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ALLIES ANSWER GERMANY'S DECLARATION OF WAR ZONE

Will Attempt to Cut Off Supplies From That Nation and at the Same Time Prevent Commodities From Leaving German Ports.

NO MENTION IS MADE OF A BLOCKADE OR CONTRABAND

These Measures Will Be Enforced by the British and French Governments Without Risk to Neutral Shipping or to Neutral or Non-Combatant Life and in Spirit Observance of the Dictates of Humanity.

(By Associated Press.)
LONDON, March 1.—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 today at a session which will be historic. 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.

Have Been Moderate.

"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 unavailably 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.

Still Considering American Note.

Curiously, the German reply to the American note seeking to solve the situation growing out of Germany's declaration of a naval war zone, was handed to Ambassador Gerard at Berlin today and Premier Asquith, in his speech, said that Great Britain and her allies were still considering carefully the American note to them on the subject. That the British government had rejected the proposals, he declared, was "quite untrue."

Tremendous Cost of War.

The tremendous cost of modern warfare, which the premier estimated now at \$7,500,000 daily to the Allies alone, and likely to grow to \$5,000,000 or more by April, was the theme of that part of the address not dealing with the blockade. The premier gave these figures in asking for a supplementary vote of credit, making a total of \$1,810,000,000 to prosecute the war to March 31, 1915, which the house unanimously granted.

The entire struggle with Napoleon cost England only \$6,155,000,000 and the South African war only \$1,050,000,000 according to Mr. Asquith.

Newspapers Announce Answer.

Before the premier had finished the newspapers were on the streets proclaiming: "Our Answer to Germany in big letters and it was apparent everywhere that the entire nation had been chatting up proposals 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."

The Statement.

The statement is as follows: "Germany has declared that the English Channel, the north and west coast of France, the waters around the British Isles, and a war area, and has officially notified that all enemy ships found in that area will be destroyed and that neutral vessels may be exposed to danger. This is in effect a claim to torpedo at sight, without regard to the safety of the crew

or passengers, any merchant vessel under any flag. As it is not in the power of the German admiralty to maintain any surface craft in these waters this attack can only be delivered by submarine agency.

Duty of Attacking Ship.

"The law and customs of nations in regard to attacks on commerce have always presumed that the first duty of the captor of a merchant vessel is to bring it before a prize court where it may be tried, where the regularity of the capture may be challenged and where neutrals may recover their cargoes. The sinking of prizes is in itself a questionable act to be resorted to only in extraordinary circumstances and after provision has been made for the safety of all the crew and passengers. If there are passengers on board the responsibility of discriminating between neutral and enemy vessels, and between neutral and enemy cargo aboard rests with the attacking ship, whose duty it is to verify the status and character of the vessel and cargo and to preserve all papers before sinking or even capturing it. So also is the humane duty of providing for the safety of the crews of merchant vessels, whether neutral or enemy, an obligation on every belligerent."

Germany's Method.

"It is upon this basis that all previous discussions of the law for regulating warfare at sea have proceeded. German submarine, however, fulfills none of these obligations; she enjoys no local command of the waters in which she operates; she does not take her captures within the jurisdiction of a prize court; she carries no prize crew which can be put on board a prize; she uses no effective means of discriminating between a neutral and an enemy vessel; she does not receive on board for safety the crew and passengers of the vessel she sinks; her methods of warfare are therefore entirely outside the scope of any international instruments regulating operations against commerce in time of war. The German declaration substitutes indiscriminate destruction for regulated capture. Germany is adopting those methods against peaceful traders and the non-combatants preventing commodities of all kinds, including food for the civil population, from reaching or leaving the British Isles or northern France."

"Her opponents are therefore driven to face retaliatory measures in order in their turn to prevent commodities of any kind from reaching or leaving Germany."

Allies' Method.

"These measures will, however, be enforced by the British and French governments without risk to neutral ships or to neutral or non-combatant life and in strict observance of the dictates of humanity. The British and French governments will, therefore, hold themselves free to detain and take into port ships carrying goods of presumed enemy destination, ownership or origin. It is not intended to confiscate such vessels or cargoes unless they would otherwise be liable to condemnation. The treatment of vessels which sailed before this date will not be affected."

That is our reply.

The reading of the statement was interrupted frequently with loud cheers.

Cotton Prices at Hamburg.

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Good middling cotton at Hamburg February 23 sold at 17 1/2 cents a pound. Ambassador Gerard cabled today. The Bremen weekly average was 17 1/8 cents a pound. The loss by exchange now amounts to 15 per cent of this price," the ambassador added.

Offers \$25,000 for Frank Baker.

NEW YORK, March 1.—Colonel Jacob Ruppert, part owner of the New York American League club, today confirmed a report that he had offered Connie Mack \$25,000 for Frank Baker, the third baseman of the Philadelphia Athletics, who was retired to his farm at Trappe, Md. Mack is willing to let Baker go for \$50,000, it is stated.

Florida Special Derailed.

MACON, Ga., March 1.—The Florida special of the Southern Railway, southbound, was derailed late today near this city. John Spearman, baggage man, of Atlanta, Ga., was killed. None of the passengers was injured.

SHOOTS WOMAN THEN HIMSELF

Mysterious Telephone Call Brings to Light Mysterious Murder and Suicide

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, March 1.—A mysterious telephone call from New York tonight asking if there had been an accident at a hotel here brought to light an equally mysterious murder and suicide in one of the hotel's rooms. A couple who had registered as Charles C. St. Clair and wife, New York, were found dead.

When the man on the New York end of the wire was given a description of the woman he exclaimed that she was his wife and added that he would come to Philadelphia immediately. The dead man clutched a revolver and the police said he evidently had shot the woman and then himself.

AMERICAN FLAG HAULED DOWN

Crew of American Steamer Dacia Sent Back to New York

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, March 1.—The American flag which flew over the steamer Dacia, captured last week by a French cruiser and taken into Brest, has been hauled down and the American consul at Brest is sending the Dacia's crew back to New York city, according to cablegrams received here today.

A message from Captain Dodd, of the Dacia, to Edward N. Breitung, the vessel's owner, says: "Dacia detained here; flag down; French official on board; American consul sending crew to New York. Will I remain and look after interests."

Captain McDonald was instructed to remain and to insist also upon the crew remaining. To the American consul at Brest Mr. Breitung addressed a message inquiring why the Dacia was detained and why her flag was hauled down and requesting the consul to look after his interests there.

PARIS, March 1.—(11:50 p. m.)—The French foreign office is not as yet officially cognizant of details of the Dacia case.

Officials of the marine department said today the case would come before prize tribunals in Paris, which is accorded two months to arrive at a decision. This tribunal is presided over by Emile Mayniere, president of the council of state, and is composed of Admiral Lefevre; Marine Inspector General Payon, and State Councilors Rene Worms and Fustiers, representing the foreign office.

World-Wide Boycot on Japanese Products

Germany Accepts American Proposals

(By Associated Press.)
SAN FRANCISCO, March 1.—A nation-wide and ultimately world-wide boycott on Japanese products is the announced aim of a Chinese society organized here today. 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 present society.

Shortage in Binding Twine is Threatened

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 1.—Several American manufacturers brought to the attention of the state department today an embargo on exports of sisal fibre from Progreso, Mexico, which they said, threatened a shortage in the supply of twine for the 1915 American harvest. The embargo was imposed, it was said, because of differences between Carranza factions at the port. The department is expected to take up the matter with Carranza.

Florida Special Derailed.

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FARM LOAN PLAN WRITTEN IN BILL

PROVIDES SYSTEM OF ASSOCIATIONS TO MAKE LOANS ON FARM MORTGAGE NOTES

START FILIBUSTER AGAINST SHIP BILL

Democrats Consider Abandoning Fight, But President Would Not Approve the Plan

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 1.—A farm loan plan was written into the agricultural appropriation bill by the house tonight after a long and vigorous fight. The rural credits amendment reported by the agricultural committee and generally accepted as having the sanction of the administration was revised by a series of amendments which revolutionized the proposal.

The Bulkeley-Hollis plan, finally adopted, finally was agreed to without roll call. It would provide of farm loan associations to make loans on farm mortgage notes. These associations would form federal land banks in districts corresponding to the federal reserve districts to deal in the mortgages and loan to the association on those mortgages. In these banks the government would have a supervising and under certain circumstances a stockholding interest. They would be authorized to issue bonds based on their farm mortgage security.

A compromise on the naval building program was one of the important developments of the day. Conferees to two submarines, of the sea-going type, and 16 coast defense submarines. The house bill had provided for but one sea-going submarine and 11 of the coast defense type.

Up to date the appropriation bills ready for the president aggregate an outlay of \$314,411,223. These include the sundry civil, fortifications. District of Columbia and military academy bills. Nine other bills, excluding the river and harbor bill, as passed by the senate aggregate \$674,029,120. Added to these, in all probability, will be a joint resolution appropriating a lump sum of \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000 for river and harbor improvement, which would bring the total appropriation for the next fiscal year to more than a billion dollars.

A filibuster by House Republicans today against consideration of the conference report on the ship purchase bill prevented action on the measure.

Democratic leaders tonight considered abandoning the fight for the ship purchase bill, but after a series of conferences it developed that the president would not approve the plan. Then Representative Underwood announced that the conference report would be carried up in the house again tomorrow.

"The president thinks the bill ought to be put through the house," said Mr. Underwood.

Threat of Food Shortage Removed

(By Associated Press.)
ROTTERDAM, Holland, March 1.—(By London, 3:45 p. m.)—A record quantity of gifts from the United States to the destitute of Belgium arrived today at Rotterdam. The Great City, carrying 9,400 tons of goods collected from every State in the Union, docked here, as did the South Point, which brought 7,000 tons of flour contributed by millers of northwestern States. The threat of a food shortage during March is now removed.

Effort to Prevent Spread of Disease

(By Associated Press.)
RICHMOND, Va., March 1.—Federal State and county authorities have combined in an effort to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease, discovered in a dairy herd of cows near this city. Today the entire herd of 275, of which 125 had fully developed the scourge, was killed and the carcasses destroyed. No other cases have been discovered, but a most rigid quarantine is being maintained about the infected farm and all other local dairies. State Veterinarian J. G. Fernyough said tonight that he believed the situation was under control.

Four Thousand Quit Work

BARRE, Vt., March 1.—Four thousand granite workers quit work today pending the acceptance of a new wage and working agreement offered by the granite workers' union fought in the streets for possession of the ballot box to be used in taking a vote on the question of accepting the new agreement. Several were injured.

WILL MAKE PROTEST AGAINST ACTION OF ALLIED NATIONS

LOCKED IN VAULT; BANK ROBBED

Robbers Enter During Board Meeting and Escape With About \$1,500

(By Associated Press.)
WILLIAMSVILLE, Mo., March 1.—The president, cashier and three directors, one of them a woman, of the Williamsville State Bank were locked in the bank vault this afternoon by two robbers who escaped with about \$1,500. Bloodhounds and a posse immediately started in pursuit. The robbers entered the bank during a meeting of the board of directors. In locking the directors in the vault the robbers overlooked a large amount of cash stored there, but they took all the money in sight at the cashier's cage.

GOV. MANNING IS ENCOURAGED

Campaign to Established Law and Order and Run Blind Tigers Out Producing Results

(By Associated Press.)
COLUMBIA, March 1.—Governor Manning's campaign to establish law and order everywhere and to run the blind tigers out of business is producing results. A sheriff of one of the counties of the State made a raid on an old offender against the law and a few days later received the following letter from the man he had raided:

"I beg to advise you that I am not at present engaged in the sale of whiskey, and under this administration will not sell it in any form I want and intend to abide by the law so you won't have any more reports against me in this line. Thanking you for your visit here in search of this matter, and you can write Mr. Manning that I will not sell anything that is unlawful, as I hope him a successful administration."

The sheriff sent this very interesting letter to the governor and he was very much gratified at this concrete evidence of the result of his campaign for law enforcement.

Capt. James M. Graham of the 19th infantry, U. S. A., has been detailed for duty with the South Carolina militia and will begin work in this State at once.

Tommy Grice, the Florence negro under death sentence for criminal assault, was not electrocuted at the State penitentiary today, having been granted a reprieve until June 1 by Governor Manning in order to give time to look into the facts in the case.

Germany Accepts American Proposals

(By Associated Press.)
BERLIN, March 1 (via London, 6 p. m.)—Germany's reply to the American note concerning the naval war zone was handed today to Ambassador Gerard. It corresponds in general with the forecast of some days ago.

The foreign office characterizes the German reply as "acceptance with few modifications" of the American proposals.

Signs Prohibition Bill

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

LAW CONSTITUTIONAL

(By Associated Press.)
JACKSON, Miss., March 1.—The Mississippi supreme court today upheld the constitutionality of the May-Mott-Lewis law enacted at the last session of the legislature prohibiting the keeping of intoxicants in social clubs.

In its decision the court quoted the following:

"Whiskey is a good thing in its place. There is nothing like it for preserving a man when he is dead. If you want to keep a dead man or put him in whiskey; if you want to kill a live man put whiskey in it."

Washington Officials Regard It As An Unprecedented and Novel Step and One Likely to Work Injury to Commerce Between U. S. and Other Nations

NOTIFICATION CAN NOT BE CALLED A BLOCKADE

State Department Officials Admit That One of the Most Complex Problems of the War Has Arisen—Stopping of Commerce to and From Germany Viewed With Much More Seriousness Than a Blockade.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, March 1.—All commercial intercourse by sea between Germany and the outside world was declared prohibited today by Great Britain and France. Identical notes presented by the French and British ambassadors informed the United States of this drastic step by the Allies in reply to Germany's war zone proclamation. The text of the notes was the same as the statement made by Premier Asquith in the British parliament.

If this policy is enforced it no longer will be possible to ship cotton, manufactured articles and commodities hitherto of non-contraband character from the United States to Germany directly or indirectly, and from Germany the supply of dyes and other merchandise for consumption in this country will be cut off.

The impression was general in official circles tonight that a strong protest would be made. The Allies' action was regarded as an unprecedented and novel step. Officials pointed out that in the reprisals which the belligerents were making toward each other there was singular forgetfulness of the fact that whatever might be the violations of international customs as between those countries at war, this could not affect the status of international rules as between the United States and countries with which she was at peace.

Not a Reply to American Proposals. Assurances given by Great Britain that today's note was not a reply to the recent proposals of the United States for an adjustment of the entire situation gave ground for hopes that the measures taken might be only temporary. In this connection, the state department issued the following statement:

"The British ambassador has presented the following instructions from his government: 'When presenting the joint Anglo-French communication you should inform the United States government that the communication received from them through the United States ambassador in London respecting a possible limitation of use of submarines and mines and an arrangement for supplying goods to Germany is being taken into careful consideration with their allies.'"

Copies of the notes were transmitted immediately by Secretary Bryan to President Wilson. State department officials admitted that one of the most complex problems of the war had arisen. Officials were unanimous in the opinion that the notification could not be called a "blockade" although it virtually had the same effect. It was noted generally that the communication did not use the word blockade. The notes leave much, therefore, to be explained.

It was regarded as virtually certain that the United States would promptly inquire as to how the step was to be carried into practice.

U. S. Will Insist on Rights. Officials and diplomats were curious on reading the text to know what would be the disposition of cargoes hitherto not listed as contraband, such as cotton, which, if destined to Germany, the allied fleets purpose to take into British or French ports. An intimation was conveyed in British quarters that the Allies intended to buy outright all such cargoes, but it was said that such a promise would not affect the determination of the United States to insist on its rights to send non-contraband articles to Germany when the question is argued in further diplomatic correspondence.

Just when the United States will act on the latter note is dependent to some extent on when the replies are received from the Allies and Germany to the informal communication looking to an abolition of submarine warfare on merchant ships and the shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerents. Germany's answer is said to be on its way, and

officials expect that it will be an acquiescence in the principle of the American proposals. From Great Britain not a word has come in several days until today's statement that the matter was under consideration. This created a feeling of hope among some officials that an understanding might be reached.

In other quarters, however, there was a disposition to regard the American informal communication as likely to fail of accomplishing anything beyond a possible amelioration of conditions as to mines in the open seas. Displeasure Not Concealed. Displeasure over the latest developments was not concealed in state department circles, where the stopping of commerce to and from Germany was viewed with much more seriousness than a blockade, most of interloped also with cargoes presumed to be bound to a belligerent while in transit to a neutral country. Whereas the doctrine of continuous voyage previously has been invoked in the present war by Great Britain to sustain her right to detain cargoes at any stage in their journey if proved ultimately to be destined to a belligerent, such a presumption is understood now to include all articles of merchandise, such as machinery and implements as well as cotton, bound between the United States and neutral countries, unless an embargo on re-exportation is put into effect by the neutrals to whom the products are consigned.

Will Increase Duties of Government. Injection of an element of suspicion on cargoes of goods hitherto untouched when bound between neutral ports will greatly increase the duties of the American government in protecting the interests of its shippers from undue delays and detentions without sufficient proof.

The entire question of the right, set up by Great Britain, to take neutral vessels into ports for examination and kindred subjects, such as consignments "in order," and to named consignees, will be brought into the field of discussion again, affecting materially the answer which the United States was preparing to the correspondence with Great Britain on the subject of contraband begun with the American note of December 23 and continued in a preliminary and supplementary reply from Great Britain. Undecided What Step to Take. In approaching the question of the ground on which the United States should enter protest against the action of the Allies, officials were doubtful as to whether they would make their argument on the theory that a blockade in reality was being attempted, or whether they would contend for the uninterrupted passage of cargoes between this country and belligerents not listed as contraband. Officials realized that, except for diplomatic correspondence, the points of which might be easily exhausted without remedy, there was no way for neutral governments to enforce their protests and still maintain their neutrality. The general disregard of precedents, it was pointed out, has made the position of neutrals more delicate in the present circumstances than ever before, though a somewhat similar situation which led to embargoes by the United States and the non-intercourse act arose in the early part of the nineteenth century during the Napoleonic wars. A blockade was declared by Great Britain against the coast from the River Elbe to the Port of Brest (France) inclusive, Napoleon, then in camp at Berlin, proclaimed a counter blockade the entire British coast, and prohibited commerce with England. Great Britain has retaliated by issuing an "order in council" prohibiting neutral vessels from trading with the ports of France and her allies and with all ports of Europe from which the British flag was excluded.

Questions Never Settled. "Against these various orders and decrees," writes John Bassett Moore, former counselor of the state department, "the United States protested and as measures of retaliation resorted to embargoes and non-intercourse

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)