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## President Wilson Orders Armed Neutrality

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson from a sick bed today ordered the arming of American merchant ships against Germany's ruthless submarine warfare, and at the same time issued a proclamation calling an extra session of Congress to meet April 16. The President's decision came suddenly late this afternoon, following the action of the senate yesterday in revising its rules to permit prompt action on important questions and the submission of formal opinions by Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory that he has the power to arm merchantmen without action by Congress.

Details of the Government's armed neutrality plans for defending the merchant marine were withheld to avoid endangering Americans and their ships by permitting the information to reach Germany. The only statement at the White House and the Navy Department was that the President had determined to fully protect American rights.

The decision, coming at the end of a period of tense waiting, was generally hailed as the natural and unavoidable next step in the policy adopted by the President when he broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and gave warning that the United States could not tolerate attacks on American ships and citizens in violation of international law.

Fraught with the grave possibility of war with Germany, the action was taken by President Wilson only after he was convinced that Germany actually was proceeding with her campaign of ruthlessness, and had made efforts to plot with Mexico and Japan against the territorial integrity of the United States.

Long before the order was given from the White House, all necessary preparations for the arming of merchantmen had been completed at the Navy Department. Secretary Daniels, however, issued an appeal to the press of the Nation to refrain from discussion of these preparations.

The President's action sent a thrill through the Senate, meeting in special session and through the Government Departments. Still hoping that war with Germany will be avoided, officials and Senators declared that the issue rests entirely with Germany.

## Taking Teacher at Her Word

"The fly is the most dangerous insect known except the mosquito," said the teacher. "The fly walks in filth and then comes into the home, scattering germs which result in sickness. It should be made impossible for the fly to exist. Garbage and filth of all kinds should be kept screened. If the flies get into the house in spite of the screens, they should be killed. Swat them—"

"Whack!" a resounding noise heard throughout the school-room made the teacher jump and startled the whole school. The eyes finally centered on Sammy's desk whence the terrible noise came.

"Sammy, was that you?" the teacher asked with a flash of anger in her eye.

"Yes'm," said Sammy. "How dare you disturb the school in this way?" she asked. "I killed a fly," he said.—Ex.

## How to Double Cotton Yields

"We can double our cotton yields per acre on all well drained lands," says Clemson College to South Carolina farmers.

As methods for obtaining this increased yield, the College offers the following suggestions, which summarize the results of experiments published in Bulletins 145, 148 and 162 of the South Carolina Experiment Station. The increased yields can be obtained:

1. By early and deep plowing.  
2. By conserving the soil moisture, by increasing the humus content of the soil, and by frequent and shallow cultivation.

3. By turning under winter cover crops, such as bur clover, crimson clover, vetch and rye, which are planted in the cotton field at the last cultivation.

4. By planting cotton only on soils well drained and adapted to its cultivation.

5. By giving plenty of distance in the row and between the rows.

6. By using the weeder frequently during early growth.

7. By using large amounts of acid phosphate before or at the time of planting.

8. By applying stable manure either broadcast or in the drill before planting.

9. By using potash salts on coarse, sandy soils.

10. By applying 2,000 pounds of ground limestone per acre every ten years.

11. By growing summer legumes to store nitrogen in the soil.

12. By using large amounts of ammonia applied in the form of blood, cottonseed meal, fish scrap, tankage, nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia before or at time of planting, and by later applications.

13. By applying 100 pounds nitrate of soda per acre when first bloom appears.

14. By liberal use of acid phosphate if the cotton is making a weedy growth and not fruiting properly.

15. By the liberal use of ammonia if plants are slow of growth and yellow in color.

16. By taking care never to plow the land when it is too wet.

17. By breaking the crust after each rain, thus saving soil moisture and incidentally, killing grass and weeds.

18. By planting only the best varieties of cotton, such as Columbia, Hartsville, Cleveland Big Boll, Toole's Prolific, Triumph, Cook, Brook's Improved, etc.

19. By avoiding anthracnose, or boll rot, through proper seed selection.

20. By planting only varieties suited to type of soil on which they are to be grown.

21. By planting big boll, easy picking, early maturing, wilt resistant varieties.

22. By planting early and reducing promptly to a stand.

23. By an economical system of crop rotation which prevents soils from washing, increases the fertility of the soil, puts soil in better physical condition, better chemical condition, better biological condition; which prevents over-production, prevents insect depredations and plant diseases, such as cotton root rot, black knot, bacterial blight of cotton, and cotton root louse.

"Pa," said little Willie Green, "what is a sense of humor?"

"A sense of humor, my son," responded Pa Green, "is that which makes you laugh when a thing happens to someone else, that would make you mad if it happened to you."

## First Collision With Submarine Will Mean War

Washington, March 9.—Armed neutrality will be the status of the United States the moment that the first merchant ship under the American flag puts to sea with cannon mounted for defense.

President Wilson made this clear in his address to Congress February 26, when he asked specific authority to arm merchant ships for defense against submarines, the steps he ordered today upon his own responsibility.

Writers on international law have held that armed neutrality consists in placing the country in a position to defend itself and its neutrality against threatened attacks or inroads by belligerents. This state of preparedness may last an indefinite length of time, through good fortune in avoiding contact with belligerent forces afloat or ashore, or through the design of the belligerent to confine its declaration of purpose to infringe the neutrality of a country to mere threats unsupported by action.

On the other hand, the status of armed neutrality may change into one of actual hostility through a collision—such as a submarine attack on armed merchantmen.

President Wilson has said that it may not be necessary to put armed forces anywhere into action. All will depend upon the future attitude of Germany and the treatment of American ships by German submarine commanders.

## The Civil Service Postmaster.

Charlotte Observer.

Some of the Democrats in Congress have made protest to Postmaster General Burleson against the proposition to bring all first, second and third class postoffices under Civil Service regulations after April 1. The protest was founded upon political grounds, as a matter of course, and the only comfort they got from Burleson was that the order "was made in the interests of economy and efficiency." All vacancies, whether by death, resignation or removal will be filled hereafter by competitive examination. Leader Kitchin stood head in the list of protestants, while the body of the delegation which called on the Postmaster General was composed of Southern Congressmen, though in the list we have, we note, no name from North Carolina other than that of Mr. Kitchin. Burleson had invited them to call for a discussion, and some went in a bad humor, one wanting to know of Mr. Burleson if he had asked them there to get their views, "or to tell them what had been done." Burleson suavely assured them that he had called the conference to tell "what is going to happen."

Young Franklington found himself facing an audience of voters. He had prepared a fervid oration in support of his father's candidacy, but could do nothing but gasp. Then, in response to an encouraging cheer, he began to speak. "Mr. Chairman," he stammered, "when I—when I left home this evening, only two people on this earth—my father and myself—knew what I was going to say; but now—now—well, now, only my father knows."

"The car I was traveling in was telescoped in the collision." "What happened then?" "I saw stars."

## A Dog's Devotion.

Lumberton Robesonian.

Perhaps never was a true devotion more beautifully shown than in a dog story which comes from Red Springs. The story follows:

Messrs. James Collins and Jim Townsend, both of Red Springs, had a bird dog each and the two dogs hunted together and were together when they were not hunting. On the 11th instant, the two dogs disappeared and the owners could not account for it. Eleven days passed and nothing was heard from the dogs. On the 21st inst. Dr. H. H. Hodgin, of Red Springs, was out hunting and found the two dogs about one mile from Red Springs. The dog belonging to Mr. Collins had become tangled in some vines and could not get loose and had died. The other dog was lying right by his friend—the dead dog—and from all appearances had not left him from the time he was first caught in the vines. Mr. Townsend's dog was so weary from hunger and thirst that he could scarcely walk when Dr. Hodgin found him. No doubt had the discovery not been made when it was, or very soon afterwards, the other dog would have died by the side of his dog friend.

## Things To Do This Week.

Keep an eye on the horses' shoulders; a bad fitting collar or badly adjusted hames may cause trouble that will last for weeks.

2. Look over the cotton planting seed and see to it that they are sound and dry.

3. Spend a day in the crib selecting the best seed corn available, unless this work was done in the field last fall, as it should have been.

4. A top dressing of 75 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda sulphate of ammonia on the oats and wheat will pay if these crops appear to be making insufficient stem and leaf growth.

5. Pulverize the clods right behind the breaking plow, never give them a chance to bake and get hard.

6. Keep the garden in apple order and thus save grocery bills.—Exchange.

## Eggs for Hatching

Eggs selected for hatching should weigh not less than two ounces nor more than two and one fourth ounces each.

Eggs selected for incubation should have clean, smooth, strong shell which are free from ridges, cracks, transparent spots or lime deposits.

Where all of the eggs considered are of the same variety, there is a definite correlation between the size of the egg incubated, the size of the chick from 10 to 20 weeks old.

Eggs selected for hatching should be of a true type. Exceptionally long eggs and very short, rounded eggs are equally objectionable. Mal-formed eggs should never be incubated. These eggs are usually difficult to hatch. White eggs and brown eggs should not be incubated together.—Ohio Agriculture College.

## President Advised That He Has Authority to Arm Vessels.

Washington, March 8.—Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory has advised President Wilson that he has authority to arm American merchant ships against illegal attacks by German submarines.

It was these two officers, the Government's authorities respectively on international questions and law, that the President referred the contention raised in the Senate that old statutes enacted to authorize merchantmen to resist pirates raised an insuperable bar to the step he desired to take to meet the submarine menace. They have reported that the statutes have no application to the present situation.

Cecil's Best Girl.—"Let's drive under the mistletoe."

Cecil—"Aw, no! It's too high up and we couldn't get it off that limb if we tried all day."

## Free "Farmer's" Bulletins On Farm Building and Construction

Here are some valuable "Farmers' Bulletins" on farm building and construction offered free to our readers by the United States Department of Agriculture. Put an "X" opposite the list, and mail to the United Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or to your United States Senator or Congressman—and the bulletins will be sent you promptly.

No.		No.	
461	The Use of Concrete on the Farm.	548	Storing and Marketing Sweet Potatoes.
689	A Plan for a Small Dairy House.	607	The Farm Kitchen as a Workshop.
609	Bird Houses and How to Build Them.	463	The Sanitary Privy.
438	Hog Houses.	623	Ice Houses and the use of Ice on the Dairy Farm.
481	Concrete Construction on the Livestock Farm.	475	Ice Houses.
574	Poultry House Construction.	589	Home-made Silos
744	The Preservative Treatment of Farm Timbers.	270	Modern Conveniences for the Farm Home.
734	Fly Traps and Their Operation.	474	The Use of Paint on the Farm.
682	A Simple Trap Nest for Poultry.	57	Water Supply, Plumbing and Sewerage Disposals for Country Homes.
		695	Outdoor Wintering of Bees.

Gentlemen:—Please send the free "Farmers' Bulletins" marked with an "X" in the above list to the following address and greatly oblige.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

## New Spring Oxfords

### Bought Before the Rise

I have just opened up a line of Oxfords which I was fortunate enough to book last summer before the big advance in price. This lot contains a good selection and all who wear slippers should see these before you buy. Then I have a good sized lot of last summer slippers for the children at the old price. If the high cost of living is troubling you, buy your foot wear here.

## Fancy Thread

Our line of Crochet, Embroidery and Tatting thread has just arrived. All the new colors. Look it over before your choice is gone.

## Ladies Hats

I have opened up a line of Ladies' ready-to-wear Hats. The price is right. Come early to get your choice.

Lot of Fresh Quaker Oats and Corn Flakes	3 ten-cent cans "Old 76" Coffee 25c
Tobacco put back to the old price,	Butter beans 10 cents a pound, less than the present wholesale price.
3 plugs for 25c.	<b>CASINGS</b>
Lard, 10-lb. Bucket \$1.50	I still have a few Automobile casings, size 30x3 and 30x3 1-2, which I can sell you for less than wholesale price now.
25c Can Pork & Beans 20c	
3 lb. full weight Hominy 25c	

Don't fail to see me before you buy.

## C. L. Gullede