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# TO ANNOUNCE **NEW STATUS DEFINITELY**

VIGILANCIA CASE ADDS TO TENSION

Aggressive Action By Navy Department Possible

WILSON INAUGURATES MOVE-MENT FOR SPEEDING UP OF PLANS FOR COPING WITH GERMAN MENACE. SUGGEST-ED THAT SPECIAL SESSION landed at the Scilly islands. TENED.

Washington, March 19-President Wilson is expected within the next 48 hours to indicate definitely that he believes a virtual state of war exists between the United States and Germany. Advices from Plymouth that 15 men, some of them Americans, had been drowned when the American merchantman Vigilancia was sunk without warning by a German submarine added, if possible, to the already grave view of the situation held here as a result of the destruc-tion of the Vigilancia, the Illinois and the City of Memphis. Whether the president will hasten

the extra session of congress, called for April 16, or will take additional steps to protect American commerce without this move was not disclosed tonight.

No official pretended to know his plans, and the general view was that he was still considering the question in his usual deliberate way. A cabinet meeting probably will be held tomorrow afternoon and at

that time the situation arising out of the new acts of aggression on the part of Germany is expected to be thoroughly canvassed.

Preparations for aggressive action

to protect American rights began today when the president visited the navy department personally and di-rected Secretary Daniels to utilize the \$115,000,000 made available by congress to hasten naval building

The New York navy yard was directed to begin the construction of more will be opened Wednesday.

Through the early graduation of two classes at Annapolis and the mobilization of reserves it is proposed to make it possible to man quickly all ships of the navy.

The question was also taken up

of getting into communication infor-mally with Great Britain and France to discuss cooperation in the protection of commerce lanes across the Atlantic.

This step probably will not be taken until the course of the United States has been finally determined. In addition to his conference with Secretary Daniels, the president saw Secretaries Lansing and McAdoe and
William Denman, chairman of the
federal shipping board, and there
was every indication that he was
mapping out comprehensive plans
for the protection of American incity have agreed to close their stores

terests in any eventuality.

It is generally conceded that already a virtual state of war exists with Germany in spite of the technical armed neutrality status of the by all who will be free from work.

United States. This is one of the changes which

# HOME FROM COKER.

Miss Lavinia Coleman is at home from Coker college nad will remain until the beginning of the next term. Her friends are glad to see her.

NEWS FROM MRS. SIMPSON.

The friends of Mrs. W. D. Simpson will be glad to know that she recovering rapidly, though she is till in the hospital in Chester. When she is a little better she will go to Monroe for a visit before returning to Abbeville.

ATTENDING THE S. C. PRESBYTERIAL

Miss Bessie Lee Cheatham and Mrs. F. W. Wilson went to Greenwood last Friday, where they attended the meeting of the South Carolina Presbyterial. They visited friends in Hodges also before returning on Monday afternoon.

# HOME ON A VISIT.

Scott Hammond spent a day or two in Abbeville this week. He is living in Rock Hill now and is pros-

He was on his way to Greenwood where he goes as a delegate to the Woodmen's Convention.

# SINKING OF SHIPS MAY MEAN WAR

Immediate Declaration of War Expected of Congress

London, March 18.—The sinking of the American steamships City of Mem-phis, Illinois and Vigilancia was announced today. Fourteen men from the Vigilancia are missing, as are some of the men from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois

was landed safely.

The City of Memphis, in ballast from Cardiff for New York was sunk by gunfire. The second officer and 15 men of the crew have been landed. A patrol boat has gone in search of the other members of the crew. The Illinois, from London for Port Arthur, Texas, in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock this morning.

The Vigilancia was torpedeed with-

The Vigilancia was torpeduced when out warning. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first and second ers' committee was as follows:

"In the national crisis precipitation of which we heard this eers and 23 men of the crew have been OF CONGRESS MAY BE HAS. fourth engineer and '13 men are miss-

Washington, March 18.—With the announcement of the ruthless destruction of three unarmed American merchant ships by submarines, it was unofficially admitted here tonight that virtually a state of war exists between the United States and Ger-

Technically the United States re mains in a position of armed neutrality. Whether this shall be changed before April 16th, the date fixed for a special session of congress, the war making branch of the government, President Wilson has not decided.

One step the president is contem-plating is a call for an immediate session of congress to hear an address asking for authority to adopt aggressive measure against the submarine menace. Already American ships are being armed to defend themselves. The next move must be to send warships with orders to seek out sub-marines and clear the trans-Atlantic

Some of the highest officials of the government hold that the executive has power to declare that a state of war exists and to proceed with ag-gressive protective steps pending the assembling of congress. There is no indication, however, that the president will follow that course.

Of the three ships destroyed, two were unloaded and homeward bound. All were American built, American owned and officered and manned largely by American citizens.

Meagre dispatches indicate that all were sunk with complete disregard for the safety of those on board, and that some of the members of the crew may have been lost.

Today's developments brought the 60 submarine chasers and announce—government face to face with the on by a joint committee which will Mrs. Sol Rosenberg entertained as much as the older men have the ment was made that bids for 200 problem of formulating a definite have its negotiations completed by the Bridge club at a charming contributing and in reading the policy for the nation in case the United States actually enters the war. This possibility was mentioned by the president in his inaugural address March 5.
All of the conditions outlined by

the president in his message announcing the diplomatic break with Germany as leading to a state of armed neutrality have now been fulfilled.

The "overt act" described by him

then has actually come; if, in fact, it had not already been committed when the president went before congress. Since then he established a state of armed neutrality without the specific authority of congress.

on April 1st for the summer season, at six o'clock. This is fifteen days earlier than they closed last year and this extra holiday is appreciated

may be attributed to the automobiles. Almost every one owns a car now and the desire is strong to "burn 'em up" along the public highways after six o'clock these bright days.

DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

To Be Held at Lebanon Presbyter ian Church Sunday, March 25

The Sunday School of every denomination are urged to send representatives to this meeting. Miss Ravenel, State worker from Spar-tanburg, Prof. R. B. Cheatham and Rev. M. R. Plaxco of Abbeville, and other Sunday School workers will address the convention.

This district is composed of Ab-beville, Cedar Springs and Magnolia

The people of Lebanon will provide dinner on grounds.

THE TIME FOR THE LECTURE.

bids fair to be one of the most interesting of all the lectures. On account of the lengthening day, the time hereafter will be at half past eight o'clock.

He Forded it and had a grand time.

ADAMSON 8-HOUR LAW IS UPHELD

Down An Unusual Decision.

New York, March 19.—Shortly after 2 o'clock this morning Secretary Lane announced that the threatened strike of railway employes had been averted, confirming an an-nouncement made by an official of the conference committee of railway managers that the strike had been declared off.

The conference committee of rail-

The formal letter in which this authorization was made, signed by

committee of railroads join with you in the conviction that neither at home nor abroad should there be fear or hope that the efficient oper-ation of the railroads of the country will be hampered or impaired.

"Therefore, you are authorized to assure the nation there will be no strike and as a basis for such as-surance we hereby authorize the committee of the council of national defense to grant to the employes who are about to strike whatever adjustment your committee deems necessary to guarantee the uninter-rupted and efficient operations of the railroads as an indespensable arm of national defense."

The decision reached by the managers at their midnight conference means that the brotherhoods have won an important victory although it does not bring them all their original demands inal demands.

By the agreement it is assumed they will be awarded pro rata time for over time on the basis of an eight hour day which they have been

assured.

Their original demands called for time and a half for over time on the same basic day. The managers left the conference room at 2 o'clock but the brother-hood chiefs remained in conference

with the mediators. The managers headed by Elisha Lee, returned to the conference room at 2:20 and Secretary Lane sent for the newspaper men.

Secretary Lane issued this state-ment: "Regardless of the decision of the supreme court on the Adamson law the basic eight hour day will

go into effect." "The details are being worked upnoon." Mr. Lane said.

The men will get their present ten hours pay for eight hours work gers are virtually what the employes contended they would gain under and tea was served as refreshments. the Adamson law if it were declared The afternoon was a most pleasant constitutional.

# RUMORS OF WAR.

well versed in the military arts, Gov. Manning had sent for him to start mans in short order.

looking suit case full of legal papers.

# A MASONIC SUPPER.

the supper.

Sixty men were present and greatly enjoyed the supper which was served by the ladies of the Seceder Mrs. Power and Mrs. Benton prov-

# A FAMILY GATHERING.

Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Speed will have the happiness to have all their children at home with them the latter part of this week. Mr. Owens Speed comes up from Charleston on Friday, while Mrs. Marchant and her fine young son, and Preston Speed will come down from Greenville Saturday. Mr. Marchant will spend Sunday in the city.

# SEEING THE GIRLS.

In the spring time a young man's fancy turns lightly to love and as last Sunday was the first spring day The lecture at the Court House we have had, John Lomax, one of Thursday night will be on "Norway, Abbeville's gay young sports, resolv-the Land of the Midnight Sun," and ed to see all his sweethearts on the

**ENTENTE MAKES** MORE ADVANCES

In France By the British

The sinking of three American steamers by German submarines with possible loss of life among the crews of two of them; further important advances over a front of about 100 miles by the British and French armies in France and additional gains by the Russians and British over the Turks in Turkish Armenia, Persia and Mesopotamia are the outstanding features in the war news.

authorized President Wilson's media-tors to make whatever arrangements ere necessary with the railroad brotherhood to call off the threaten-ed strike.

The American steamer Vigilancia City of Memphis and Illinois were the vessels sent to the bottom by Ger-man submarines. The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning and the torpedoed without warning and the City of Memphis was torpedoed after the crew had been given 15 minutes to leave the ship. The Illinois is re-

ported merely as having been "sunk."
The crew of the Illinois was saved,
but members of the crews of both the ed by events of which we heard this afternoon the national conference most of them Americans, are missing most of them Americans, are missing The important towns of Peronne, Chaulnes and Nesle, and more than 60 villages have been taken by the British troops on a front of some 45 miles, and King George's men are continuing their pursuit of the retreat ing Germans.

At some points Sunday's incursions into German positions were to a depth of ten miles. The operations were carried out on a front running from Arras to Chaulnes.

Taking up the operations south of Chaulnes, the French recaptured their old positions on the Roye-Noyon road and including the important town of Noyon. In this region, northeast of Lassigny, the French have penetrated

the French while northeast of Soiss, ons, Crouy has been taken.

The armies of the Russian grand duke, Nicholas, are pressing the Turks in the Lake Van and Sivas regions in Turkish Armenia and in Persia in operations which have as their objective the cutting off of the Turks who are Leing pressed north-ward by the British in Mesopotamia. Unofficial reports say the town of Van, on the east bank of Lake Van,

has been captured by the Russsians and that further gains have been made by them in the region of Kermanshah. In Mesopotamia the Otto-man forces are in full flight in the direction of Samaria, north of Bagdad, according to the British war office.

# ENTERTAINING AT BRIDGE.

meeting last Friday afternoon with her sister, Miss Julia Schwerin as guest of honor. There were seven under the agreement. These con-tables of players, there being guests outside the club. outside the club.

Cream chicken, aspic, fruit salad and tea was served as refreshments.

# MISS GERTRUDE CALVERT

on business Sunday and there was great excitement among our folks when someone started the report that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that as an old Clemson boy and one well versed in the started that are the started t appendicitis. She was taken imme Manning had sent for him to start diately to the Chester hospital and the movement to clean up the Gerwas operated on successfully Sunday He returned on Monday with nothing more formidable than a natty looking suit case full of legal papers. I morning. Her many friends in Abbeville will be glad to know that she is doing nicely.

# A PLEASANT PARTY.

Mrs. Rayford Power and The supper given by the Abbevile Lodge of Masons last Friday was a success in every way. Mr. Kenneth Baker was here from Greenwood and was one of the speakers after the supper.

Haylon entertained their he attempted to turn into the Boule- and chasers will be ready for a strength of their heattenpted to turn into the Boule- and chasers will be ready for a strength of their heattenpted to turn into the Boule- and chasers will be ready for a strength of the strength of their heattenpted to turn into the Boule- and chasers will be ready for a strength of the strength of the strength of their heattenpted to turn into the Boule- and chasers will be ready for a strength of the streng rooms were made more beautiful with vases of flowers and pot plants. There were three tables of rook

ed themselves charming hostesses.

# STORES TO CLOSE AT 6 O'CLOCK

Take Notice, that beginning on April the 1st all the business houses of Abbeville will begin closing their stores at 6 o'clock and will continue to do so until Sept. the 15th. Now if the City Council will pass an Ordi nance setting the clock up one hour it will give the clerks and others one hour more to enjoy the afternoon. It would mean that instead of closing at 6 that we would really close at 5, but would go to work one hour earlier in the morning.

# TWO NEW ALDERMEN NAMED

In Tuesday's second primary Dr. J. R. Nickles won over Tru-man Stevens in ward four, 47 to 36.

In ward 2 Ben Cochran won over Evans, 33 to 32.

# CZAR DEPOSED BY

Supreme Court Hands Much Grounds Gained Empire Is Shaken to Its Very Foundation By Fierce Revolution.

> Stockholm, March 16 .- The empire of Russia has been shaken in its foundation by a revolt, the fierceness and exact consequences of which are still shrouded behind a veil of sestill shrouded behind a veil of se-crecy—the same that managed to hide from the world for fully a week that the long-smouldering sparks of dis-content had been fanned to the fury of rebellion.

Nicholas II is no longer czar of all the Russias. He has abdicated his throne and is today a refugee at the headquarters of some loyal army chief 'somewhere on the eastern front."

His brother, Michael Alexandrovitch

who six years ago, fied the empire as an exile because of his morganation marriage, has been appointed regent to act for the 13-year-old czarvitch Alexis Nicolaievitch:

London, March 17 .- Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a statement here today from the semiofficial Russian news agency.

New York, March 17 .- The Russian empress and crown prince are safe in Finland and the emperor at the Snotgorsky monastery in Pskoff, according to a cablegram made public here today by the Russian-American Asiatic corporation.

#### AUTOMOBILE PRESENTED TO REV. F. H. WARDLAW

York, March 17 .- The Rev. F. H. Wardlaw of Charlotte, N. C., pastor-elect of Bethesda Presbyterian elect of Lassigny, the French have penetrated more than 12 miles through the German positions toward the town of Ham.

To the southeast the entire first line of the Germans, including the villages of Carlehont, Morsam and Nouvron Vongre were captured by the French while penetrated in the French while penetrated at curing car by the Bethesda congregation.

Mr. Wardlaw spent Monday night and Tuesday in the Bethesda section looking over his new field of labor and Wednesday morning, while in York en route home, was presented with the present while penetrated at touring car by the Bethesda congregation. with the automobile by a committee from the church. Mr. Wardlaw expects to move his family to the manse at Guthriesville and assume his pastoral duties about April 1.

#### THE BLUE JACKETS.

Some of the enterprising little boys around town have organized a baseball team and named themselves "The Blue Jackets." They have car-"The Blue Jackets." They have carried a petition around asking for help to buy their outfit and have collected the magnificent sum of nine dollars, which they have invested in mits, bats, balls and protectors. The Blue Jackets are now ready for any challenge and are confident that they can clean up any

team in the town or county. in contributing and in reading the pe-

# BUYING PROPERTY.

Dr. and Mrs. J. Irwin Gilmer have bought a home on Nickles avenue and are moving in this week

from Magazine street.
Dr. Gilmer is with the McMurray Drug Co., and is a young man our people think well of. Mrs. Gilmer has made many friends in Abbeville who are glad to feel that they will make their home in our town permanently.

# CAR LOOPED THE LOOP.

Eugene Breazeale, the seventeen-year-old son of W. E. Breazeale, came near losing his life yesterday afternoon when a delivery truck he was driving, looped the loop and jumped the gap at the corner of Greenville street and the Boulevard. It is said that the young man was driving the car at good speed when he attempted to turn into the Bouleknocked senseless and when picked the navy. up by several gentlemen was in an unconscious condition, remaining that way for some time. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was soon brought around. He will probably feel a bit sore for some but will soon be himself again .-Anderson Farmers Tribune.

Eugene is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Breazeale who lived in Abbeville several years ago. Friends here are glad to know that this accident

#### was not serious. A GOOD CITIZEN.

Mr. S. T. Young, of Troy, was in Abbeville on last Thursday on business. Mr. Young is now a citizen of week for Chester, where she will McCormick county, though he was visit for two weeks with the family not in favor of leaving the old county until the people voted for the change. Nevertheless, he will make one of the leading citizens of the new county, and his common sense and good judgment will be worth something to the county authorities, if only his advice in public matters

# REVOLUTIONISTS GOVERNMENT **GETS READY** FOR WAR

VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR EXISTS

President Utilizes Navy Emergency Fund of \$115,000,000

NAVY AND WAR DEPARTMENTS AT WORK, FORMER ESPECI-ALLY BEING ACTIVE IN AR-RANGING FOR COAST PATROL AGAINST SUBMARINES- TO HASTEN GRADUATION OF AN-NAPOLIS CLASSES.

Washington, March 19 .- Preparation for aggressive action by the navy against the German submarine menace began today at the direction of President Wilson.

The president authorized the ex-penditure of the \$115,000,000 emer-gency fund provided by congress to speed up naval construction and pay special additional war craft and the suspension of the eight hour labor law in plants engaged on navy work. Immediately afterward Secretary Daniels ordered the New York pavy yard to begin building 60 submarine

chasers of the 110 foot type, to be completed in from 60 to 80 days.

With the president's approval the secretary also ordered the graduation of the first and second classes at the naval academy. The first class will go out March 29, supplying 172 junior officers to fill existing vacancies, and the second in September, furnishing 202 more a full year be-fore they otherwise would be avail-

While the energies of the navy will be concentrated for the present on efforts to get into commission craft designed particularly to destroy submarines and guard the toast, warships building generally will be speeded up under the recent agreement with private builders and with the funds now made available.

The announcements from the department followed an hour's confer-ence between Secretary Daniels and the president, who walked over from the White House to the state, war and navy building for the purpose.

Engines for the "chasers" to be turned out by the New York plant will be bought from private manu-facturers in time to have them installed promptly upon completion of the hulls.

Bids for 200 or more additional craft of the same type "coast patrol boats," as they are to be designated, will be opened next Wednesday. Mr. Daniels has called upon the entire small boat industry to submit figures as to the number that could be turned out at high speed. He plans to manapolize the market with government orders.

A large number of privately owned motor craft available for navy use may be drawn upon at any time. Retired navy officers have been at work along the Atlantic coast surveying boats for a month. Contracts have been made for their purchase and a telegraphic order will make them government property overnight Volunteer crews for the boats have been enrolled among yachts-

men and others along the coasts. Navy officials estimate that within four months a fleet of 2,000 patrols and chasers will be ready for action.

# HOME ON A VISIT.

Mrs. M. B. Reese leaves this week for her home in Oxford, Miss., where she will visit for some time. Mrs. Reese goes to see her mother, Mrs. Wardlaw, who has been quite sick with pneumonia. She is better now. which is good news to her friends and relatives in Abbeville.

Mrs. Reese will be accompanied by her three bright and interesting little girls.

# OFF ON A VISIT.

Mrs. S. E. Bradley leaves this of her niece, Mrs. D. G. Phillips, after which she will go to Union for a stay of some duration with her son, Mr. Tate Bradley.

# WELL, AND AT HOME.

Amos Morse is at home after a while spent in an Atlanta hospital. His friends are glad to see him and to know that he is well again.