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## CARGO OF WILHELMINA WILL BE HELD TO A PRIZE COURT

SIR EDWARD GREY, FOREIGN SECRETARY, ANNOUNCES DECISION OF ENGLAND

MAY DECLARE ALL FOOD CONTRABAND

British Government Cites Germany's Order Confiscating all Grain and Flour in Empire

(By Associated Press.)

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Sir Edward Grey, the foreign secretary, announced today that the British government had decided that the American steamer *Wilhelmina's* food cargo should be held for a prize court.

This declaration appears to make clear Great Britain's purpose to declare all foodstuffs for Germany contraband as well as to foreshadow other reprisals. The foreign minister, after reviewing the German methods of warfare and denouncing them as violations of all international usages, says:

"If therefore, his majesty's government should hereafter feel constrained to declare foodstuffs absolute contraband or to take other measures for interfering with German trade by way of reprisals, they confidently expect that such action will not be challenged on the part of neutral States by appeals to laws and usages of war whose validity rests on their forming an integral part of that system of international doctrine, which, as a whole, their enemy frankly boasts the intention to disregard, so long as such neutral states cannot compel the German government to abandon methods of warfare which have not in recent history been regarded as having the sanction of either law or humanity."

Great Britain's reply to the American note on the *Wilhelmina* case, handed today to Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, reads:

"The communication made by the United States ambassador in his note to Sir Edward Grey, of the 18th instant, has been carefully considered and the following observations are offered in reply:

"At the time when His Majesty's government gave directions for the seizure of the cargo of the steamship *Wilhelmina* as contraband they had before them the text of a decree made by the German federal council on the 26th of January under article 45 of which all grain and flour imported into Germany after the 31st of January was declared deliverable only to certain organizations under direct government control or to municipal authorities. The vessel was bound for Hamburg, one of the free cities of the German empire, the government of which is vested in the municipality. This was one of the reasons actuating His Majesty's government in deciding to seize the cargo of the *Wilhelmina* before a prize court."

"In information has only now reached them that by a subsequent decree dated the sixth of February the above provision in article 45 of the previous decree was repealed, it would appear for the express purpose of rendering difficult the anticipated proceedings against the *Wilhelmina*. The repeal was not known to His Majesty's government at the time of the detention of the cargo, or indeed until now. How far the ostensible exception of imported supplies from the general (Continued on page two.)

## DEFER MINORITY REORGANIZATION

Republicans Generally Refer to Representative Mann as His Own Successor as Leader.

(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Republicans of the house determined today to defer their minority reorganization until the Thursday night preceding the first session of the next congress. In the conference held to discuss plans, Representative Mann of Illinois was generally referred to as his own successor as minority leader.

Caucus rule was discussed, Representative Cooper of Wisconsin, protesting against the use of the word caucus in connection with meetings of Republican members and asserting that the day of secret caucuses had passed. This drew from Representative Mann a remark that the time might come "when we may have to bring to bear all the binding force we can." At Mr. Mann's suggestion the question of whether there shall be caucuses or "open air meetings" was left to be decided at the reorganization meeting.

In reference to committee assignments, Representative Mann said the Progressives had not agreed whether they should get their assignments from the Republicans or the Democrats.

## THE BODY OF H. B. GARDNER FOUND

Body of His Brother Found About Two Weeks Ago Near Hunting Camp in Florida

(By Associated Press.)

PALATKA, Fla., Feb. 19.—The body of H. B. Gardner of Springfield, Mass., who with his brother, Alonzo G. Gardner of Baltimore, Md., was killed and robbed while camping near here several weeks ago, was found today near the scene of the camp by a searching party. Guards were placed over the body until an inquest can be held tomorrow, after which it will be sent to North Adams, Mass.

The body of the brother was found about two weeks ago and subsequently Clyde Stover, a negro, was arrested at Elizabethton, Tenn., in connection with the deaths. The authorities allege that Stover piloted the boat on which the Gardners made the trip up the Ocklawaha and later shot and robbed them.

**Docked Safely at Rotterdam.**  
ROTTERDAM, via London, Feb. 19. (4:36 p. m.)—The steamer *Uganda*, from Norfolk, Va., first of the Belgian relief commission's vessels to arrive here since Germany's war zone decree became effective, docked at Rotterdam early today. The captains of all Belgian relief ships putting into Falmouth have been advised to paint the name of the commission on the side of their vessel.

**Did Not Apply For New Trial.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Contrary to expectations, counsel for Charles Becker, former police lieutenant, twice convicted for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, the gambler, failed today to make an application for a new trial.

## GERMAN SUBMARINES TORPEDO TWO SHIPS

Tank Steamer *Belridge*, Owned by Neutral Country—Norway, Attacked Near Folkestone, England, While French Vessel Badly Damaged Off Dieppe, France—Fighting on Land Continues.

Germany signaled the second day of the operation of her sea war zone by torpedoing two steamships, one owned in a neutral country—Norway. This vessel, the tank steamer *Belridge*, was torpedoed by a submarine near Folkestone, England, while the French steamer *Binarah* was badly damaged by a similar vessel off Dieppe, France. Both vessels made port.

A Dieppe dispatch asserts that no warning of an attack was given the *Binarah*. There has been no mention of casualties on either vessel.

(By Associated Press.)  
LONDON, Feb. 19.—(10:24 p. m.)—The British replies to the American note on the use of the American flag by the *California-Mexican* and the decision to hold the cargo of the American steamer *Wilhelmina* to a prize court were delivered to American Ambassador Page today.

## German War Zone Established About the British Isles.



The shaded portion of this map shows the waters about the British Isles and in the English Channel and the North Sea in which, if the German declarations are to be taken at their face value, it will be dangerous for any American merchant ship, unconvoyed by American battleships, or the merchant ships of any other neutral nation, to sail.

Count Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, has stated that since British merchant ships have been directed to carry guns and

to attack German submarines, even when the officers of the submarines are boarding them to learn their identity there will be no time for investigation at sea. Therefore, a ship with an American flag may be attacked. He says:

"The safety of neutral shipping in the war zone around the British Isles is seriously threatened. There is also an increased danger resulting from mines, as these will be laid in the war zone to a great extent. Accordingly neutral ships are most urgently warned against entering that area, while the course around Scotland will be safe."

"Germany has been compelled to resort to this kind of warfare by the numerous ways of British naval warfare, which aims at the destruction of legitimate neutral trade and at the starvation of the German people. Germany will be obliged to adhere to the announced principles until England submits to the recognized rules of warfare, established by the Declaration of Paris and London, or until she is compelled to do so by the neutral powers."

## REGARD DEVELOPMENTS OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE

President and Cabinet Discuss Dangers to American Vessels and Commerce—Members Decline to Predict What Would be Course of the United States

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—President Wilson and his cabinet discussed at length today dangers to American vessels and commerce growing out of the reiterated determination of the German government to wage a submarine and mine warfare on enemy vessels and disclaiming responsibility for what may happen to neutral vessels venturing into the new sea war zones.

Canvas of cabinet officers later disclosed that the administration regarded the developments of the last few days as of grave importance. Cabinet members declined to predict what would be the course of the United States. Some pointed out that in every serious situation in international affairs much discretion was vested in the president and that this is not necessarily to be guided by the circumstances of each case; if there were attacks on American vessels.

Officially the United States government had not received late tonight the text of the German reply to the American note, and until it is in hand no decision will be announced as to the administration's policy.

In the informal discussion of the reply as published in the press, cabinet members indicated that they were impressed by different aspects of the case. Some held that while the situation was serious, there was an indication in the German note of a willingness to discuss the subject further, which might, perhaps, postpone the active enforcement of the proclamation to permit an understanding to be reached about the safety of neutral vessels.

The fact that Germany had ordered her navy to use discretion and carry approaching ships flying neutral flags was viewed as indicating that the maximum of vigilance probably would be exercised by commanders of submarines to distinguish between enemy and neutral vessels. On the other hand, however, the note's declaration that Germany disclaimed all responsibility for what might happen to neutral ships either by submarine torpedoes or mines produced apprehension that a critical point might be reached in the relations between the United States and Germany.

Opinions varied as to what steps would be taken by the United States to attack German submarines, even when the officers of the submarines are boarding them to learn their identity there will be no time for investigation at sea. Therefore, a ship with an American flag may be attacked. He says:

## CASHIER AND SON ARRESTED

Warrants Charge Murder in Connection With Assassination of A. D. Oliver.

(By Associated Press.)  
LEESBURG, Ga., Feb. 19.—G. W. Chance, cashier of the Bank of Smithville, and Claude Chance, his son, were arrested today on warrants charging murder in connection with the assassination here Wednesday night of A. D. Oliver, president of the Farmers' Bank and Loan Company of Leesburg. They are held in jail here with three men arrested yesterday on similar charges. A warrant also was issued for the arrest of Mister Kennedy, but officers failed to find him. Commitment hearings today were postponed until next Wednesday.

**Will Sign Racing Bills.**  
CARSON CITY, Nev., Feb. 19.—Governor Emmet Boyle today announced he would sign the two racing bills passed by the legislature creating a racing commission and legalizing a pari-mutual system of betting on horse races.

**Safely Promised Relief Ships.**  
NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Safe conduct for all relief ships bearing the flag of the commission for relief in Belgium has been promised by England, France and Germany, according to an announcement made today by London W. Bates, vice chairman of the commission.

Six relief ships were today either in or approaching the war zone.

## STRIKES MINE; BADLY DAMAGED

Norwegian Steamer Which Sailed From Newport News Feb. 5 Beached Near Dover

(By Associated Press.)  
DOVER, Feb. 19 (via London, 3:08 p. m.)—The Norwegian tank steamer *Belridge*, which sailed from Newport News February 5 for Amsterdam, struck a mine early today of Dover. She was beached near here.

It was first reported she was only slightly damaged by the explosion, but later it was learned there had been fear of her going down. Her forepeak and her forehold are filled with water and her fore deck is awash. The pilot on board and 18 men of her crew have been landed.

LONDON, Feb. 19 (11:50 p. m.)—An official statement issued by the admiralty tonight says the Norwegian tank steamer *Belridge* was struck by a torpedo fired by a German submarine today near Folkestone. Pieces of the torpedo, it is asserted, have been found on the ship.

## Orders Investigation of Lawlessness

(By Associated Press.)  
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 19.—Lawlessness in New Madrid County from night riding resulted in an investigation being ordered today by Governor Major. Telegrams from the sheriff there asserted the situation was beyond his control and Adjutant General O'Meara was ordered to the county at once.

Negroes, it is said, is the object of the night riders. Warnings, urging negroes to leave the district, have been posted throughout the county.

## RAISED THE AMERICAN FLAG TO SAVE LIVES OF PASSENGERS

MILLIONAIRE LAND OWNER INDICTED

Charged With Engaging in Conspiracy to Violate Neutrality of United States.

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Feb. 19.—Harry Chandler, assistant general manager of the Los Angeles Times, and millionaire land owner, was indicted today by the federal grand jury here in connection with an alleged conspiracy which had for its object a military occupation of the Mexican territory of Lower California.

Walter Bowker, manager of the California-Mexican Land and Cattle company, in which Chandler is heavily interested; General B. J. Viljoen, a former Boer commander in the South African war, and Baltazar Aviles, a former governor of Lower California, and three Mexicans, were indicted several weeks ago.

Chandler and others are charged with engaging in a conspiracy to violate the neutrality of the United States by recruiting men and gathering supplies on American soil for a campaign in Lower California.

All but Chandler previously had been arrested. Viljoen was a military adviser to Francisco I. Madero, late president of Mexico, during his war against Diaz.

The California-Mexican Land and Cattle Company owns an extensive ranch which lies on both sides of the border between California and Lower California.

## NOT ONE BAG OF U. S. MAIL LOST

No American Mail Has Gone Down With Vessel Destroyed by Warship in 100 Years.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Although United States mail is going directly or indirectly to every country in the world, so far not one bag has been lost through the activities of European war fleets. In fact, postoffice department officials said today, no American mail has gone down with a merchantman destroyed by a warship within the past hundred years.

Postmaster General Burleson said he expected no interference with mail service to result from Germany's sea war zone proclamation. It was pointed out that mail steamers are fast vessels, carrying passengers and little cargo of the kind belligerents would like to destroy.

**One Thousand Miners Strike.**  
GRAFTON, W. Va., Feb. 19.—About 1,000 miners employed by the Jamison Coal company in the Barracksville-Farmington region struck early today, declaring a new wage scale recently enforced by the company virtually meant a reduction.

**Carranza Forces Capture Chilpan.**  
LAREDO, Tex., Feb. 19.—The Carranza commander at Nuevo Laredo was advised tonight that Carranza forces had captured Chilpan, state of Guerrero, after heavy fighting.

It also was reported Carranza troops had captured Cuatro Chiles, Coahuila, 30 miles west of Monclova.

## SUPPLYING FUNDS TO RUN GOVERNMENT

Congress Confronted With Necessity of Appropriating Average of \$90,000,000 a Day For Next Eleven Legislative Days—House Passes Pension Bill Carrying \$164,000,000.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Confronted with the necessity of appropriating an average of \$90,000,000 a day for the next 11 legislative days, congress today began hurrying through the measures which will supply the billion dollars needed to run the government during the next fiscal year.

The senate passed the \$39,900,000 legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, and the house passed the pension bill, carrying \$164,000,000, and took up the diplomatic and consular measure, appropriating \$4,500,000.

GREAT BRITAIN WILL NOT RESORT TO USE OF NEUTRAL FLAGS GENERALLY

SHOULD HAVE THIS PRIVILEGE

American Passengers Aboard Lusitania Asked That Stars and Stripes be Hoisted

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The British foreign office this evening issued a note in reply to the representation of the United States government concerning the use of the American flag by British vessels.

The note says that the Cunard Line steamer *Lusitania* on her recent voyage from New York to Liverpool raised the American flag "to save the lives of non-combatants, crew and passengers." It adds that in spite of the fact that American passengers embarking on the *Lusitania* on her outward voyage for New York asked that the American flag be hoisted, "the British government did not give any advice to the company as to how to meet this request, and it is understood, the *Lusitania* left Liverpool under the British flag."

After discussing the *Lusitania's* incident the memorandum says: "The British government has no intention of advising merchant shipping to use foreign flags as a general practice or to resort to them otherwise than for escaping capture or destruction."

In conclusion the statement says: "The obligation on a belligerent warship to ascertain definitely for itself the nationality and character of a merchant vessel before capturing it and a belligerent (strategic) reason for force sinking and destroying it has been universally recognized. If that obligation is fulfilled the hoisting of a neutral flag on board a British vessel cannot possibly endanger neutral shipping, and the British government holds that if loss to neutrals is caused by disregarding this obligation it is upon the enemy vessel disregarding this obligation and upon the government that it should be disregarded that the full responsibility for injury to neutrals ought to rest."

The following is the text of the reply of Great Britain to the American note as handed to Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, today:

"The memorandum communicated on the 11th of February calls attention in courteous and friendly terms to the action of the captain of the British steamship *Lusitania* in raising the flag of the United States of America when approaching British waters and says to government of the United States: 'The possibility of any general use of the flag of the United States by British vessels traversing those waters since the effect of such a policy might be to bring about a menace to the lives and vessels of United States citizens.'"

"It was understood that the German government announced their intention of sinking British merchant vessels at sight by torpedoes without giving any opportunity of making any provision for the saving of lives of non-combatant crews and passengers. It was in consequence of this threat that the (Continued on page two.)

## CONGRESS CONFRONTED WITH NECESSITY OF APPROPRIATING AVERAGE OF \$90,000,000 A DAY FOR NEXT ELEVEN LEGISLATIVE DAYS—HOUSE PASSES PENSION BILL CARRYING \$164,000,000.

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Beyond the naming of the house conferees, the ship purchase bill received no attention, reposing in the custody of the conference committee, where it will remain until February 27 under the agreement reached yesterday in the senate. The conferees probably will not meet this week. The ship bill investigation also was at a standstill, but the special committee will resume its hearings tomorrow.

A committee amendment to the executive, legislative and judicial bill appropriating \$160,000 to be used by the president on connection with the formal opening of the Panama Canal was adopted by the senate after a sharp debate. Senator Fall sought to establish the basis on which the estimate of expenses had been made. Chairman Martin of the appropriations committee, said that at a conference of Democratic and Republican leaders, called by the president, it had been agreed to ask for \$250,000 to defray the expense of the president and his party, which was to include foreign diplomats and two hundred or three hundred members of congress. The appropriations committee upon being advised of some criticism of this last provision, however, had reduced the appropriation \$50,000, leaving it to the president to invite whom he would.

Chairman Martin said he understood the president proposed to invite former President Roosevelt and Taft and a small committee from congress to (Continued on page four.)