

## WAR AGAINST AUSTRIA HAS BEEN FORMALLY DECLARED

### President Wilson Signs Resolution.

### ONLY ONE VOTE AGAINST ACTION

Only Representative London Casts Ballot in Negative. Adoption Follows Brief Discussion with Practically All Agreed as to Course, Document is Brief but to the Point.

Washington, Dec. 7.—War between the United States and Austro-Hungary was formally declared today. Congress, with one dissenting vote in the house, adopted and President Wilson approved a resolution declaring existence of a state of war between the "imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States," authorizing the president to employ the nation's armed forces and pledging its resources to victory.

The resolution, the response of congress to the president's request in his address Tuesday is similar to that passed April 6, declaring war with Germany. It becomes effective at 5:03 p. m. today, when it was signed by the executive without formality. An executive proclamation will follow shortly.

After only one hour's deliberation the resolution was unanimously adopted by the senate with an affirmative vote of 74. It was approved by the house 363 to one, Representative London, the New York Socialist, casting the only dissenting vote. A few minutes later, Vice President Marshall and Speaker Clark had signed the document and sent it to the White House where the president attached his signature with Secretary Tumulty and Assistant Secretary Forester as the only witnesses.

The resolution follows:

"Joint resolution:

"Declaring that a state of war exists between the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government and the government and people of the United States, and making provision to prosecute the same.

"Whereas the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government has committed repeated acts of war against the government and the people of the United States of America; therefore, be it

"Resolved by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That a state of war is hereby declared to exist between the United States of America and the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government; and that the president be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to employ the entire naval and military forces of the United States and the resources of the government to carry on war against the imperial and royal Austro-Hungarian government; and to bring the conflict to a successful termination all the resources of the country are hereby pledged by the congress of the United States.

"Signatures:

"Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"Thomas R. Marshall, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

"Approved 7 December, 1917.

"Woodrow Wilson."

In accord with President Wilson's suggestion action in respect to Turkey and Bulgaria, Germany's other allies, was left to the future. Widespread demand in congress for their inclusion in the declaration was indicated in both senate and house debate, but when the roll calls came the president's advice was followed in a demonstration of American unity and harmony. Representative London, who cast the one negative vote, explained his opposition by stating that he was pledged to that course by the Socialist party.

Debate in both houses was unexpectedly brief, lasting only an hour in the senate and only two hours and 40 minutes in the house. Also, in sharp contrast to the discussion which preceded the war declaration against Germany last April, it was almost devoid of spectacular features.

The senate acted first on the resolution presented by Chairman Stone

of the foreign commission. After brief addresses by Senators Stone, Lodge, Hitchcock, Owen and Vardaman the roll call followed. When the document was transmitted to the house foreign relations committee after conferences with state department officials.

Senator Stone, who had charge of the resolution; Gronna, Norris and Vardaman who voted against the German declaration, today joined the majority. A fifth, Former Senator Lane of Oregon, has since died.

Senator La Follette, who also opposed war with Germany, was absent when the roll call was taken and did not vote.

Necessity for cooperative military action of the allies was the principal reason advanced in debate for immediate passage of the Austrian resolution. Senator Stone said American troops might soon face Austrian forces through extension of the Western front to Italy by the interallied war council.

Urging unanimous indorsement of the resolution and deploring any action which might embarrass the president or any effort to amend the resolution to include Turkey and Bulgaria, Senator Lodge, senior Republican member of the foreign relations committee, gave reasons why, he said, a majority of the senate favored formal declarations against Germany's other two allies. He indicated the Turkish government as a "curse" to modern civilization and expressed hope for its extinction.

House debate was led by Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee and Acting Republican Leader Gillette, both of whom recited Austria's aggressions against this government and its citizens. Mr. Gillette also detailed views held by those who also favor war with Turkey and Bulgaria. Scant interest was manifested by members in the house discussion.

Explaining her vote for the resolution, Representative Rankin of Montana, who shed tears when voting against the German declaration, said she still believed war "stupid and futile" and would be avoided when the people, including women, instead of the special privileged interests controlled the world. She declared she supported this resolution because it was merely a technicality in prosecuting war already declared.

The house debate was enlivened by an attack on Representative London when he announced he would not vote for the resolution.

The members set up a cheer when Representative Lenroot attacked London's announcement.

"It is strange, indeed," said Lenroot, "that the only vote against this resolution to come from this house will come from a Socialist. If Russia had not been placed in its present position by the Socialists this war would be nearing its close if not already ended."

"I've more respect for and confidence in any man in the German, Austrian, Turkish or Bulgarian army than in a man who seeks the protection of the American flag and then declines to uphold its rights," declared Representative Meeker of Missouri.

Senator La Follette explained that his absence at the voting was due to the fact that he expected the debate to continue until late in the day and that he had gone to his office to perfect an amendment when the resolution was passed. He denied that he had any intention of absenting himself to escape voting.

**President's Daughter in Spartanburg.** Miss Margaret Woodrow Wilson, daughter of the president, is to give a concert at Converse College auditorium, Spartanburg, Monday evening, December 17th. It is understood that after all expenses have been met, including the fee for Miss Wilson, the balance will be devoted to War Relief.

### 13 Negroes Executed.

Thirteen negroes, members of the 24th U. S. Infantry, implicated in the Houston riots some time ago when a number of people were killed, were summarily executed under military law at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, yesterday.

## SHALL WE HELP GIVE LAURENS SOLDIERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS?

### Greenville Starts Out to Raise a Large Sum -o Make Sevier Christmas Happy, But Will We Allow Greenville to Do it All?

A big sum is wanted and big contributions will be welcome, though those who wish to have a part in the giving may be assured that the smallest amount will be received and publicly acknowledged.

A definite plan of action has not been decided upon. It appears that a committee of ladies could handle the funds after they are raised to better advantage than anybody else. The Advertiser therefore suggests that a few ladies who will volunteer to act as a committee meet in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce Friday morning at 10:30 o'clock to devise methods of procedure. A representative of The Advertiser will be present to give particulars as to the amount subscribed up to that time. The rooms will be found on the second floor of the Laurens National Bank building.

Is Laurens, as a city and county,

going to help make her sons in the camps happy Christmas day? That question was asked yesterday by one of the business men of the city, who was ready to give an affirmative answer and back it up with money. Greenville city has started out to make a great Christmas day of it for the soldiers, but Greenville will be taxed to provide the cheer for a population of soldiers equal to her own. Will Laurens, who has soldiers in the same camp, help her? She hasn't asked help, but Laurens can give it if she will and she will. Fifteen dollars has already been subscribed by three persons and more is wanted. The Advertiser will receive subscriptions by mail or in person for the rest of this week and a part of next week, that Laurens soldiers may not be forgotten on that day. The first three subscriptions were for five dollars each.

## LOCAL BOARD WILL MAIL FIRST OF 3,050 QUESTIONNAIRES ON DEC. 15

### Local Exemption Board Will Mail Initial Batch of 166 Saturday and Similar Numbers on Nineteen Following Days. No Exemptions, Only Deferred Classifications.

Promptly at one minute past 12 o'clock on December 15, the local exemption board will mail its first batch of questionnaires to registrants in Laurens County. 166 questionnaires will be mailed on the day that Marshal Provost Crowder has designated as the date on which the first questions to determine the registrant's draft status should be sent out, and approximately the same number will be mailed on each of the succeeding nineteen days, omitting Sunday and holidays.

This means that approximately 3050 questionnaires will be mailed in this county. All persons who registered under the Selective Draft Act on June 5 and who have not been accepted for the draft service will receive a questionnaire. The new exemption regulations have annulled all exemption that have been granted registrants, and the exemption board will reconsider their cases and, except in cases of total disability, no permanent exemption will be granted. The selection will be placed in one of five classes to be determined by their vocation, claims for dependency, and physical qualifications as set out by their answers to the searching inquiries of the questionnaires.

The registrants will have seven days in which to mail the questionnaires back to the exemption board. The failure of the registrant to receive the questionnaires will not be considered an excuse for his failure

to return the questionnaire properly filled out before the expiration of the stipulated seven days. The list of men to whom the questionnaires are mailed will be posted in the postoffice each day, and that, within itself, will be considered sufficient notice to the registrant that the questionnaire has been mailed to him, and that, in the event of his failure to receive same, it is his duty to call at the office of the exemption board and secure his questionnaire.

The questionnaire contains a long list of questions relative to the registrant's occupation, physical qualifications, and claims for dependency. If the registrant is in doubt as to the meaning of any of the questions asked on the government blanks, he will be expected to seek the aid of some attorney or official in his district in clearing up the matter and filling out the blank correctly. The Provost Marshal General has called upon all members of the legal profession throughout the United States to assist in the work of getting the 9,000,000 questionnaires that will be mailed out this month, properly filled out, and any member of the bar will be glad to assist in this patriotic work.

The local board is busy preparing the questionnaires to be mailed out on the 15th and three following weeks, and the mailing will begin promptly on that date and continue according to schedule.

### Power-House Motor Hors de Combat.

The motor which runs the big pump at the power-house "blew out" several days ago and city officials have been put to a severe test keeping the standpipe full. The steam pump has been put into commission, but the lack of coal has made it a difficult matter to keep it running. The motor has been sent to Atlanta for repairs and may be back soon, how soon nobody knows. So, if the water fails to respond to the touch of the fingers on the spigot at any time during the next few days, the cause may be due to frozen pipes or empty pipes, whichever an examination may disclose.

### Chapter Masons Elect Officers.

At a meeting of Rising Sun Chapter, No. 6, R. A. M., held last Friday night, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: M. L. Smith, H. P. J. N. Richardson, K. J. Sullivan, S. J. F. Tolbert, Treas.; H. Terry, Sec.; Brooks Swygert, Chaplain; L. C. Barksdale, C. H.; E. O. Anderson, P. S.; J. S. McGravy, R. A. C.; L. G. Poff, 3rd V.; S. Boyd Sexton, 2nd V.; T. D. Downey, 1st V.; Clyde T. Franks, S.

### Lieut. Smith Promoted.

The War Department recently announced the promotion of Second Lieut. Joe F. Smith, of Co. D, to the rank of First Lieutenant, to remain with his same company. About the same time announcement was made of the transfer of First Lieutenant Dixon R. Simpson to the Fort Mill company of the same regiment. It is understood that Lieut. Simpson has added responsibilities in his new command. Second Lieutenant B. A. Sullivan, recently promoted from First Sergeant, has been attached to Co. D. All of these are Laurens boys, whose continued advancement is a source of pride to their friends at home.

### Soldier Band Coming Back.

Announcement has been made of a return of the 74th New York band, which made such a fine impression under difficult circumstances here a few weeks ago. The band will come back under the auspices of the Christian Endeavorers and will give a concert in the court house tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock. Admission prices of 25 and 35 cents will be charged.

## THOUSANDS PERISH IN HALIFAX HOLOCAUST THURSDAY

### REVERSED CASES TO CAMP.

Local Exemption Board has Sent Out Notices to Men Whose Cases were Reversed by District Board.

Below is a list of those exempted by the local exemption board whose cases were reversed by the district board at Greenwood and who have been ordered to appear in Laurens Friday to entrain for Camp Jackson, Columbia. These men, it is understood, have yet another chance to file additional claims for exemption on grounds of dependence or occupation, information on which is contained in the following statement from the office of the local board:

When the district board reverses the findings of the local board and so notifies that board, it then becomes the duty of the local board to list these reversed cases back to the district board. The findings of the district board are treated as though they were the action of the local board.

When such cases are then listed to the district board the individual whose case has been reversed then has the right to file an appeal on grounds of dependence, or a claim on occupational grounds, either or both of which shall be substantiated by additional affidavits. The case then remains unclosed or unsettled until the district board lists the individual to the local board and to the adjutant general on Form 164. In other words the men are not available for use by the local board until certified to said local board on Form 164.

The men ordered to report here Friday are as follows:

- Jess Tellington (col)
- John T. Adair
- Walter Leo Garner
- Mc. Arnold Harris
- Willie McDowell (col)
- Lewis G. Bagwell
- Evans W. Madden
- Henry V. Harland
- Jim Russell (col)
- Thomas P. Duncan
- Jess Lawson
- Kelley Luther Ephely
- James F. O'Dell
- George Powers (col)
- John M. Teague
- Luther James Brock
- Lewis M. Kennedy
- John Priestly (col)
- Samuel Abercrombie (col)
- F. H. Boozer
- James C. Cannon
- Patterson Russell
- Carl F. Proffitt
- Lewis Bailey
- Guy B. Shockley
- John W. Malpass
- Clarence Owings Chaney
- John O. Hellams
- George R. Holland
- Warren Stevens (col)
- Laurens G. Gwinn
- Jim Hill (col)
- John Leake (col)
- Charles R. Patterson
- Luther E. Ball
- Carl C. Smith
- Tom Cooper
- William Campbell (col)
- William H. A. Baldwin
- Irvin G. Hill
- Homer G. Hill
- Fred A. Fuller
- Luther R. W. Brown
- William E. Adair.

### Now Chief at Woodruff.

W. T. Tumbler, who has been a member of the police force of Laurens for several years, left last week for Woodruff where he had been elected chief of police succeeding Chief John Kelleit, resigned. Mr. Kelleit has not been in good health for some time. Mr. Tumbler will no doubt make a good officer for the Woodruff folks.

### JERUSALEM IN HANDS OF THE BRITISH.

London, Dec. 10.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced in the House of Commons today that Jerusalem, after being surrounded on all sides by British troops, had surrendered. The chancellor said British, French and Mohammedan representatives, were on the way to Jerusalem to safeguard the holy places.

### Disaster Follows Explosion of Munitions.

### SUCCOR HINDERED BY FIERCE GALE

When Munitions Ship Collided with Passenger Vessel in Halifax Harbor, Great Explosion Followed Which Killed Thousands and Caused Millions of Dollars Damage.

Amherst, N. S., Dec. 8.—An estimate of 4,000 persons dead in the Halifax disaster is contained in a private telegram received from the stricken city today by an undertaking firm here. The message asks that 4,000 coffins be sent to Halifax at once.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 8.—A special train bearing 37 physicians and 50 nurses and a carload of surgical supplies, left here this morning for Halifax. The unit was made up entirely of volunteers and was sent by Providence chapter of the American Red Cross.

### Storm Delays Relief Trains.

Truro, N. S., Dec. 8.—Additional outside relief for the suffering thousands in Halifax was dependent today upon the weather. The great snowstorm dominated the situation.

Almost every hour brought word of a relief train stalled by the huge drifts piled up by the gale all along the railroad lines between Moncton, N. B., and Halifax. One train, with doctors and nurses from the United States on board was caught at Memramcook Junction 30 miles from the Nova Scotia border.

Halifax, Dec. 6.—Between 800 and 1,000 persons were killed, according to careful estimates tonight, when the French munition ship Mont Blanc blew up in Halifax harbor, after a collision with the Belgian relief steamship Ioma at 9 o'clock this morning. Thousands were injured and it is said many of them will die.

Virtually all of the north end of the city was laid waste, and the property damage will run far into the millions. A part of the town of Dartmouth, across the harbor from Halifax, also was wrecked. Nearly all the buildings in the dock yard there are in ruins.

The zone of destruction in Halifax itself extends from the North street railway station as far north as Africville, to Bedford Basin, and covers an area of about two square miles in the section known as Richmond. The buildings which were not demolished by the force of the terrific explosion were destroyed by the fire which followed.

Scores of persons were injured by the collapse of the railway station. Arenarink, military gymnasium, sugar refinery and elevator. All business has been suspended. Armed guards of soldiers and sailors are patrolling the city. Not a street car is moving and part of Halifax is in darkness tonight. All hospitals and many private houses are filled with injured. Temporary hospitals and morgues have been opened in school houses.

The damage along the waterfront cannot yet be estimated. Many of the men composing the crews of the ships in the harbor were killed or injured. On one steamer, the Picton, it is reported that thirty-three of the crew of forty-two were killed. Bodies of many seamen have been picked up in the harbor.

The collision which resulted in probably the worst disaster in the history of the Dominion, occurred near Pictou, in the narrows leading from the harbor to Bedford Basin. The munition ship was bound from New York for Bedford Basin, when the relief ship Ioma, bound for sea, crashed into her.

The Mont Blanc was pierced on the port side almost to the engine room. The other ship, which was only slightly damaged, backed away when flames burst out on the munition ship and was abandoned by the crew. The captain of the Mont Blanc also ordered his crew to the boats, as he realized an explosion was inevitable. The men reached shore before the tremendous blast seventeen minutes later which blew their ship to pieces.

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