

Wilson Asks Use of Force; Laconia Sunk

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Cloudy; Colder

Want-ad
Night Service
to 10 p. m.
Tyler 1000

VOL. XLVI—NO. 217.

OMAHA, TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 27, 1917.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

On Train, at Hotel,
New Stand, E. B. Co.

SINGLE COPY TWO CENTS.

TWELFTH ANNUAL AUTO SHOW GETS WELL UNDER WAY

Million-Dollar Motor Car Exposition Opens Under the Most Auspicious Circumstances in History.

GIVEN UNQUALIFIED O. K. Even Those Who Saw National Shows Take Their Hats Off to Omaha.

CROWD IS A BUYING ONE

Omaha placed its unequalled stamp of approval on the twelfth annual motor car exposition, which opened at the municipal Auditorium yesterday under the most auspicious circumstances that ever attended the opening of an Omaha automobile show.

That the 1917 exposition easily surpasses any and all of its eleven predecessors was the verdict of every person who was on hand to inspect the glittering array of shiny new cars. Even those who had seen the great national shows at New York and Chicago had to admit that Omaha's show, although not so large and pretentious, does not have to take a back seat for any of them.

Even the most critical observer must confess that the Omaha display is a most complete and exhaustive one. Apparently nothing is missing. On all sides are luxurious limousines, dainty coupes, sturdy touring cars, snappy runabouts, nifty coverleafs and ray speed cars. Every single one of the sixteen standard models are exhibited and the potential buyer, no matter what his taste may be, will find at least one car to his liking.

There are over 200 machines valued at over \$1,000,000.

It wasn't found necessary to call out the police last night as it was a couple of times in years gone by when complimentary tickets for the inaugural night were distributed with a lavish hand, but the crowd was a substantial one. At 9 o'clock, when the crowd reached its maximum, one found it quite a task to move up and down the congested aisles with any degree of freedom.

One very noticeable fact about the crowd last night was that it was what the dealers and exhibitors call "a buying crowd." It seemed that almost everybody there was vitally interested in motor cars. There was, of course, a number of the curious on hand for the first opportunity to give the show the visual forward and back, but the percentage was unusually small. It was an unfortunate dealer, indeed, who didn't add anywhere from a dozen to a score of new "immediate prospects" to his list last night.

The decorative scheme of this year's show was the inspiration for many enthusiastic exclamations of delight, especially among the fair sex. The basement was fully decked out just like the main floor and palms and ferns and colors have been distributed so lavishly one would hardly believe it the same old

(Continued on Page Two, Column Seven.)

The Weather

For Nebraska—Cloudy; cold. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

| Hour | Temp. | Dir. |
|----------|-------|------|
| 6 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 7 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 8 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 9 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 10 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 11 a. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 12 m. | 29 | 29 |
| 1 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 2 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 3 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 4 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 5 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 6 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 7 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 8 p. m. | 29 | 29 |
| 9 p. m. | 29 | 29 |

Omaha Farm Loan Bank Directors Named by General Board Officials

F. G. Odell Is Only Omahan Among Six Men Selected for Land Bank.

D. P. HOGAN IS PRESIDENT

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Washington, Feb. 26.—(Special Telegram.)—Speculation has been general in recent weeks as to the personnel of the farm loan bank located at Omaha. Today the federal farm loan board announced the following appointments for the federal land bank of Omaha.

President and director, D. P. Hogan, Massena, Ia. Vice President and director, J. M. Carey, Cheyenne, Wyo. Secretary and director, F. G. Odell, Omaha, Neb. Treasurer and director, E. D. Morcom, Sioux Falls, S. D. Director, Warren C. Baker, Mitchell, S. D. Registrar and attorney, M. L. Corey, Hastings, Neb.

Who Hogan Is. D. P. Hogan, president and director of Massena, Ia., has been for years a student of rural credits in this country and abroad, as well as of all phases of agriculture pertaining to his section. He was formerly a member of the general assembly of Iowa and has done much to create public interest in the subject of rural credits throughout the state. He has been a practical farmer and for the last twenty-five years has continuously owned and operated farms in Iowa, Nebraska and Idaho.

FLOOD BILL GIVES WILSON AUTHORITY Measure Introduced Empowering President to Arm Merchant Ships.

TO BE CONSIDERED TODAY

Washington, Feb. 26.—After conferring with democratic and republican leaders Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee introduced a bill late today authorizing the president to arm merchant ships and use "such other instrumentalities as necessary" to protect them on the high seas, and providing for a special bond issue of \$100,000,000. The bill was referred to the committee which will consider it tomorrow.

Sentiment generally in the house seems to be that if the legislation proposed limits the president to arming ships or supplying convoys, it will carry. Republicans particularly, however, oppose any attempt that might be made to give the president blanket authority, which would involve the country in war.

From republicans and democrats who have been pressing for forward action in the situation there were vigorous nods of approval. The element classed as pacifist heard the address in silence and when it was over refrained from expressing themselves, saying they were "thinking."

Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee, said he believed \$500,000,000 would be sufficient at this time and that it might be provided by an amendment to the revenue bill before the senate.

Over Fifty Millions For Control of Floods

Washington, Feb. 26.—A bill appropriating \$45,000,000 for controlling floods on the Mississippi, and \$5,600,000 for similar work on the Sacramento, in California, was passed tonight by the senate by a vote of 40 to 15. It already had passed the house.

Everybody goes To Auto Show

LINER LACONIA SUNK BY SUBSEA OFF IRISH COAST

Cunard Passenger Ship, New York to Liverpool, is Reported Torpedoed Without Warning.

SEVERAL PERSONS MISSING Ten Americans Among Hundred Passengers and Twenty Members of Crew.

DETAILS NOT AVAILABLE

New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line announced at 1:30 p. m. that it had received confirmation from the British admiralty of the destruction of the Laconia and that its advices stated there was only one casualty thus far known. It was torpedoed last night, the line announced.

Twenty-six Americans, six of whom were cabin passengers and twenty members of the crew, were on board the Laconia, from New York, February 18, for Liverpool, with seventy-five passengers and a crew of 216, when the vessel was sunk by a German submarine. One casualty, as yet unidentified, was officially reported by the Liverpool office of the line to officials here.

Names of Americans. The names of the American passengers and their addresses as given by the line here, and confirmed in part by relatives in the United States, are:

Floyd P. Gibbons of the Chicago Tribune. Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Frank E. Harris, United States coast artillery corps, stationed at Fort Dupont, near Philadelphia. Arthur T. Kirby, Bainbridge, N. Y. Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, Chicago. Miss Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago. Rev. James Wareing, registered from New York, but said to be from Norfolk, Va.

The 21 Americans among the crew were signed here to take the places of others whose terms of service had expired or who had failed to appear when the ship was ready to sail. The men were recruited mostly from shipping offices and gave New York and Brooklyn as their places of residence. They were stokers, coal trimmers, wipers and seamen.

News of Cargo. While details of the cargo of the Laconia are withheld under a recent ruling of the customs officials, it was learned at the offices of the company that the following items were among the principal commodities carried:

One thousand bars of silver, 40,000 bushels of wheat, 2,843 bales of cotton, 1,408 boxes of iron, 3,000 tons of shell casings and other war supplies and 9,000 tons of provisions. It was positively stated by officials of the line that there were no explosives on board.

In addition to cargo and passengers, the Laconia carried 5,000 bags of United States and Canadian mail, 1,800 sacks of which had been transferred from the American liner St. Louis. The Laconia, sailing on the same date the Holland-American liner Ryndam returned to port after being turned back from her voyage to Rotterdam by the submarine menace had on board nine of the Ryndam's passengers.

Had One Defense Gun. The Laconia, when it left here, was armed with one defense gun, mounted aft. The report that the ship was torpedoed at night and without warning indicates that there was no opportunity to use the defense gun, according to officials of the line.

The Laconia is the second ship to be sunk of the former Boston-Liverpool service of the Cunard line. A sister ship, the Franconia, was sunk last October in the Mediterranean while in the British government service. Both vessels were taken over by the British admiralty soon after the war began, and the Laconia was transferred to the service of the government as a transport. It was only recently restored to its owners for commercial purposes, and the trip on which it was sunk was its third after coming back to the service for which it was built.

Several of the officers in the department on the Laconia were on the Franconia when she went down. The registered gross tonnage of the Laconia was 18,150. Its length was 625 feet and it had a beam of seventy-two feet. Designed for high class passenger service its fittings were models of modern marine architecture.

No stowage passengers were on board the ship and those not American were mostly English or Canadian, many of the latter being on government service, or returning to duty after leaves of absence at home.

A list of twenty Americans in the crew of the Laconia on file in the (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

Richardson Farmers Testify in Rate Case

Several farmers from Richardson county were examined yesterday afternoon by Deputy Attorney General Dexter T. Barrett when the hearings were resumed before Special Master Gaines in the Missouri Pacific 2-cent rate case. They testified as to land values in Richardson county along the right of way. The case will be continued this morning, Commissioners Hall and Wilson appearing for the commission, and Deputy Attorney General Barrett for the commission and state.

In All Its Glory



CIVIL SERVICE BILL FOR OMAHA PASSES

Senate Unit for Measure to Change System in the Metropolis.

BANKS BID FOR FUNDS 'TIS UP TO FEBRUARY FIRST

(From a Staff Correspondent.) Lincoln, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—Civil service for employes of the city of Omaha to be administered by a civil service commissioner, received a boost this afternoon when the bill, which was introduced by the Douglas county delegation, was passed by the senate by a vote of 29 to 0 with the emergency clause.

The senate spent most of the afternoon on third reading, passing the Adams bill for the return to banks of state guaranty fund after voluntary liquidation and also the Busch-Adams bill requiring banks to bid on state funds. The former passed by a vote of 22 to 8 with the emergency clause, but the latter failed with the emergency clause and finally passed without it, the vote standing 19 to 11.

Since congress has been memorialized to make public liquor tax receipts in dry states, over the protest of Senator Mattes and others, they senator himself proposed a resolution at the opening of the senate this afternoon to require that data on income taxes be turned over by internal revenue officers to the revenue officers of the state.

The plan is designed to get at tax-dodgers, for whom Senator Mattes, in senate speeches, has indicated a pronounced abhorrence. The resolution will go on the table a day, under the rules.

The other passed were: H. R. 11, Wilson.—Granting amendment for title 4,000 to 25,000, drafted by city attorney during recent paving litigation. H. R. 49, Liggett-Norton.—Bill for increase of mayor and council, increases salaries and eliminates red tape in creation of paving districts. Emergency clause. Passed, 29 to 11.

H. R. 41, Neal, Senaha.—Granting custody of minors at discretion of court, if no provision is granted in such act. Passed, 28 to 2.

H. R. 214, Chappell, Menden.—Act to authorize counties to establish county fairs, either by county boards or by vote of people. Also to buy ground for fairs. Passed, 29 to 0.

H. R. 67, Neal, Custer.—To notify unknown heirs by publication. Passed, 29 to 0.

H. R. 166, Howard, Johnson.—To repeal voting machine law. Passed, 29 to 0.

H. R. 27, Lahnern, Thayer.—Prohibits watering stock in private trough without owner's consent. Passed, 29 to 0.

H. R. 17, Moriarty.—Amendment to Norton's constitutional convention bill, simplifying language and eliminating "whereas" clauses. Passed, 29 to 0. Goes to house for concurrence in amendment.

Fourteen in Crew of French Airship Killed

Berlin, Feb. 26.—(Via London.)—Fourteen men were killed by the destruction of the French airship reported in yesterday's official communication to have been brought down by the German defensive fire. The official report says: "The French airship brought down on Friday night was set ablaze by our anti-aircraft fire. It fell in flames near Weefdingen, west of Saargemund (in Lorraine). When it landed the ammunition which it carried exploded. The crew, consisting of fourteen men, were killed."

Denver Team Signs Catcher Ernest Pike

Denver, Colo., Feb. 26.—Ernest Pike of San Diego, Cal., has been signed as catcher for the Denver Western league team, it was announced last night. Members of the Denver team have been requested to report for training on March 25.

WILSON ASKS FOR POWER TO DEAL WITH GERMANY

Executive Requests Authority of Congress to Declare a State of Armed Neutrality.

TALKS TO JOINT SESSION President Hears News of Sinking of Liner On His Way to Capitol.

ARM OR CONVOY SHIPS

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality" to resist the German submarine menace.

Continued invasion of the plain rights of neutrals on the high seas, further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effective as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a dreaded "overt act" which was expected to shock the world—and have forced the president into the next step toward war.

President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels, or what other steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights, or by driving the American flag from the seas.

Hears of Sinking of Laconia. News of the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia with Americans aboard was received here as the president was on his way to address congress. Although without details, its grave possibilities added emphasis to the president's words.

Congress is expected not only to authorize the president to use the armed forces of the country, but also to provide money.

Once before in the infancy of the republic a state of armed neutrality was proclaimed to check "predatory violence" upon American rights in the war between France and England, but did not result actually in war for the United States.

Whether another armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany realizes that the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion, the president took his action today with the calm confidence that congress and the country will stand behind him.

The grim-faced body of senators and representatives who less than a month ago heard the president pronounce the words which announced a severance of diplomatic relations with Germany—an act which in all the history of first-class nations always has led to war—heard today in tense silence and grave attention the words which carry the American republic a step further in its stand against ruthless sacrifice of neutral rights and lives and a step nearer war if it must be.

President Wilson arrived at the capitol just before 1 o'clock and promptly at that hour stepped up to the clerk's desk in the hall of the house, where both branches of congress, meeting in special joint session, were assembled before him.

Devoutly expressing the hope that it would not become necessary to "put armed force into action," the president specifically asked for authority to supply American merchant ships with defensive arms, "with the means of using them" and to "employ any other instrumentalities," as well as a "sufficient credit" to enable him to provide "adequate means of protection."

This, without being specific in terms, was a request for the use of the army and navy and the necessary money to make them effective.

Behind the right of Americans, the president declared, he was thinking of the rights of humanity, but through it all he proclaimed to the world a policy of peace, if peace be possible. He disclaimed thinking of war or steps that might lead to it and declared that the American people wanted to exercise none but the rights of peace.

"No course of my choosing, or of (Continued on Page 7, Column One.)

Don't Fail to See

the full page of bargains in used automobiles in this issue. Many of these cars are almost new and most of them are in excellent condition.

You will save considerable money by buying that car you have been thinking about

Now