

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1860.

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## GERMANY'S FAULT FOR WAR.

HAS FORCED IT, IF IT COMES, SAYS FORMER PRESIDENT.

In Speech Pointing Need for League to Enforce Peace, Taft Declares Teutons Have Violated Pledge.

Washington, Feb. 2.—Former President Taft prefaced a prepared speech on the league to enforce peace here tonight with a reference to the new German crisis declaring that if the United States were drawn into war Germany would force it by "her defiance of plain principles of justice and humanity which should obtain between civilized nations."

"The responsibility which now rests on the president and congress is very heavy," said Mr. Taft. "They should know and do know that the American people will back them to the end in their decision. May God give them good deliverance."

The former president was speaking before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and answering particular criticisms by Theodore Roosevelt, W. J. Bryan, Senator Borah and others of the League to Enforce Peace idea.

"I had prepared this address," he said, "before Germany started this country and all neutrals by her last note. The actual dangers with which it brings us face to face may seem to make what I have been discussing theoretical, tame and inappropriate. The truth is, however, that this great crisis only emphasizes the importance of the purpose and plan of the league. Of all things we would avoid war," he added. "We are not prepared for it. Its awful consequences we know, from Europe's suffering. Our prayer is for some escape from it in this critical hour, if consistent with our national honor. But we must face the facts."

In her campaign against her enemy Germany she has proposed ruthlessly to...

Germany is void of offense against her. Her cruel and indefensible drowning without warning of more than a hundred innocent Americans on the Lusitania we condoned in view of her pledge against a repetition. That pledge is now withdrawn and she avows her purpose to resume her shocking course.

"If war is to come between us she will be the unprovoked aggressor. We would avoid being drawn into the European vortex by every honorable concession. If she forces us into it she will do so by her defiance of plain principles of justice and humanity which should obtain between civilized nations."

"In spite of her great strength and marvelous efficiency, Germany's manifest weakness has been in a failure to understand other peoples. She may not know the spirit of the good natured, tolerant, war hating giant she now challenges. She may overestimate, as she has done before, in the case of other nations, the influence of sordid motives, of the inertia of comfort and of dissident elements among us which she may expect to paralyze our action. She may stir an active patriotism in our people which she does not suspect.

"She may push us at once into a league to enforce a just peace. She may force us into an organization of our potential military strength on the one hand and into a moral leadership in the maintenance of international justice on the other. Therefore our isolation from the wars and welfare of the rest of the world would be at an end. When peace would come the eyes of our people, in spite of warnings of statesmen who are looking backward, would be opened not only to the wisdom but to the necessity of our leading the nations into a permanent world's league to enforce peace."

## TO FIX NEW ELECTION DATES.

Special Democratic Committee Called to Meet Tuesday to Arrange Primaries to Elect Congressman at Early Date.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—The special Democratic committee has been called to meet in Columbia Tuesday to change the dates for the election in the Fifth district. It is necessary, Gov. Manning has been informed, to elect a congressman at the earliest possible moment. Private advices indicate that an extra session of congress will be called for March 6.

All of the candidates have been called to meet with the committee and they will be asked to waive their rights as to a second primary. The two highest men will run in the general election.

## NECESSITY BASIS FOR STEP.

MOST GERMANS REGARD IT AS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

Think Reckless War on Shipping May Win Though it Antagonizes America.

Berlin, Thursday, Feb. 1 (via London, Feb. 2).—The attitude of the German people in respect to the new submarine policy, ascertained today from conversations with persons in various walks of life, is that the inauguration of an unrestricted submarine campaign is dictated by stern necessity and for self preservation and that in such a life and death struggle no regard can longer be paid to other considerations.

The all absorbing question in every discussion concerns the attitude of America.

Little criticism of the government is heard. Even a Socialist speaker in the reichstag committee meeting today is reported to have aligned the party behind the government on this decision.

One hears estimates of the number of submarines running to several hundred and the conviction is expressed that the amount of tonnage sunk monthly can be increased to approximately 1,000,000 tons, an addition to a large amount of neutral tonnage which will be deterred from entering the prohibited areas by some terror. It is declared that two to three months of operations on this scale would, provided the United States were not drawn into the war, bring England to a point where she would be willing to discuss terms.

The great likelihood that the step will precipitate a crisis in German-American relations, severance of diplomatic intercourse and perhaps further consequences is generally recognized and undoubtedly has taken into account the government's calculation.

But the belief is often expressed that the...

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## ALASKA DRY BILL PASSED.

Measure Already Adopted in Senate Receives Assent of Lower Branch Also.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The Alaskan "bone dry" prohibition bill, already passed by the senate, was passed today in the house without a roll call after an unsuccessful fight to prevent its consideration.

## CONFIDENT OF WILSON'S POLICY.

Gov. Manning Sends Message to President That South Carolina Stands Squarely Behind Him.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—Gov. Manning today commended the action of President Wilson in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany. He said that South Carolina stands squarely behind the president. The governor sent a long telegram to the president this afternoon expressing confidence and cooperation.

## AUSTRIAN SHIP DAMAGED.

Put out of Commission as Soon as Diplomatic Relations With Germany Were Severed.

New York, Feb. 3.—Police heard that the Austrian freighter Himalaya, lying in New York bay, has been put out of commission since diplomatic relations were severed. Parts of the engine were smashed with crowbars and axes.

## CANADA VOTES WAR CREDIT.

Premier Says \$433,224,000 Required for Coming Year.

Ottawa, Feb. 2.—The Canadian parliament has voted a war credit for the coming year of \$500,000,000.

Sir Robert Borden in making a statement on war expenditures yesterday said that the present fiscal year up to January 20 there has been expended \$216,901,822 and that it was estimated that the cost for the next fiscal year would be \$433,224,000. The prime minister said that the expenditure had been much greater than was anticipated at the beginning of the war. Out of the appropriation of \$500,000,000 a large amount, he said, he hoped would be available for credits for the British government for the purchase of munitions in Canada.

# BREAK WITH GERMANY HAS COME LAST.

## Ambassador Von Bernstorff Handed His Passports This Morning.

## Ambassador Gerard Recalled From Berlin—Instructions Cabled Him to Ask for His Passports—Break With Austria-Hungary Expected to Follow Immediately.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Diplomatic relations with Germany were broken off this morning.

Passports were handed to German Ambassador von Bernstorff and American Ambassador Gerard was instructed to request his of the German government.

President Wilson will address a joint session of congress at 2 o'clock this afternoon and will explain the situation in detail and why this action was taken.

The decision to sever relations with Germany came after the cabinet meeting yesterday and discussion of the situation with senators.

In the conference with senators, President Wilson was led to believe that this country will stand solidly behind him in breaking diplomatic relations with Germany.

Whether a break with Austria-Hungary would also result was not learned definitely, but as Austria sanctioned Germany's action regarding submarine warfare a break is expected, if it has not already taken place.

Secretary Daniels announced this morning that none but officials of and regular employes at the navy yards would be admitted to such government reservations.

The United States also demanded that Germany release sixty-four Americans taken prisoners on prizes ships by South Atlantic raiders. The Americans were taken from the steamers Georgic, Mount Temple and Voltaire. Sixty are confined in the prison camp at Westfalen.

The break brings the United States to the verge of war. Navy yards have two first class destroyers and...

Germany is said to be prepared to pay the price it will cost in the hope of shortening the war.

The administration is not unmindful of the possibility of disturbance by German sympathizers and steps will be taken to meet the situation.

At the capitol the news was received with approbation on every hand. Democratic House Leader Kitchen today told Republican Leader Mann when the house convened that no action was contemplated by the house today.

Senator Tillman said: "I am mighty glad of it. When I heard of the first note I favored telling von Bernstorff to pack up his duds and go home to his barbarians. Congress ought to back up President Wilson like we did McKinley."

Senator Lodge declared that he is with the president. Senator Fletcher said he thought last night it would happen.

Ambassador von Bernstorff said he was sorry, but expected it. "There was nothing else left for the United States to do." He asserted that he expected President Wilson to keep up his peace efforts, possibly through the Swiss government.

It has been announced that Spain will take over the diplomatic interests of the United States.

Ambassador Gerard's instructions are to close all consulates in Germany as well as the embassy. All diplomatic and consular officials will be brought out of Germany. This makes the severance more complete than is usual in such cases.

Spanish Ambassador Riano said he could not say whether Spain would follow the course of the United States in breaking relations with Germany.

No special orders for increasing the guard at army and navy reservations and arsenals have been issued, but each commanding officer has authority to take the necessary steps.

Secretary Daniels said the winter cruising orders of the Atlantic fleet in Cuban waters have not been changed.

It is announced that Germany's diplomatic relations with the United States would be assumed by Switzerland.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Senator Thomas introduced an amendment to the house revenue bill proposing a half billion issue of treasury notes to put the nation in a "state of naval, military preparedness." The notes will be payable to persons from whom the government bought munitions, and could be used to pay taxes. They are to be redeemable in 1935.

Measures that have been proposed to protect the United States against any conspiracy growing out of the break with Germany will be considered by the senate judiciary committee immediately after the president's address.

## AWAITING GERMANY'S MOVE.

UNITED STATES WILL TAKE NO AGGRESSIVE ACTION IMMEDIATELY.

Course of Government Will Be Shaped by Action of Germany in Carrying Out Threat to Wage Unrestricted Submarine Warfare—President Wilson Still Hopes That Force of Neutral Opinion May Yet Bring About Peace.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The government began a vigil today that may be broken momentarily or may be long drawn out. It is believed that the United States' course will be shaped immutably as Germany makes effective the unrestricted warfare order. President Wilson hopes, however, that hostilities may be avoided and that the force of neutral opinion may bring about peace.

It has not been revealed if any responses have been received from neutrals respecting the president's suggestion that they follow the United States' example and break diplomatic relations with Germany. It appears from the reports received that the sinking of the Housatonic was not illegal. She was carrying contraband, a cargo of wheat. The ship received warning from the submarine and the crew was saved.

Germany's acquiescence to the United States' demands for the release of Americans taken from ships sunk by the German raider is regarded as showing a conciliatory attitude.

Although officials refused to admit that the formal announcement of Austria's adhesion to Germany's submarine position had been received, it is before the government and the action to be taken is being considered.

A resolution endorsing the president's action in severing German relations was introduced in the senate by Chairman Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee. Senator Stone requested that the resolution go over, and this way done without debate.

Arrangements are being made for all German consular officials in the United States to accompany Ambassador von Bernstorff out of the country. A party of more than three hundred will probably go via Cuba and Spain. President Wilson has appealed to congress to dispose of all routine matters and have the decks cleared for any eventuality. He wants congress to be ready in case he is forced to address it again to give him authority to use the resources of the country to protect American ships and lives.

Customs Collector Malone of New York reported today that a bomb had been found under his house.

Ambassador von Bernstorff and Consuls plan to leave the United States via Key West. President Wilson conferred with Secretaries Baker and Daniels today, discussing ways for expediting legislation to empower the government to take over shipyards and munition plants if it should become necessary. A railroad bill without compulsory arbitrating, but empowering the president to take charge of the railroads in war time was reintroduced in the house.

## SINKING FUND HAS LOSS.

Big Loss in 1916 Due to Fires at Negro State College at Orangeburg.

Columbia, Feb. 2.—After payment of the expenses and heavy fire losses incurred during the year 1916 the assets of the insurance sinking fund amount to \$147,115.56 on December 31," says the report of D. H. Means, secretary of the sinking fund commission.

During the 14 years of its operation prior to 1916 the insurance department of the sinking fund commission carried insurance upon public property very profitably, an average of 75 per cent. of receipts during those years being carried to assets after the payment of all expenses and fire losses. Last year the expenses and fire losses exceeded the income by \$1,016.23 due to the heavy losses at the State negro college at Orangeburg. The department is carrying \$2,811,767.48 on public buildings in South Carolina. Fifty-five per cent. is placed with the old line companies.

Mrs. Will Smith of Lynchburg, S. C., died at Florence Infirmary yesterday morning after an illness of about three weeks. She leaves two brothers and one sister, G. A. Lemmon, of Sumter, S. C., W. E. Lemmon of Lynchburg and Mrs. Alice Keels of Lynchburg, S. C. Three daughters, and three sons, W. K. Smith of Clio, S. C., R. A. Smith, W. M. Smith, Miss Estelle Smith, Mrs. W. E. Kilpatrick and Mrs. R. B. Joye of Lynchburg, S. C. Her funeral services will be held at her home today.—Florence Times.

## SPEED UP SHIP WORK.

DANIELS ASKS CONGRESS FOR AUTHORITY TO COMMANDEER PRIVATE PLANTS IF NECESSARY.

Chairman Padgett in Speech on Subject Appeals to Patriotism of House—Would Amend Naval Bill.

Washington, Feb. 3.—To insure quick construction of naval vessels and manufacture of ammunition and equipment for which private plants are under contract, Secretary Daniels asked congress today for authority to commandeer such plants if necessary and operate them in the public service.

A draft of the proposal sent to the house by the secretary was presented to Chairman Padgett, of the naval committee, as an amendment to the annual naval bill on which debate was just closing.

"This is an hour of reflection and serious consideration," said Mr. Padgett. "I address myself to the patriotism and wisdom of the house. There is no partisanship in considering the navy. Under the circumstances at this time, that sentiment finds cordial expression from every member. This is not the hour to hesitate."

Several Republicans expressed similar sentiments, urging that the naval bill be brought to passage as quickly as possible, but others on both sides of the house entered objections against the commandeering amendment. Speaker Clark interrupted the discussion to ask why warships could not be constructed more rapidly and to urge the naval committee to employ every means to speed up building.

General debate was concluded today and detailed consideration of amendments will begin Monday.

## FIRE DAMAGES CHURCH.

First Baptist Church at Darlington Suffers Heavily From Blaze.

Darlington, Feb. 4.—The large new First Baptist church caught fire this afternoon in the basement and the interior of the church, the organ and furnishings were badly damaged by fire and water. The firemen, who did splendid work in extinguishing the flames, had great difficulty in getting at the fire for some time but finally got it under control and saved the building. This church was built several years ago at a cost of about \$35,000 and is one of the largest churches in the State.

The whole inside of the building will have to be done over and the damage to the organ, pews and other furniture cannot be estimated at this time. The building and furnishings were insured for \$25,000, which will likely cover the damage.

Rev. Howard L. Weeks, pastor of the church, had been conducting a revival meeting for the past three weeks and the last service was to have been held in the church tonight. Dr. Paul A. Dagby, a distinguished preacher of the Baptist denomination, had been preaching a series of very strong sermons during the revival, which has been attended by the people of all denominations.

## REVENUE BILL PASSES HOUSE.

Will be Taken up in Senate Within Very Few Days.

Washington, Feb. 1.—The administration revenue bill framed to meet the prospective treasury deficit next year was passed by the house late today, by a vote of 211 to 196. It will be taken up in the senate in a few days.

Republicans, whose attacks on the bill and demands for a return to higher tariff rates had featured the debate, voted solidly against the measure and were joined by the Progressives, Representative London of New York, the Socialist, and four Democrats—Representative Caldwell, New York; Callaway, Texas; Dough-ton and Page, North Carolina. Voting with the Democratic majority were Representative Kent, California, Independent, and Randall, California, Prohibitionists.

The bill is designed to raise about \$248,000,000 to meet extraordinary military and naval expenses. It also authorizes bond issues aggregating \$100,000,000 to cover the purchase of the Danish West Indies, Alaskan railroad expenditures and other permanent investments.

Washington, Feb. 4.—Relection of executive officers including Rhett of Charleston, president, was announced today by the directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, which held its annual meeting here last week.