

ENGLAND'S ANSWER IS A BIG BLOCKADE

ASQUITH SAYS GERMANY WILL
GET NO MORE SUPPLIES
FROM NEUTRALS.

IS TAKEN IN SELF-DEFENSE

Asks Patience of Non-Belligerents,
Saying That Allies Find It Ne-
cessary to Adopt This Policy.

London.—If the combined fleets of Great Britain and France can prevent it, no commodities of any kind except those now on the seas henceforth until the conclusion of the war shall reach or leave the shores of Germany. This is England's answer to Germany's submarine blockade and it is to be effective forthwith.

Premier Asquith reading from a prepared statement, made this announcement in the House of Commons at a session. Studiously avoiding the terms "blockade" and "contraband"—for these words occur nowhere in the prepared statement—the Premier explained that the Allies considered themselves justified in attempting and would attempt "to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin."

The Premier emphasized, however, that vessels and cargoes so seized were not necessarily liable to confiscation, and begged the patience of neutral countries in the face of a step likely to injure them. He added that in making such a step the Allies had done so in self-defense.

"We are quite prepared," he went on, "to submit to the arbitrament of neutral opinion and still more to the verdict of impartial history, that in the circumstances in which we have been placed we have been moderate; we have been restrained; we have abstained from things that we were provoked and tempted to do, and we have adopted a policy which commends itself to reason to common sense and to justice."

Every member of the House not at the front in khaki or unobtainably detained was in his seat and there was frequent cheering. The galleries were packed. When the Premier concluded his set statement and turning to the Speaker said:

"That sir, is our reply!" There was a tremendous outburst.

Before the Premier had finished the newspapers were on the streets proclaiming:

"Our answer to Germany."

It was apparent everywhere that the entire Nation had been chafing for reprisals against the sinking of merchant craft by submarines.

The Premier prefaced the reading of his statement with these words:

"The statement declares in sufficiently plain and unmistakable terms the view we take, not only of our rights, but of our duties."

BOYCOTT JAPANESE GOODS.

Chinese Society of San Francisco
Starts Far-Reaching Embargo.

San Francisco.—A nation-wide and ultimately world-wide boycott on Japanese products is the announced aim of a Chinese society organized here. The embargo has been started by Chinese-Americans in an attempt to force Japan to recede from her demands on the Chinese government.

A propaganda-spreading campaign for the formation of similar societies in all the larger cities of the United States was begun simultaneously with the organization of the parent society.

Numbered in the new society, which has not been named, but is described by its secretary, M. Q. Fong, a merchant, as a purely patriotic organization, is every Chinese merchant in the city.

Mexican Gunboat Blown Up.

Washington.—Private advices received here from headquarters of the Ward Line in New York report the blowing up of the Mexican gunboat *Progreso* in Progresso harbor with the loss of 19 of her crew.

Idaho Prohibition Bill Signed.

Boise, Idaho.—Governor Alexander signed the prohibition bill which makes the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquor in Idaho unlawful after January 1, 1916.

Russia to Get Free Passage.

Paris via London.—The Temps asserts that an agreement has been reached between France Great Britain and Russia regarding the future status of the Dardanelles which will give Russia free passage to the Straits.

Blockade Cost Cotton \$1.

New York.—Cotton broke 19 points or nearly \$1 a bale here upon receipt of authentic news of the Allies' plans to place a blockade against shipment of all commodities to German ports. October contracts sold off from 9.05 to 8.86. It was feared that the check in cotton shipments to Germany would weaken the spot market as well. The action of the Allies had been discounted to some extent, however, and the outstanding cotton interest was comparatively limited.

FIRST RESERVES TO BE READY FOR WAR

AMERICAN LEGION IS NEW OR-
GANIZATION COMPOSED OF
FIRST RESERVES.

INCLUDES ABOUT 300,000 MEN

Numerous Public Men, Including For-
mer President Roosevelt, Endorse
the Movement

New York.—Formal announcement was made here of the formation of an organization of first reserves, to be known as the American Legion and to be composed of former Army, Navy and militia men, which will better insure the nation's preparedness in case of war. Capt. Gordon Johnston, aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, made the announcement on behalf of a group of Army and Navy men acting in an unofficial capacity with civilians in promoting the movement. Captain Johnston said it was planned to establish within a short time a first reserve of between 250,000 and 300,000 former Army and Navy militiamen for instant call in case of emergency.

Major General Wood has given the plan his unofficial endorsement and former President Roosevelt has written a letter approving the proposal. Numerous other public men have endorsed the project, and a statement by the promoters says that former Secretaries of War and of the Navy have agreed to act in an advisory capacity.

Asserting that he and his four sons will become members of the Legion, Colonel Roosevelt in a letter to the organizers, says that in the event of war he intends to ask Congress for permission to raise a division of cavalry. Mr. Roosevelt's letter in part says:

"I and my four sons will gladly become members. I very earnestly hope and pray that there will be no war; but the surest way to avert war is to be prepared for it; and the only way to avert disaster and disgrace in war is by preparing in advance."

OUTBREAK OF CATTLE DISEASE.

In One Herd Near Richmond, 125 Af-
fected.—Governor Alarmed.

Richmond, Va.—Following the discovery of 125 fully developed cases of foot and mouth disease in a herd of 300 dairy cattle on a farm in Henrico county, seven miles north of this city Gov. Henry C. Stewart issued a quarantine proclamation and announced that he would go before the Circuit Court at once and apply for an injunction against 18 railroads and steamship lines in Virginia to enforce their full compliance with his recent proclamation requiring that no cattle or cattle feed be moved without the proper Federal certificates. Governor Stuart also ordered that within a radius of five miles around the farm where the outbreak has occurred there be no movement of cattle or cattle feed. Special deputies have been sworn in by the sheriff of Henrico county and a virtual blockade has been put into effect.

The city has suspended its regular inspection of dairies to prevent inspectors carrying the disease from one herd to another. Gov. Stuart takes an alarming view of the situation.

Russian Offensive Along Whole Front

London.—The Russian offensive operations appear at the present time to extend along their whole front—an indication that they have brought strong reinforcements into the field. They have checked the German advance in North Poland, where the Germans are reported in retreat and the recapture of Przrasnys after severe fighting, has given them an excellent pivot point from which to carry on further operations.

All the Petrograd correspondents refer to the capture of a large number of Germans as a new phase of the war, and credit it to a lack of officers among the German armies and the large number of young untrained men drafted into them.

The Russian offensive extends to what is now known as the Bzura-Ravka front, where they successfully opposed Field Marshal von Hindenburg's attempt to advance on Warsaw.

There has been heavy fighting in Western Galicia and in the Carpathians, but no notable changes in the situation. In Eastern Galicia the Russians report another repulse for the Austrians who again have lost a number of prisoners.

With Russia it would seem to be a case of keeping up the supply of ammunition which the opening of the Dardanelles would greatly assist.

Cattle Fever Quarantine.

Washington.—Secretary of Agriculture Houston has ordered more than 28,000 square miles of territory in counties of eight states released from Texas cattle fever quarantine. By states the counties released include: Georgia—Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray, Gilmer, Dawson, Forsyth, Milton, Cobb and Madison. South Carolina—Chesterfield, Marion and Florence.

North Carolina—Harnett, Cumberland, Wayne, Greene and Lenoir. Virginia—Surry, York, Warwick.

IMPRESSION MADE BY AMERICAN NOTE

ENCOURAGING REPORTS ARE BE-
ING RECEIVED FROM LONDON
AND BERLIN.

GERMANY REPORTS WILLING

Difference of Opinion in England,
Some Favoring, Others Wanting
Further Restrictions.

Washington.—Encouraging reports from both Ambassador Page at London and Ambassador Gerard at Berlin were received concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries. The United States does not expect complete replies for several days.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the submarine food and mine question already has been made known informally and the United States expects a formal acquiescence in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where opinion is understood to be divided on the merits of the suggestions. Some leading British Cabinet members are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restricting supplies to Germany.

The exact nature of the American proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of officials here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed.

The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to the civilian population and not the belligerent forces of war.

The removal of all floating mines and German and Great Britain proposed except mines used for the coast defense and for the purpose of attacking and destroying ships through fields that remain.

MANY BIG SUPPLY BILLS PASSED

Congress Speeding Up to Be Ready
For Adjournment.

Washington.—Congress worked steadily on its task of cleaning up supply bills which must be out of the way before adjournment on March 4. The Senate passed the naval bill, \$152,000,000, the fortification bill, \$6,000,000, and the diplomatic bill, \$4,200,000 while the House spent the day debating the general deficiency measure, with interruptions now and then to dispose of conference reports.

The Senate added about \$8,000,000 to the naval bill as it passed the House, providing the two-battleship construction program, for five sea-going submarines instead of one, for 16 instead of 11 coast defense submarines, for a gunboat and a hospital ship, and adding \$1,000,000 for an armor plate and \$500,000, for a projectile factory.

Senator Smoot vainly sought to have authorized the construction of 50 sea-going and 25 coast defense submarines, declaring that "no man can tell when the European disturbance will involve this country in difficulties." This precipitated a general discussion.

Speaker Wooten's Condition Serious.

Raleigh.—Speaker Emmett R. Wooten of the house of representatives has been sinking steadily at Rex Hospital when he had a chill and other alarming symptoms appeared. Doctor Parrott of Kinston, his family physician, arrived and is in consultation with Dr. H. A. Royster, with a probability that as a last chance to save the life of the speaker the wound will be reopened. There is considered at this hour the very slightest sort of chance for the patient to rally.

Bill Effects Common Carriers.

Washington.—Senator Newlands introduced a bill in the senate to empower the interstate commerce commission to examine all papers of a carrier, including correspondence. It would amend the law to meet the supreme court's decision that the commission did not have power to inspect the correspondence of the Louisville & Nashville Railway. Mr. Newlands submitted communications from Acting Chairman Clements of the commission and Attorney General Gregory, urging that the bill be passed.

Special Tax on Foreigners Revoked.

Mexico City.—The French minister was advised officially that the portion of the special tax of 20,000,000 pesos levied by general Obregon which applies to all foreigners, will be revoked. General Obregon's decree stated that money was to be used for the relief of the poor. Americans in Mexico City at a meeting contributed a considerable amount of money for the assistance of the poor. Foreign banks have signified their intention of re-opening.

AGRICULTURAL BILL PASSED BY SENATE

ONE MORE BILL CARRYING AP-
PROXIMATELY \$23,000,000 PUT
THROUGH.

DEBATE NAVAL BILL NEXT

Seven of the Fourteen Appropriation
Bills Have Been Passed.—Con-
tinue Free Seeds.

Washington.—The senate added the agricultural bill, carrying approximately \$23,000,000, to the rapidly growing list of supply measures passed and debate on the naval bill began. Seven of the appropriation bills have been disposed of, and seven are still awaiting action.

After considerable argument the senate declined to support the action of the agricultural committee in striking out an appropriation of \$235,000 for the free distribution of seeds. One of the principal new provisions in the bill is the \$2,500 appropriation for combating the food and mouth disease among cattle.

Debate on the naval bill centers upon committee amendments adding several missions to the house bill including provisions for five sea-going submarines instead of one and 16 coast defense submarines instead of 11.

The house began work on the list of the supply measures for consideration in that body, the general deficiency bill. It also adopted the conference report on the seamen's bill. The senate now must act on it. Conference on other measures which have passed both houses are progressing favorably.

That there is some hope of passing the bill providing Philippine self-government and ultimate independence at this session became apparent. President Wilson told several administration leaders he wished the measure could have the right-of-way over any other general legislation and be passed in the midst of appropriation legislation if necessary.

Senator Simmons conferred with Chairman Hitchcock of the Philippine committee and later Mr. Hitchcock said he believed the bill would pass.

FOOD EXPORTS INCREASE.

Vast Increase of Food Stuffs While
Cotton Has Increased.

Washington.—What vast increases have been made in the export of foodstuffs since the European war began was disclosed by the department of commerce in a detailed statement. Foodstuffs exports for the seven months ending with January totaled \$377,400,000, an increase of \$138,000,000 over the same month of the last fiscal year.

One hundred million bushels more wheat were exported than last year; 38,000,000 bushels more oats; 10,000,000 bushels more corn; 40,000,000 pounds more fresh beef; 34,500,000 pounds more canned beef; 1,500,000 barrels more flour; 1,000,000 pounds more pickled beef; 22,000,000 gallons more gasoline, naphtha, etc., and 11,000,000 gallons more residuum, fuel oil, etc., were sent abroad.

At the same time there was a great decrease in the export of cotton, because of the war, the total for the seven months being 4,105,525 bales or 2,500,000 bales less than last year.

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

London.—One sailor lost his life when the small British steamer *Deptford*, 230 feet long and 1,208 tons, was sent to the bottom in 20 minutes either by a German torpedo from a submarine or by coming in contact with a mine in the North sea at a point off Scarborough. The 15 other members of the steamer's crew were saved and were landed at South Shields.

Turks Report Victory.
Berlin, via London.—Reports from Constantinople say that a Russian attack in the territory east of Artzin, Trans-Caucasia, has been beaten off by the Turks with heavy losses to the enemy.

The Western Coast Goes Down.
London.—The small coasting steamer *Western Coast* has been sunk by a mine or torpedo in the English Channel at a point off Beachy Head. The crew were landed at Portsmouth.

The Royperana Goes Down.
East Bourne, England.—The steamer *Royperana* was sunk off this port. It is believed that she was torpedoed. The crew of 31 men was saved.

Also the Harpallion.
Newhaven, via London.—The British steamer *Harpallion*, from London for Newport News, without cargo, has been torpedoed off Beachy Head.

Senate May Have Extra Session.
Washington.—Possibilities of an extra session of the senate alone after March 4th for consideration of treaties and nominations were being discussed among administration leaders. White house officials refused to talk on the subject, but it was known President Wilson was giving it consideration. Treaties with Columbia to pay \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama, and with Nicaragua to pay \$3,000,000 for inter-oceanic canal rights, an naval bases, undoubtedly will fall of ratification at this session.

AMERICAN NOTE IS BEING CONSIDERED

BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIA-
TIONS IS PRESENTED, IT HAS
BEEN LEARNED.

BRITAIN IS VERY RETICENT

But Still Points Out That Food Has
Not Been Declared Absolute Con-
triband of War.

Berlin, via London.—The American identical note on marine warfare, sent to Great Britain and Germany, is in the hands of Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, Imperial German Chancellor, and Gottlieb van Jagow, the German Foreign Minister.

The German Government is not ready to make public the contents of the note, but it is said they may be regarded as the basis for further negotiations. Certain of the proposals, as an example the removal of the mine fields around England, probably will be unacceptable to Germany.

The German Government, it is said, does not expect that Great Britain will accept any proposals permitting the importation of foodstuffs in to Germany.

The Lookalike says it learns that the American note presents a basis for further negotiations.

"Washington," the newspaper adds, "now takes up the suggestions outlined in the final passage of Germany's answer and makes proposals which apparently are addressed equally to Germany and Great Britain."

PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT.

Fear That Renegade Utes Will Join
Old Polk's Band.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Fear that renegade Utes from the reservation in Colorado will join Old Polk's band of Piute Indians which has been battling United States officers near Bluff is expressed in a dispatch to The Desert News.

Reports from the Colorado reservation say the Indians believe the white men have killed 25 squaws and papooses and they are greatly incensed. Marshal Neuberger has wired the United States District Attorney at Salt Lake City and also the Department of Justice at Washington that he will use the 20 Navajo Indian police he has requested be sent him to assist in tracking the hostiles.

"My men will take care of all the fighting," he said.

A scouting party found that Old Posey, leading a small band of Indians had crossed the San Juan River to Navajo Reservation on the south side.

Another scouting party followed the trail of Old Polk and about 10 mounted warriors to recapture Wash, eight or 10 miles east of Bluff, but was unable to determine whether his movement indicated an attempt to escape or an effort to obtain reinforcements.

President Wilson For Mountaineers.

Washington.—Praise for the "simple, straightforward" people of the Southern mountains, and criticism of the "airs that high society gives itself" were voiced by President Wilson here at a meeting held in the interest of Berea College, Kentucky founded to educate the mountaineers. The President declared the college was "going straight to the heart of one of the most interesting problems of American life," and added that "the only thing that is worth while in human intercourse is to wake somebody."

Justice Hughes of the Supreme Court presided at the meeting and other speakers were President Frost of Berea College, F. G. Bonser of Columbia University and Hamilton W. Mable of The Outlook magazine.

New Orleans Bakers Ask Embargo

New Orleans.—The executive committee of the National Association of Master Bakers forwarded to President Wilson and leaders in Congress a resolution asking that an embargo be placed on the exportation of wheat, rye and flour.

Alabama Prohibitionists Get Hearing.

Washington.—Alabama's plan to prevent liquor advertisements and solicitation of liquor orders from being sent through the mails to prohibition territory was incorporated in a bill introduced in the national house of representatives by Representative Abercrombie. The bill was drafted by a delegation sent here by the Alabama legislature to confer with President Wilson, Postmaster General Burdon and members of the Alabama congressional delegation.

Underwood Leaves House Committee

Washington.—Representative Oscar W. Underwood bade farewell to the house ways and means committee, of which he is chairman, as he will represent Alabama as its junior senator after March 4. He presided over the committee at its final session of this congress and was presented with a resolution of thanks and congratulations by his colleagues. There were speeches by various members. Speaker Clark later yielded the presiding officer's chair to Mr. Underwood.

STATE ITEMS

OF INTEREST TO ALL SOUTH
CAROLINA PEOPLE.

Capt. Charles Petty Dead.

Capt. Charles Petty, venerable citizen, brave Confederate soldier and the dean of the newspaper profession in South Carolina, who died at his residence in Spartanburg after a brief illness, was a little more than 80 years of age and until within the last ten days had been an active member of the staff of The Journal and Carolina Spartan, the afternoon paper of Spartanburg. Death was due to a general physical breakdown. Charles Petty was born January 15, 1835 on the farm of his father, James Petty, two miles west of Gaffney. He came to Spartanburg January 1, 1879, and bought the Carolina Spartan from Capt. M. F. Trimmer. He was editor and publisher of The Spartan until about five years ago, when The Spartan was merged with the Journal. After that he was connected with the two papers in an editorial capacity until a few months ago. Capt. Petty possessed an unusually readable style and as a writer on farm topics, he combined this with the practical knowledge of agriculture which gave his writings the qualities of both entertaining and information in a high degree. Probably he had no equal as a writer on farm topics in this state. He held liberal and progressive views to an unusual degree, but he was never intolerant of the views of others. He was a member of Central Methodist church and was a regular attendant on its services. The funeral service was largely attended and many beautiful floral designs covered the last resting place of the veteran newspaper man.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS BRIEFS.

Plans have been perfected for a public playground for the children of Lancaster.

Three residences at Clio burned with a loss of several thousand dollars.

Stockholders in the Orangeburg Fair Association held a meeting recently and re-elected old officers and laid plans for a big fair this fall.

Johnny Evers, the great baseball player, who is now in Camden playing golf, etc., says the Camden climate has worked wonders with him. H. N. Dukes will represent Wofford College in the intercollegiate basketball contest to be held at Rock Hill, April 1.

Another episode in the race rioting Dec. 30 at Fairplay when three negroes were killed and several severely beaten and otherwise injured was recorded when Sheriff John Davis of Oconee county placed three white men of that section under arrest and carried them to jail at Walhalla, making six men who now face charges of murder as a result of this trouble.

The meeting of the Tri-State Conference of Orphanage Workers will be held this year in Yorkville, and the dates decided upon are April 13 and 14. The states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia will send their orphanage executives to take part in this conference. It will be held at the Church Home orphanage of the Episcopal church.

The polo season has opened at Sumter and games are attended by big crowds.

A prohibition fight has been launched in Chester by a large number of citizens.

Senator E. D. Smith was in Florence recently on a visit to his wife who is still sick in the infirmary. He says that he fully expects congress to adjourn within the next week and that the ship purchase bill will go over as a legacy to the next congress.

Senator Smith will close his Washington office when the present session of congress ends but he will not stop work on congressional matters. It having been learned that he will open offices in Florence with his usual force in charge of the clerical work.

Gen. B. H. Teague has been appointed as sponsor for the South Carolina division, U. C. V., Miss Martha A. Bonham of Anderson, who has named as her maids of honor Misses Olive McGowan of Columbia and Caroline Sinkler of Charleston. Mrs. R. S. Ligon of Anderson will be their chaperon and matron of honor.

In a fire recently the office and main building of the Stone Fuel and Lumber Company at Greenville was completely destroyed. The loss is approximately \$12,000 partially covered by insurance.

A contract has been awarded for 40 additional houses for the Dunean mill village of Greenville. These houses, together with those which are now standing, will provide accommodation for the complement of labor required by the mill when it is running to its full capacity and on full time. The work of construction will begin at once.

The Lexington County Rural Mail Carriers have just held their annual meeting.

Levi Turner was shot and seriously wounded a few days ago by Joe and Ernest Humphries near Blackburg.

The plant of the Charlotte Brick Company, which is located about a mile from Fort Mill, is running on full time, with plenty of orders in hand and prospects for the future which warrant the belief that it will continue to operate steadily from now on. The plant is equipped with the latest and best machinery and employs about 150 hands.