

# GREATEST CRISIS IN SUBMARINE WAR.

## New Order issued by German Government. Calls for the Sinking of All Vessels Bound for Entente Ports.

### Plan is to Starve Out England and Her Allies in Retaliation for Blockade of German Coast. President Wilson Undecided on Course, but Breach of Relations With Germany Seems Inevitable.

Washington, Jan. 31.—President Wilson went to bed at 11 o'clock tonight after spending the evening alone in his study with a copy of the German note. This apparently disposed of suggestions that some action might be taken before morning.

The president saw no callers but is understood to have used the telephone freely. As far as could be learned no plans have been laid for him to go before congress, as he did to announce the sending of the Sussex note threatening to break off diplomatic relations.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare.

A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world never has seen, was announced today in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and to the state department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long feared campaign conceived by von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by von Tiritz.

Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statements are being recalled in the capital tonight with feeling of apprehension and gloaming.

"Germany's action brings the supreme crisis of all those that have stirred the American government in two and a half years of world war.

Talk of peace and means of preserving peace has gone glimmering.

President Wilson, incredulous at the official text of Germany's declaration, had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador, Mr. Lansing refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

The president has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities.

The United States might solemnly warn Germany against violation of her pledge; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply of the British Isles will last a month.

Admittedly the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strikes as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unheard of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within 60 days. One German official here predicted today the war would be over in a month.

Conveyed to the world as her answer to the refusal of the entente allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

"From February 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean, all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."

It virtually is a renewal and an extension of the celebrated submarine blockade of the British Isles proclaimed on February 4, 1915 and which became effective February 18, 1915. Under it ships were sunk without warning until Germany abandoned the practice and gave her assurances, in the Sussex case, to abide by international law. The Lusitania, Falaba and scores of other ships were sunk under the decree.

American citizens and American ships are warned from entering the war zones, although certain precautionary measures are suggested for distinguished American steamers not carrying contraband, according to the German list. These conditions are almost the same form were rejected when proposed by Germany early in

the negotiations over the Lusitania. At that time Germany proposed to guarantee immunity from attack to certain specified passenger ships sailing on prescribed courses with distinguished marks and carrying no contraband. President Wilson rejected the proposal promptly on the ground that the United States was contending only for its rights.

The new German proclamation brushes aside the perplexing collateral issues which have surrounded the submarine controversy and has brought it back to the point where it was left at the conclusion of the Sussex case.

Today's announcement, reciting the refusal of Germany's enemies to discuss her peace proposals and referring to the starvation blockade, says: "Thus a new situation has sprung up which forces Germany also to re-decisions."

The new decision is exactly the one forecast when the Sussex negotiations were closed.

In convening her pledges to keep submarine activities within international law, Germany included a threat of resumption if the United States did not succeed in lifting British restrictions on commerce to Germany and the European neutrals and the United States in reply expressly warned Germany that her pledges must be absolutely unconditional.

"Neutrals," said Germany in the Sussex note, "can not expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, shall for the sake of neutral interest restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply at will methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Should the steps taken by the United States not attain the object to have the laws of humanity followed by all belligerents, the German government would then be facing a new situation in which it must reserve to itself complete liberty of decision."

To any such reservations the United States demurred in no uncertain terms.

"The United States feels it necessary to state," said President Wilson's reply, "that it takes it for granted that the imperial German government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent on the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the government of the United States and any belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the imperial government's note might appear to be susceptible of that construction."

In completing the declaration that there must be no misunderstanding that rights of American citizens must not be made subject to the conduct of some other government, the note concluded by saying:

"Responsibility in such matters is single, not joint; absolute, not relative."

The development today came as a staggering surprise. For weeks inspired authoritative and almost semi-official statements have been coming from Berlin indicating an absolute decision not to resume unrestricted submarine warfare. The complete agreement of the emperor, Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg, Gen. von Hindenburg and Gen. von Ludendorff, the four men in whose hands Germany's destiny lies, has been mentioned frequently in dispatches passing the censor.

Information received only today, however, shows that a very careful campaign for the full use of sea forces has been under way recently. It has been urged as essential to Germany's existence and it was represented that it would be impossible now for President Wilson to get the American people behind him in a declaration of war. Congress was represented as opposed to war.

Germany, according to information received here, realizes that the action may result in a break of relations but Berlin officials are prepared for the rupture. Tonight they were represented as feeling that the only other steps open to the United States are the calling of a conference of neutral nations to end the blockade or the taking of some step which speedily would result in peace.

Information received from the source is that Admiral von Tirpitz or his followers had absolutely nothing to do with the new policy. On the contrary, it was said tonight that von Tirpitz was not, as has heretofore been supposed, removed from power

because he advocated ruthless submarine warfare but because he did not effectively carry out the campaign he inaugurated.

From German quarters tonight came the information that Germany now has from 300 to 500 submarines ready for the campaign.

The German views is that the new policy will improve general prospects of an early peace. Germany is represented as still being ready to discuss peace at any time. However, it is declared that German officials both in this country and in Berlin feel that the declaration of changed policy should make it clear that Germany and her allies are in the war to the last drop of blood.

Unrestricted submarine warfare, it was declared, was determined upon as soon as the nature of the entente reply to President Wilson's note became known and before the president's address to the senate. The president's address, it was said, authoritatively, came in the midst of the situation and because of its nature it appeared for a time as if the new campaign might be postponed. However, it was explained, much preparation was necessary for the opening of such a campaign and nothing was to be gained by waiting.

It is believed here that the policy was decided upon at a recent conference at the headquarters of the German general staff and that Field Marshal von Hindenburg played a most important part in its formation.

It is expected that Austria-Hungary will take action similar to that of Germany with regard to the operations of its submarines in the Mediterranean.

Every public intimation from Germany in the last few months has been that an unrestricted submarine warfare, almost certain to bring in the United States, would be adopted only as a last act of desperation. German papers have said Germany would not dare oppose neutral opinion unless she were willing to have the rest of the neutral world added to her enemies.

Two opposing views of American hostility have been allowed to pass the German censors. The first was that the harm the United States could do Germany as an active enemy was no greater than as a neutral supplying munitions and loans to the enemies and that the crippling of allied shipping would be the turning point of the war. This apparently is the view now adopted. The other view, known to have been held by some high officials here, was that Germany might in desperation seek to involve the United States as an actual enemy on the ground that her influence at the peace conference would be a generous one.

Officials here, stunned at the suddenness of the German action, do not hesitate to conceal their disquietude over the mental unpreparedness of the American public for what may be coming. The recent flood of peace discussions started by the German offer, increased by the president's note and again by the entente reply, are thought to have turned public opinion in this country away from the possibility of war and to have focused attention on the terms of a near peace.

A revision is expected to take place in the entente countries, with the result that the world war will enter a period of frightfulness unimagined heretofore. With the massing for huge offensives by land and the announcement of ruthlessness by sea officials look forward to at least a spring and summer of unprecedented slaughter.

The German note sweeps away all the issues that have previously loomed so large, such as what armament merchant ship can carry, where it must be located, how it may be used, whether the ship is chartered, requisitioned or still private, and replaces them with one clear issue which can not be broken or ignored. In this situation President Wilson's previous policies are the intimation of the future. When the channel liner Sussex was torpedoed the president, threatening a severance of relations, wrote:

"If it is still the purpose of the imperial government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue.

"Unless the imperial German government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German empire altogether. This action the government of the United States contemplates with the greatest reluctance but feels constrained to take in behalf of humanity and the rights of neutral nations."

To this note the German government acceded in its reply of May 4,

1916, in what has become known as the Sussex pledge, as follows:

"The German government, guided by this idea, notifies the government of the United States that the German naval forces have received the following orders:

"In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law, such vessels, both within and without the zone declared as a naval war zone, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives, unless these ships attempt to escape or offer resistance."

This was followed by the qualification the United States declined to recognize. The pledge has been binding on Germany up to today when her new orders were issued denying the right of visit and search to vessels within a wide area.

This follows closely an extension of the field of British naval operations announced from the American embassy in London on Saturday in which an area running out from Jutland and enclosing part of the North sea was declared dangerous because of belligerent operations.

Preparations for a wide sea war have been for some time indicated in many scattered dispatches but no such extreme warfare was expected by officials here. Reports have frequently come from South American ports of German ships preparing for a dash to sea. Likewise German naval report have intimated probability of another big naval battle like the Jutland battle last spring, while a recent conference of allied naval authorities forecast much closer entente cooperation on the seas.

When Associated Press dispatches telling of the German note began arriving at the White House today, President Wilson was in his office talking with a friend. Secretary Tumulty hurried to him with the news.

The president could not believe it until assured that the information was contained in a formal note already before the state department.

Cabinet members likewise received the news with expressions of amazement. On every hand in official circles the first opinion formed without detailed consideration was that diplomatic relations with Germany would be broken if the terms of the decree are carried out.

The German announcement, as communicated to Mr. Lansing through Ambassador Bernstorff, follows:

"Mr. Secretary of State:

"Your excellency was good enough to transmit to the imperial government a copy of the message which the president of the United States of America addressed to the senate on the 22nd inst. The imperial government has given it the earnest consideration which the president's statements deserve, inspired as they are by a deep sentiment of responsibility. It is highly gratifying to the imperial government to ascertain that the main tendencies of this important statement correspond largely to the desires and principles professed by Germany. These principles especially include self government and equality of rights for all nations. Germany would be sincerely glad if in recognition of this principle countries like Ireland and India, which do not enjoy the benefits of political independence, should now obtain their freedom. The German people also repudiate all alliances which serve to force the countries into a competition for might and to involve them in a net of selfish intrigues. On the other hand, Germany will gladly cooperate in all efforts to prevent future wars. The freedom of the seas, being a preliminary condition of the free existence of nations and the peaceful intercourse between them, as well as the open door for the commerce of all nations, has always formed part of the leading principles of Germany's political programme. All the more the imperial government regrets that the attitude of her enemies who are so entirely opposed to peace makes it impossible for the world at present to bring about the realization of these lofty ideals. Germany and her allies were ready to enter now into a discussion of peace and had set down as basis the guaranty of existence, honor and free development of their peoples.

Their aims, as has been expressly stated in the note of December 12, 1916, were not directed towards the destruction or annihilation of their enemies and were according to their conviction perfectly compatible with the rights of the other nations. As to Belgium, for which such warm and cordial sympathy is felt in the United States, the chancellor had declared only a few weeks previously that its annexation had never formed part of Germany's intentions. The peace to be signed with Belgium was to provide for such conditions in that country with which Germany desires to maintain friendly, neighborly relations, that Belgium should not be used again by Germany's enemies for the purpose of instigating continuous intrigues. Such precautionary assurances are all the more necessary as Germany's enemies have repeatedly stated not only in speeches delivered by their leading men but also in

the statutes of the economical conference in Paris, that it is their intention not to treat Germany as an equal, even after peace has been restored, but to continue their hostile attitude and especially to wage a systematic economical war against her.

"The attempt of the four allied powers to bring about peace has failed owing to the lust of conquest of their enemies, who desire to dictate the conditions of peace. Under the pretense of following the principle of nationality our enemies have disclosed their real aims in this war, viz, to dismember and dishonor Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. To the wish of reconciliation they oppose the will of destruction. They desire a fight to the bitter end.

"A new situation has thus, been created which forces Germany to new decisions. Since two years and a half England is using her naval power for a criminal attempt to force Germany into submission by starvation. In brutal contempt of international law the group of powers led by England does not only curtail the legitimate trade of their opponents but they also by ruthless pressure, compel neutral countries entering altogether to forego every trade not agreeable to the entente powers or to limit it according to their arbitrary decrees.

"The American government knows the steps which have been taken to cause England and her allies to return to the rules of international law and to respect the freedom of the seas. The English government, however, insists upon continuing its war of starvation, which does not at all affect the military powers of its opponents but compels women and children, the sick and the aged to suffer, for their country, pains and privations which endanger the vitality of the nation. Thus British tyranny mercilessly increases the sufferings of the world indifferent to the laws of humanity, indifferent to the protests of the neutrals whom they severely harm, indifferent even to the silent longing for peace among England's own allies. Each day of the terrible struggle causes new destruction, new sufferings. Each day shortening the war will on both sides preserve the life of thousands of brave soldiers and be a benefit to mankind.

"The imperial government could not justify before its own conscience, before the German people and before history the neglect of any means destined to bring about the end of the war. Like the president of the United States the imperial government had hoped to reach this goal by negotiations. After the attempts to come to an understanding with the entente powers have been answered by the latter with the announcement of an intensified continuation of the war, the imperial government, in order to serve the welfare of mankind in a higher sense and not to wrong its own people, is now compelled to continue the fight for existence, again forced upon it with the full employment of all the weapons which are at its disposal.

"Sincerely trusting that the people and government of the United States will understand the motives for this decision and its necessity, the imperial government hopes that the United States may view the situation from the lofty heights of impartiality and assist on their part to prevent further misery and unavoidable sacrifice of human life.

"Enclosing two memoranda regarding the details of the contemplated military measures at sea, I remain, etc.

(Signed) "J. Bernstorff."

W. O. W. BANQUET ENJOYED.

Big Attendance of Hollywood Camp Members at Annual Gathering.

There was a big attendance of the members of Hollywood Camp, No. 19, Woodmen of the World, Wednesday night in their annual gathering for their banquet. The crowd numbered about 375 and was larger than was expected. In fact accommodations had not been prepared for so large a number by the ladies of Trinity church and the overflow was taken care of in Charlie's and the Dixie cafes.

The supper was an excellent one and was a most enjoyable affair. The gathering of the Woodmen in these numbers always has a social feature which is very pleasant to members of the camp. Mr. C. C. Beck was chairman of the committee which had the arrangements in charge and Mr. Beck looked after the preparations for the affair.

Before the Woodmen repaired to the banquet hall, a meeting was held in the Woodmen hall and two splendid addresses were made by Messrs. C. M. Hurst and S. H. Edmunds. The talks were along the lines of woodcraft and were most inspiring. Hollywood Camp, No. 19, has 1,002 members and is the biggest camp in the State.

London, Feb. 1.—A Berlin dispatch says that Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in addressing the ways and means committee of the Reichstag, declared that Germany is ready to stake everything on a fight to the end.

## Whole Family Benefited By Wonderful Remedy

There are many little things to annoy us under present conditions of life. The hurry, hard work, noise and strain all tell on us and tend to provoke nervousness and irritability. We are frequently so worn out we can neither eat, sleep nor work with any comfort. We are out of line with ourselves and others as well.

A good thing to do under such circumstances is to take something like

### Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills

to relieve the strain on the nerves. Mrs. J. B. Hartsfield, 82 Plum St., Atlanta Ga., writes:

"I have on several occasions been vastly relieved by the use of your medicines, especially the Anti-Pain Pills, which I keep constantly on hand for the use of myself, husband and two sons. Nothing in the world equals them as a headache remedy. Often I am enabled by the use of one or two of the Pills to continue my household when otherwise I would be in bed. My husband joins me in my praise of the Anti-Pain Pills and Nervine."

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are relied upon to relieve pain, nervousness and irritability in thousands of households. Of proven merit after twenty years' use, you can have no reason for being longer without them.

At all Druggists, 25 doses 25 cents. MILES MEDICAL CO., Elkhart, Ind.

### In The Recorder's Court.

The following cases were disposed of in the police court today:

Aaron Richardson and Julius Daily, alias Buck Bailey, fighting, \$10 or 20 days.

Arthur Young, petit larceny, \$15 or 30 days.

Will Hayes, petit larceny, seven charges, plead guilty on three and was found guilty on the others, \$25 or 30 days on each charge.

### Freezing Weather; Coal Running Low.

Paris, Jan. 29.—France continues to suffer from unusually cold weather, the temperature ranging from 10 to 15 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit. The Paris coal supply is running low, owing to the freezing of canals. Flooding ice is beginning to appear in the lower Seine. Several deaths from frost have been reported in Paris.

### Marriage License Record.

Licenses to marry have been issued to Eugene W. Bowen and Fannie V. Colclough, Sumter; Lee Anderson and Annie Simmons, Sumter.

Miss Jennie Walsh sustained a very painful injury this morning about 10 o'clock at her home on Kendrick street, when in endeavoring to catch her little nephew, C. B. Walsh, Jr., who was about to fall into a flower pit, she twisted her ankle on a board and fell, breaking the ankle. The injury received prompt medical attention, but was very painful and, as it had to be put up in a plaster cast, it will be several weeks before Miss Walsh will be able to use her foot again.

Marion Phelps, a son of Mr. and Mrs. V. H. Phelps, yesterday afternoon sustained a fractured arm when, in running across the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium floor, he tripped and fell, the bones being broken in two places in the forearm. He was placed under anesthetics and the broken bones set and this morning was getting along nicely.

# PHOSPHO-MARL

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Freight rates on Phospho-Marl to stations in Sumter County as follows: Sumter, Oswego, Mayesville, Brodgon, Tindal, Cane Savannah, Wedgefield, Privateer, Dalzell, 85c; Camden Junction, Sumter Junction, Rembert, Borden, Providence, 90c; Manchester, Toumey, Ellerbe, 95c; Brent, Du-Bose, \$1.15 per ton.

Cut out this ad. and save it. It makes ordering easy.

For further information, apply to E. J. WATSON, Commissioner S. C. State Dept. of Agriculture, Columbia, S. C.