

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## PLANS SPECIAL SESSION SOON

President Informs Country He May Be Without Power to Arm Merchant Ships.

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson tonight informed the country in a statement that he may be without power to arm merchant ships and take other steps to meet the German submarine menace, in the absence of authority from Congress.

An extra session of Congress, the President says, may be required to clothe him with authority, but it is useless to call one whole the Senate works under the present rules, which permit a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority from acting. The President proposes, therefore that the special session of the Senate which he has called to meet tomorrow, revise the rules "to supply the means of action and save the country from disaster."

"A little group of wilful men," says the President in his statement, "representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great government of the United States helpless and contemptible."

### President's Statement.

The President's statement in full follows:

"The termination of the last session of the Sixty-fourth Congress by constitutional limitation discloses a situation unparalleled in the history of any modern government. In the immediate presence of a crisis fraught with more subtle and far-reaching possibilities of national danger than any other the government has known within the whole history of its international relations, the Congress has been unable to act either to safeguard the country or to vindicate the elementary rights of its citizens. More than five hundred and thirty-one members of the two houses were ready and anxious to act; the House of Representatives had acted, by an overwhelming majority; but the Senate was unable to act because a little group of eleven Senators had determined that it should not.

"The Senate has no rules by which debate can be limited or brought to an end, no rules by which dilatory tactics of any kind can be prevented. A single member can stand in the way of action if he have but the physical endurance. The result in this case is a complete paralysis alike of the legislative and executive branches of the government.

### Causes Serious Trouble.

"This inability of the Senate to act has rendered some of the most necessary legislation of the session impossible, at a time when the need for it was most pressing and most evident. The bill which would have permitted such combinations of capital and of organization in the export and import trade of the country as the circumstances of international competition have made imperative—a bill which the business judgment of the whole country approved and demanded—has failed. The opposition of one or two Senators has made it impossible to increase the membership of the Interstate Commerce Commission or to give it the altered organization necessary for its efficiency. The conservation bill, which should have been released for immediate use the mineral resources which are still locked up in the public lands, now that their release is more imperatively necessary than ever, and the bill which would have made the unused water power of the country immediately available for industry, have both failed, though they have been under consideration throughout the sessions of two Congresses and have been twice passed by the House of Representatives.

### Appropriations Needed.

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## WILSON BEGINS SECOND TERM

Note of Patriotic Fervor Predominated Through Proceedings of Day.

Washington, March 5.—President Wilson and Vice-President Marshall were inaugurated for their second term today with a great patriotic demonstration of Americanism.

The solemn dignity of the ceremonies of inaugurating the vice-president in the senate chamber and the simple but impressive ceremony in the open air on the plaza before the capitol when the president delivered his inaugural address, were accentuated by the note of patriotic fervor which predominated through all the proceedings of the day.

First democratic president to succeed himself since Jackson and tenth to be re-elected, President Wilson entered his second term of office with a new consecration to the service of his country.

It was the president's wish that his inauguration should be a simple one and all through the fixed program which covered more than five hours, while there was the pomp, ceremony and spectacular display which inevitably attaches to the inauguration of a president, the studied effort was to keep the ceremonies in accord with the best traditions of America—ceremonies which in the main were planned by George Washington more than a century ago.

### Event Simplified.

The event was simplified because there was no dual ceremony to attend the departure of an outgoing president and further simplified because it did not fall in with the rush and confusion of the dying hours of congress.

The ceremony began with the president's departure from the White House for the capitol. That was fixed by program for 11 o'clock. Just before that time the escorts for the party began assembling, a squadron of the Second United States cavalry for the president and the black horse troop of Culver Military academy for the vice president. Just before the hour of departure the congressional committee in charge of the inauguration arrangements arrived.

President Wilson, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and two members of the congressional inaugural committee, rode in a conveyance surrounded by troops of the escort. In the second conveyance came the vice president and Mrs. Marshall surrounded by the Culver troops. The third conveyance brought Robert N. Harper, chairman of the local arrangements committee and the remaining members of the congressional committee.

Steel cables strung along the line of march held a multitude from crowding into the avenue. Reviewing stands were well filled for the wait of some two hours before the presidential party would return at the head of the inaugural procession.

## DEMAND FOR FORD CARS CONTINUES TO INCREASE

The L. W. White company, sole agents in Abbeville for the Ford Motor company, has received a special notice from the factory to the effect that after a certain date in the near future they will not be allowed to carry cars in stock. They must have bona fide orders for every car shipped them. The circular points out that this action is made necessary by the constantly increasing demand for Ford cars all over the country, and in spite of the enormous increase in production of this well known car, the factories are barely able to meet the demand and therefore have no cars for dealers to store away for future sale.

So far as the L. W. White company is concerned the new order will have very little effect as only once or twice since it assumed the Ford agency nearly a year ago has it had cars on hand that were unsold.

However, those who plan to ride in a Ford this summer, will do mighty well to talk this matter over with the Abbeville Ford agents right away. Otherwise they may be disappointed.

## BRITISH IN FRANCE GAIN MORE GROUND

The Germans Over a Front of Two Miles Fall Back 1,200 Yards—French Line Penetrated.

Again the British have advanced their front on the right and left wings on the Somme and Ancre regions of France. On the left flank, east of Gommecourt, the Germans gave up ground over a front of two miles to an average depth of 1,200 yards, while on the right flank, east of Bouchavesness an attack gave the British terrain on a front of 1,200 yards and 173 prisoners, according to the London war office. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans in several counter-attacks.

The recent ceding of ground by the Germans in the Ancre and Somme regions evidently was not carried out for strategic reasons, but of necessity, according to staff correspondent of the Associated Press. A visit to various points of the line showed that the guns of the British had torn up trenches and communication trenches and searched out thoroughly the ground on a wide area behind the German line, where many hundreds of dead were later found.

In the Meuse district the Germans north of Eix, in an attack preceded by a heavy bombardment, succeeded in entering French trenches, but were driven out in a counter-attack. Reciprocal bombardments, especially severe east of the Meuse in the Bois Caucieres sector, have taken place.

### On Eastern Fronts.

Along the Russian front and in Rumania no fighting of moment is taking place. In the Austro-Italian theatre an Austrian attempt to storm Italian positions east of Gorizia was frustrated, according to Rome. Minor infantry operations and artillery duels continue on the other sectors of the front.

With the important town of Hamadan already in their possession the Russians are keeping up their offensive against the Turks in Persia. Eighty miles northwest of Hamadan they have captured the villages of Bijar and Khanikali.

The loss of a British torpedo boat destroyer with all hands is reported by the British admiralty. The vessel went down in the North sea and is believed to have struck a mine. Berlin in a statement regarding vessels sunk by submarines, mentions the sending to the bottom in the Mediterranean of an armed transport steamer of 34,494 tons. It is added that some of the troops on board were lost. The largest vessel previously sunk was the steamer Lusitania, of 30,396 tons.

A Cabinet crisis has arisen in China owing to the President having refused to approve the decision of the Cabinet that Cina should follow the United States and sever relations with Germany.

### DEATH OF D. BOYCE ELLIS.

David Boyce Ellis died at his home near Due West on February 27th, after a lingering illness. He was about 44 years of age. Mr. Ellis was a son of Magistrate A. R. Ellis, and a member of the Ellis family of this county.

Some years ago he was happily married to Miss Elizabeth Armstrong, a daughter of Capt. R. H. Armstrong. She survives him as do several children of the union.

Mr. Ellis was a member of the Due West Associate Reformed Presbyterian church. He was buried there on Thursday in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends.

### NEWS FROM FRANCIS LINK

Mr. Robert S. Link had a telegram from Congressman Aiken on Thursday conveying the intelligence from the War Department that Francis L. Link, who has been expected home for sometime on a visit underwent an operation for appendicitis in Manila on February fifth, and that he would leave the hospital on March fifth. This probably means that Mr. Link will not be able to visit his home people at this time as he had planned.

### BACK AT WORK.

The many friends and pleased customers of Mrs. George Penney and Mrs. Courtney Wilson are glad that they are back at their work with Philson and Henry for the Spring season. It is a pleasure to have them in the store.

## TROY SUFFERS BY WIND STORM

No Lives Lost But Damage to Property Follows Blow in Greenwood County.

Greenwood, March 4.—Troy, 18 miles southwest of Greenwood on the Charleston and Western Carolina railroad, was visited by a severe wind storm today at 1 o'clock in which a number of residences were considerably damaged but no lives lost and no serious injury resulted, according to reports received here. The home of the Rev. R. F. Bradley was badly damaged and the furniture in the house badly broken up. The homes of Mrs. W. L. Burnside, W. W. Wardlaw, and James Davis were also damaged more or less. The storm seems to have confined itself to the west side of the railroad, no damage being reported from the other side.

## CONFERENCE ON SITE FOR NITRATE PLANT

Columbia, March 5.—Edmund A. Felder, chairman of the committee appointed by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce to urge Columbia's advantages as a site for one of the nitrate fixation plants to be established by the federal government, and T. C. Williams, a member of the committee, returned from Charleston, where they conferred with Major G. A. Youngberg, United States district engineer in regard to the program to be arranged for the approaching visit of the interdepartmental board to this city, for the purpose of hearing a presentation of Columbia's claims. The conference with Major Youngberg, it was stated today, was entirely satisfactory, and tentative plans have been agreed upon.

## ELEVEN DROWNED ATTEMPTING TO HELP STRANDED TANKER

Philadelphia, March 5.—Maryland coast guard stations reported 11 drowned in an attempt to assist the American tanker Louisiana, which is ashore off Ocean City, Md. At least nine victims were from the coast guard cutter Yamacraw. The condition of the Louisiana, whose engine room is flooded, is unchanged.

## DR. NEIL PRESSLY RETURNS FROM MEXICO

York, March 4.—The Rev. B. G. Pressly, of Hickory Grove, received information Wednesday that his father, Rev. Neil E. Pressly, arrived in Jacksonville, Fla., on Tuesday from Tampico, Mexico. Dr. Pressly has been in Mexico on a missionary of Christ, under the direction of the Associate Reformed Church since 1879. During most of that time he has lived at Tampico, holding to his post and helping the natives as well as Americans all through the fearful civil and political disturbances that have been taking place, more especially during the past five or six years. He has done fine work in helping to spread Christianity among the Mexicans and the regard in which he is held by them was well attested in the fact of his being able to remain at Tampico and hold his influence at a time when most other Americans had fled from the city. Dr. Pressly resigned his post last fall on account of failing health, and at the last meeting of synod, held in Yorkville Associated Reformed Church, the Rev. J. G. Dale was elected as his successor.

From Jacksonville last Tuesday, Dr. Pressly went to the home of his brother, W. B. Pressly, at Seffner, Fla., to remain there until warm weather. Mrs. Pressly and daughter are still in Tampico, Mexico, where they will remain long enough to settle business affairs. The Rev. B. G. Pressly, of Hickory Grove, will go down to Seffner, Fla., to be with his father perhaps a month.

## OFF TO COLUMBIA.

Mr. E. M. Anderson left Monday night for Columbia, where he goes on business connected with the affairs of the Tri-State Water and Light convention.

## WILSON'S HANDS TIED BY CONGRESS

To Fix Responsibility for Defeat of President's Purpose 76 Senators Sign Manifesto.

Washington, March 4.—Twelve Senators, led by Senator La Follette and encouraged by Senator Stone, Democratic chairman of the foreign relations committee, in a filibuster, denounced by President Wilson's spokesman as the most reprehensible in the history of any civilized nation, defied the will of an overwhelming majority in Congress up to the last minute today and denied to the President a law authorizing him to arm American ships to meet the German submarine menace.

Unyielding throughout twenty-six hours of continuous session to appeal that their defiance of the President would be humiliating to the country; uncompromising in a crisis described to them as the most serious to the nation since the civil war, La Follette and his small group of supporters refused a majority of their colleagues an opportunity to vote on the armed neutrality bill and it died with the Sixty-fourth Congress.

To fix responsibility before the country, seventy-six Senators, thirty Republicans and forty-six Democrats, signed a manifesto, proclaiming to the world that they favored passage of the measure.

## CALL MEETING OF THE MINISTER'S ASSOCIATION

The Minister's Association of Abbeville, will hold a call meeting, at the home of Rev. Geo. W. Swope Friday of this week at 4 P. M. It is desired that a full attendance be present.

## MRS. CASON IMPROVING.

Mrs. Lizzie Cason is at her home on Magazine street, gradually improving from the severe accident in the school-room three weeks ago, causing a broken limb. Dr. J. Lowry Pressly of Due West, has had charge of the case and it will be of interest to her friends throughout the county to know she is improving.

## LEWIS OWEN AT THE HOSPITAL

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Owen found it necessary to take Lewis, who has been so sick for several weeks, to the Chester hospital, Wednesday. He was operated on Thursday morning and the little fellow is doing very nicely, but it will be at least three weeks before he can return home. The little son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lesley is over there also for the same operation, and is also improving.

## COL. R. W. SMITH.

Col. R. W. Smith, of Warrenton, was in the city during the sessions of the court, serving his country as a grand juror. The colonel has not yet fully digested the recent enactments on the subject of strong drink, and he does not know just what effect these laws will have on him. There are some changes in the school laws which he would like to see adopted also.

## ENTERTAINING THEIR FRIENDS

On last Friday evening John Lomax and Raymond Stilwell delighted their friends with a dinner party. A tempting turkey dinner was served soon after the guests arrived. Dancing to the strains of the victrola until a late hour helped to make this occasion one of the most enjoyable of the season.

## THE ROBINS.

The town has been full of robins on their way north, for the past week. They made a merry chatter in the trees in our yard and we had a busy time keeping the boys with air guns and parlor rifles from doing damage.

A boy under twelve years of age with a parlor rifle is a sure sign of an over indulgent parent and is a dangerous thing in a community.

## THE MILLINERS ARE HERE.

Mrs. Mary H. Chase of Kennerly, N. C., came last Thursday and will be the milliner for the Spring season for Haddon-Wilson Co. Mrs. Chase comes highly recommended, and is experienced and capable along the millinery line.

Miss Antoinette Baughm of Baltimore, is also here and has taken charge of the millinery department in Philson & Henry's and will be assisted by Miss Nannie Seal and Mrs. Courtney Wilson.

## PREPARING TO TAKE DEFENSIVE ACTION

While Looking for Advice on Legality of Arming Ships, He Will Do What is Possible to Meet Crisis

Washington, March 5.—Further action by President Wilson in the German situation was postponed today pending a decision by his legal advisers whether he has power to arm American merchantmen in spite of the failure of congress to pass a resolution conferring such authority.

The question was referred to Attorney General Gregory and Secretary Lansing and probably will be decided in time for consideration at tomorrow's cabinet meeting—the first to be held in the new administration. The inauguration ceremonies occupied most of their time today but members of the cabinet and other officials found opportunity to discuss the subject. A determination to arm the merchantmen if a legal way to do so can be found, was generally apparent.

The president has placed squarely before the senate the responsibility for changing its rules during the special session begun today so that filibustering by a small group of senators can not prevent action by congress. In the meantime he is preparing to take such steps as he can to meet the crisis and defend American rights.

In his inaugural address today he declared "we stand firm in armed neutrality," and added: "We may even be drawn on by circumstances, not by our own purpose or desire, to a more active assertion of our rights as we see them and a more immediate association with the great struggle itself."

While the arming of merchantmen is the step most considered, it is pointed out that the president has the right to convoy American vessels. This course has been opposed by the navy department, however, principally for strategic reasons.

Another step suggested is that the shipping board take over American merchantmen, arm them as naval auxiliaries and send them abroad.

The president has been inclined to believe that certain old statutes still in force might prevent him from furnishing guns to merchantmen but some of his advisers hold that a broader and truer interpretation of these laws will show that they have no application to the present situation.

## IN THE MAYOR'S COURT.

The old deteck has been getting in some more of his dangerous work around Abbeville. As a result of it Charles Jones, colored, was before the Mayor Monday morning charged with selling liquor. He was adjudged guilty and assessed one hundred dollars or thirty days. He took the days.

In the afternoon T. M. Alexander and Wade Alexander, white, father and son, were before the Mayor for the same offense. They demanded jury trials. The father was convicted by a jury with W. A. Calvert as foreman, and the son by another jury with W. T. Cason as foreman. Each was sentenced to thirty days on the chain gang, or pay a fine of one hundred dollars. The fine has not yet been paid. They were represented at the trials by their attorney J. Howard Moore.

## DONALDS METHODIST S. S. CONVENTION

Donalds Methodist church, 10 A. M., Sunday, March 11, 1917. All Sunday schools in upper part of Abbeville county asked to send delegates. If you are not appointed, come and get your part. Expert Sunday school leaders from Spartanburg, will be there.

Good program by our best people. Dinner at church.

## AT THE INAUGURATION.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Horton have been in Washington the past few days attending the inauguration and enjoying the pleasures and sights of that city. They will return home tomorrow.

(Continued on Page 4.)