: Republicans, 215; Democrats, 214; Prohibitionist, Progressive, Progressive-Protectionist, Socialist and Independent, one each; vacancy in Democratic district one.

New Senate Democratic.

Both Republican and Democratic leaders declare they will have support from enough of the socalled independent group to control the organization, but there is considerable talk of a coalition organization. The new senate is Democratic by a majority of 12.

Speaker Clark believes congress will find so much work before it that it will continue in session until August, 1918.

Measures To Be Passed.

Appropriation legislation, which must be passed before July 1 include the army, sundry civil, general deficiency and military academy bills, carrying in the aggregate more than $500,000,000. Among the measures which failed in the last congress, strongly urged by the administration, are the railroad labor bill, Webb foreign selling agency bill, conservation and land leasing measures and acts to enlarge the interstate com-

(Continued on page 4, column 4.)

El Paso's Trade Excursion Will Trade El Paso Optimism For Happy Smiles