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PASSENGER VESSEL SUNK

Prove "Overt Act" To Plunge Nation In War.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The steady stream of reports telling of the destruction of merchant ships by German submarines was brought to a climax yesterday by a cablegram to the State Department from Consul Frost at Queenstown, Ireland, announcing that the British liner California had been torpedoed without warning, and that an American citizen was among the survivors.

Whether this will prove to be the "overt act" to drive the United States into war no one would attempt to say tonight. President Wilson who must make the decision had retired when the news came and officials did not know his mind. Late in the afternoon he was informed of a message from Consul Frost telling of the sinking of the California, but giving no details as to the warning or the presence of Americans.

The President undoubtedly will wait for complete reports on the disaster before determining whether the time has come for him to go to Congress to ask authority to use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people.

The consul's first report said there was one death and thirty hospital cases among the more than 200 people on board the liner. The second report gave no information concerning casualties except that the survivors were being taken to Queenstown tonight, among them being John A. Lee of Montclair, N. J., the only American known to have been aboard, and that some still were missing, including two women and several children. Lee is supposed to have been a member of the crew, his name does not appear on the passenger list made public.

The fact that the American escaped in a degree the excitement created by the news, but only in a degree. More than a score of merchant craft have been sent to the bottom in the war zone within the past forty-four hours, and fifty or more of the German proclamation of these war zones on the seas went into effect last Thursday. It is realized that if no citizen of the United States is among the victims, it merely was a matter of hours before Americans are caught in such wholesale destruction.

The California, which was bound for New York for Glasgow is the first passenger steamer to be destroyed since the Arabia was torpedoed in the Mediterranean months ago. Her sinking has about swept away the last glimmer of hope here that Germany would permit passenger cars to escape in an effort to avoid bringing the United States to hostilities.

The message from Consul Frost led to energetic preparations for war regarded as virtually inevitable and to guarding against any act by the United States which might pre-empt hostilities.

The most important steps taken were sending of telegrams by Secretary Lansing formally notifying American ship owners that the State Department could not advise them as to whether their vessels should sail on routes through the war zone, but at the same time stating that the United States would not permit American vessels to traverse parts of the high seas are the same as they were prior to the issuance of the German declaration, and that a neutral vessel may take any necessary measures to prevent or retaliate if they believe it is liable to be attacked unlawfully.

In effect, informed American shippers that they are at liberty to sail on their ships if they desire and send them to sea prepared to resist German aggression. The fact of Mr. Lansing's message was not made public here, but it was sent in response to inquiries, and the government desired to avoid making a formal announcement on the subject.

Formal endorsement of the breaking of relations with Germany was given by the Senate after a five-hour session on Senator Stone's resolution pressing approval of President Wilson's action. The resolution was passed by a vote of 78 to 5, two Democrats and three Republicans, who voted in opposition when the roll was called.

With the California the immediate officials were deeply impressed by the complete thoroughness of the German undersea campaign and its effect on the figures of the last 1200 ships of carrying out Germany's threat to blockade completely. Lloyd's reports received here show a total of 1000 tons for two days, or destruction at the rate of \$50,000 a month. German naval experts have said it

Candidates Here Today.

Candidates for Congress from the 11th Congressional District will address the voters at the Court House, Camden Today, February 9th. The exact hour for the speaking has not been announced.

Loss Promptly Paid.

Captain W. M. Shannon last week received through the Williams Fire Insurance Agency, the full amount of loss by fire on his handsome residence a few days ago. The damage was estimated at around \$800 and the agents and owner agreed upon \$701 which has been paid.

Admiral H. H. McDowell

of Columbia came over to look after the settlement. It will be of interest to the public at large to know that this insurance was placed in two South Carolina companies, the Southern Home Insurance Co., of Charleston, and the Palmetto Fire Insurance Co., of Sumter.

Prof. Tate Dead.

William Knox Tate, formerly State superintendent of rural schools in South Carolina, died early yesterday in Nashville, where he had held a chair since May 1, 1915, in George Peabody College for Teachers. Bruce R. Payne, president of the college, telegraphed to the State yesterday morning: "It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the death of Prof. W. K. Tate." Pneumonia which set in about a week ago, was the cause of death. Mr. Tate is survived by his wife and five children.—Thursday's State.

would be necessary to cut off 1,000,000 a month to completely isolate England. If the present rate of \$50,000 destroyed is maintained, it is suggested that the balance will be more than made up by the enormous amount of neutral shipping held in port.

Hereafter the government will seek to have kept secret the fact of departure of vessels for the war zone. The Treasury Department has previously issued strict instructions against publication of manifests and every effort will be made from now on to allow as little information as possible to find its way to German submarine commanders.

The statement to shippers was sent today to all who had previously requested a ruling by the department and included both freight and passenger carrying vessels. Among others it went to the Standard Oil Company, whose officers had ordered all their huge oil-carrying fleet to hold to port. Whether the implied invitation given shippers to arm if they see fit will show them the opinion rendered by the department as to their right to sail and explain to them any measures that may be taken for their safety. It is understood from this that the department will issue no further statement.

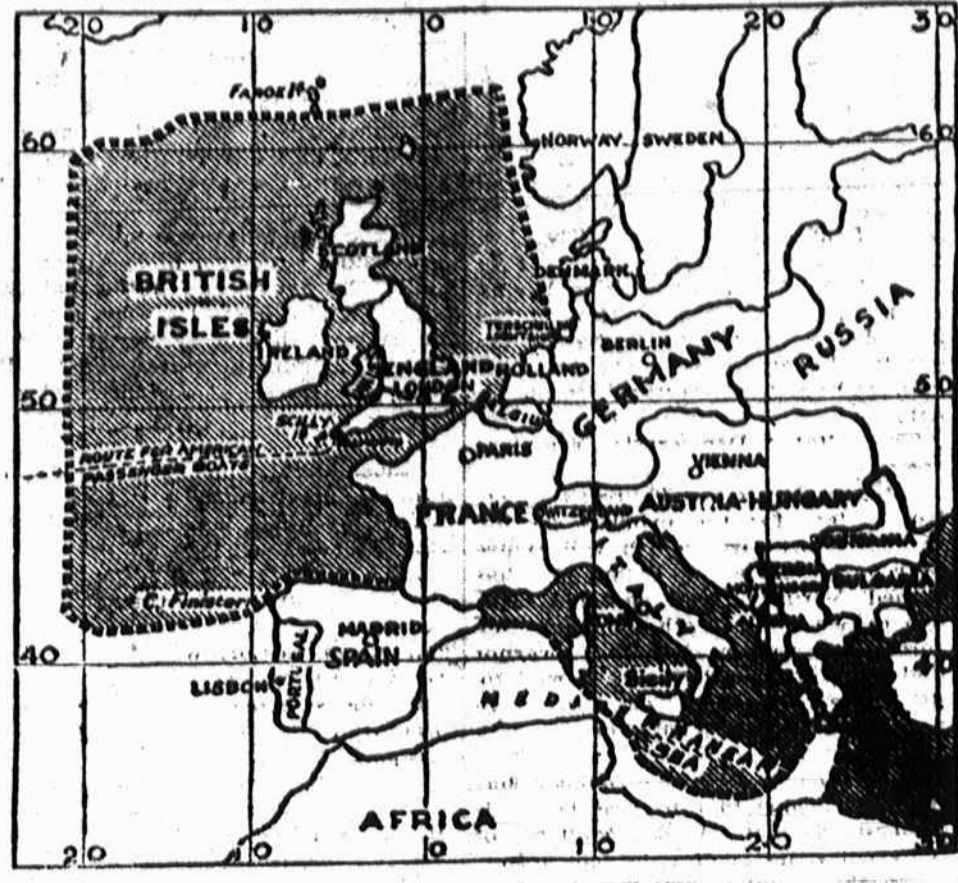
The Austrian situation seemed more hopeless today than at any time since the German declaration. Charge Swindler called at the department but no details were given out either as to his visit or as to whether information explanatory of the Austrian note has been received from Vienna. An interview called from there, however, indicated Austria's total adhesion to the German policy and about dispelled what little hope remained for a modus vivendi that would prevent a severance and allow the United States still to care for the great prison camps over which she has assumed guardianship.

That most of the neutral world will line up behind this country at least to the extent of vigorously protesting against the German campaign became evident today with reports that Spain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Brazil, Bolivia and probably other Latin American countries would publish their replies shortly. While it is not believed that any of these nations, particularly the Europeans contiguous to Germany, will formally sever relations, as this country has done, their protest is valued as a means of moral condemnation.

After consultation with the president, Secretary Baker issued a statement pointing out that German ships at Panama and the Philippine Islands had not been seized, as has been reported, and that nothing would be done by the American authorities which might be considered as questioning their ownership. Because of the disabling of some of the ships, however, precautionary measures have been adopted.

Spokesmen of the administration went to great pains to emphasize that the American government will follow the letter of the law in dealing with German subjects and property in the United States and that no officials of the government have been authorized to take any steps in violation of this policy. German residents will be treated with the utmost consideration. It is understood that the government virtually has determined to observe the terms of the old Prussian-American treaty of 1828, under which the territory of the other would be given nine months in which to dispose of their personal and real property and leave the country.

BLOCKADE ZONES DECLARED BY KAISER



RELATIONS SEVERED.

President Issues Passports to Von Bernstorff and Recalls Gerard.

Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the Kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war.

Similar action is waiting for Austria when she notifies this government that she joins in the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare.

The President made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world today at a joint session of Congress.

Passports have been handed to Count Von Bernstorff, Ambassador Gerard, with his staff and all American consuls have been ordered out of Germany. All German consuls in the United States are expected to withdraw that the severance of relations may be complete. American diplomatic interests in Berlin have been turned over to Spain. German diplomatic interests in the United States have been taken over by Switzerland. Foreign diplomatic interests with the United States had in charge in Germany have been turned over to various neutrals.

Two years of diplomatic negotiation, marked with frequent crises and attended with the loss of more than 200 American lives on the high seas have culminated with an act which has led to war.

Every agency of the American Government has been set in motion to protect the country against acts of German sympathizers. These moves are of necessity being kept secret.

With the notice of severance of relations the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of sixty-four Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the South Atlantic.

He worked most of the night preparing his address to Congress. At 10:30 o'clock this morning it became known that Ambassador Gerard had been ordered home and that passports had been sent to Count Von Bernstorff. Although there was no official confirmation of the President's decision until he formally announced it himself to Congress, the knowledge spread rapidly.

Count Von Bernstorff heard it unofficially while talking with an Associated Press correspondent. While apparently deeply moved, he was not surprised. His first act was to ask Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, to come to the German embassy and prepare to take over its affairs. Then he informed his wife, an American-born woman, of the development and likewise told the embassy staff. His passports were not actually delivered until 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

While the President was addressing Congress one of Secretary Lansing's confidential assistants called at the embassy and delivered the passports with a note in reply to the German declaration.

President Wilson kept himself in seclusion during the morning except for a brief conference with Secretary Lansing until he left the White House for the Capitol, shortly before 2 o'clock.

In preparation for the history making event the Senate and House had assembled in the hall of the latter body. Justices of the Supreme Court had seats on the floor, the Cabinet set in a reserved space, Ambassador Jusserand, of France, occupied his reserved seat in the diplomatic gallery, which was packed, principally with neutrals who came to hear words of far reaching importance affecting their own governments.

As usual a committee of Congressmen met the President and escorted him to the Speaker's dais.

The whole body rose and cheered as the President, acknowledging their greeting without his usual smiles, but grim faced and solemn, took his place at the clerk's desk and began reading the document which was being heard around the world.

Not a sound came from floor or gallery, but the clear, calm tones of the President, reading slowly and distinctly, were heard about him.

The assemblage of Senators, Representatives, and notables about him listened with closest attention to words which may record one of the sombre moments of American history. It is not indeed of the world.

The news of the torpedoing of the American steamer Houstonic created a tremendous sensation, but it does not necessarily constitute such an invasion of American rights as the President said he would meet by asking

Young Man Commits Suicide.

A telephone message to The Chronicle just as we are going to press states that Mr. T. P. Sanders, Jr., of Hagood, committed suicide there yesterday afternoon about two o'clock. Mr. Sanders was about twenty-five years of age, a son of Mr. Tom Polke Sanders, and one of the most prominent and highly respected young men in that section. No reason was assigned for his rash act, but arrangements had been made for the funeral.

Woman Badly Burned.

Rebecca Bolton, a negro cook, employed at the home of Mr. G. L. Howell, was quite badly burned early Saturday morning while sweeping in front of a fire. Her dress caught from the back and before the fire could be put out had burned the woman considerably. She was sent to the Camden Hospital where she is now being cared for.

Married.

At the residence of the bride's father near Killian, S. C., on Sunday Feb. 4, 1917, Mr. Charlie M. Porter, of Lugoff, Rte. 2, and Miss Maudie E. Epping, of near Killian. The ceremony was performed by Mr. J. M. Porter, Notary Public.

To Get Year's Pay.

Washington, Jan. 30.—Congressman Byrnes, it is understood here today, will make arrangements whereby the family of the late Representative D. E. Finley will receive his usual congressional mileage, amounting to about \$200. Arrangements are also being made to pay Mr. Finley's family one year's salary, \$7,500. This is customary in such cases.

Companies to Return.

Columbia, Feb. 7.—Four of the seven bills providing for the return of the insurance companies to the state passed final reading in the House today and were sent to the Senate. Six of the Senate bills were received in the House and there was no fight on any except the one repealing the valued policy law. The House refused to kill it by a vote of 82 to 21. The insurance companies, that left the states last year are expected to return at once.

Ford Tells What He Can Do.

Washington, Feb. 7.—One thousand and one hundred submarines, from 18 to 20 feet long, plus 3,000 motors each day, Henry Ford says his Detroit factory can turn out in time of war.

Services at Catholic Church.

11 a. m.—Mass and Sermon on the 4th to 15th verses of 8th Chapter of St. Luke's Gospel.

8:30 p. m.—Evening Prayers, Sermon and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Subject of Sermon: "Do Catholics Adore Images?"

All are cordially welcomed to all services.

Congress for additional authority to act.

Only the establishment of the exact facts can determine whether the sinking of the ship was a new attack on American rights or whether the case comes within the range of other American ships carrying contraband, destroyed in accordance with international law and presenting a case to be settled under its provisions.

TOURIST AND TOWNSFOLK.

News of Camden and People Who Are Visitors Here.

In a practice game on the polo field yesterday the two teams lined up were the Magpies, Steve Robinson, Gerald Whistler, Charles Little and Newton Boykin, playing against the Lone Star Rangers—Earl Shaw, Chas. Russell, Jr., C. M. Tantor and Arthur Perkins, six periods of seven minutes each were played. The Magpies finally winning by two goals. The Lone Star Rangers were not so good, but owing to the Magpies brilliant playing were unable to get the ball back. In the absence of the regular referee, Miss Margaret Tisker officiated in this capacity.

St. Valentine's Dance at The Kirkwood Wednesday evening will be the occasion for the next large event on the social calendar.

Many welcome greetings awaited Miss Norma Wise and Miss Helen Wise on their arrival at The Kirkwood with Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Wise who are making their annual visit to Camden.

Arrivals for the week at The Kirkwood are Mrs. John Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Georger, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Howard from Buffalo, from New York City; Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Snyder, Carl H. Anderson, W. S. Blittz, Mrs. James M. Davis, Charles T. Hazzi, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Saffer, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Phillips, Benj. T. Ward, from Cleveland; Dr. and Mrs. Theo. W. Beckerton, Mrs. Alvah Miller, Mrs. Marguerite Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Wise, Miss Norma Wise, Miss Helen Wise, Mrs. A. B. Smith, Miss M. F. Cooke, from Cleveland; Mrs. S. W. Prosser, Miss Harriet R. Prosser, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Gavitt, Englewood, N. J.; Miss Mildred Calhoun and Miss Sally Calhoun, Cleveland, Mrs. H. H. Higgins, Cleveland, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thurman, Washington, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Hodges, Carter Sales, of Detroit; Mr. and Mrs. C. Sydney Cook, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. E. Crimpton, Boston; George Batten, Mrs. George Batten, Mrs. A. Y. McNeil and John McNeil, Jr., Montclair.

Recent arrivals at Timrod Hall are Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Perkins and Miss Elizabeth Perkins, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Last Friday several of the young ladies of Camden spent a very enjoyable afternoon at Timrod Hall with Miss Elizabeth Perkins. In a guessing contest Miss Edna Villaplane and Miss Rita Heath out for the prize, and Miss Heath was the lucky winner. After the contest the party enjoyed an entertaining game of Charades. Among those present were the Misses Elizabeth Perkins, Mary Kirkland, Bettie Heath, Emma Villaplane, Estelle Harding, Polly DePass, Clara Curton, Josephine Curton and Hope Savage.

Arrivals at the Court Inn for the week are: Miss Maple Macbeth, Mrs. Robertson, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Dreck, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hagood, New York; Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Addams, Philadelphia; A. W. Sicker, Atlanta; N. P. Severance, Boston; Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Child, Miss Perkins, Mr. Terrace, Mr. Lulliers, Baltimore; Mr. and Mrs. O. H. M. and Mrs. A. D. Williams, Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. Scott Benjamin, J. Harper Poor, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. McNeil and Mrs. J. Harper Poor, New York; Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. P. Garrett, A. Y. P. Garrett, Miss Nicholls, Washington, D. C.; Miss P. Gardner, New York; Mrs. J. L. Lamb, Mr. and Mrs. A. Kelly, St. Louis; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dodd, New York City; Miss L. V. Moore, Syracuse, N. Y.; Miss L. A. Fitch, New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. Grove and children, New York City; Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Riddle, Miss Carolyn Riddle, H. W. Riddle, Jr., Asbury, N. J.; Wm. B. Merrifield, Frederick P. Cutter, Maryland; T. H. Harper and wife, Montclair, N. J.

Stopping at Mrs. Whistler's private boarding house on Broad Street are: Mrs. E. A. Georger, Mrs. Walker, Erie, Pa.; Mrs. Albert J. Wright, Miss Lansing, Buffalo, N. Y.; Mrs. Bell, Miss Bell, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. A. D. Field and son, Mt. Airy, Pa.

Mrs. De Smith of Warrenton, Va., is spending the month of February with Mrs. Willis Cantey at "Chanticleer" her country home.

Arrivals at the Hopkins Inn for the past week are: Mrs. S. O. Blodgett, Miss Blodgett, Miss L. R. Blodgett, East Girlington, T. T. H. O. Kingston, Buffalo; Alfred P. Page, Norfolk, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Strohwald, Moorestown, N. J.; J. A. Develin, Haddon Heights, N. J.; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Spring, Brooklyn; Mrs. Fred Beldin, Hartford, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McNulty, Buffalo, N. Y.; James Lyon, Short Hills, N. J.; Mrs. J. F. Bartow, South Orange; Miss M. C. Greenman, Miss G. George, Miss Alma J. George, Garrison, N. Y.; Mrs. Homer Wise, Flushing, N. Y.

A beautiful white marble dial has been erected in front of Sarfield Golf Club in memory of Mr. Geo. Shoemaker, who was an enthusiastic member of that club.



COUNT VON BERNSTORFF



AMBASSADOR GERARD