

The Watchman and Southerner.

SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"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 SOUTHERN, Established June, 1880.

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GERMANY PLANNED FOR WAR ON UNITED STATES.

Had Asked Mexico and Japan to Unite With Her in Case This Country Did Not Remain Neutral When Ruthless Submarine Warfare Was Commenced.

Mexico Was Asked to Negotiate With Japan to Secure Their Aid in War on United States and Was to be Given Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as Reward for Part in War—Was to Receive Financial Assistance from Germany—German Envoy Was Handling the Plan Through Advice Received from Ambassador Von Bernstorff.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Associated Press is enabled to reveal that Germany in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States, if this country should not remain neutral. Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States.

Mexico, for her reward, was to receive general financial support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and share in the victorious peace terms contemplated.

Details were left to German minister Eckhardt in Mexico City, who by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann at Berlin January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to Gen. Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

These instructions were transmitted to von Eckhardt through Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador here, now on his way home to Germany under a safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against which he was plotting war.

Germany pictured to Mexico by word intimation, England and the United States defeated; Germany and her allies triumphant and in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted submarine warfare.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to von Eckhardt, sent through Count von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States government. It is as follows:

"Berlin, January 19, 1917. On the first of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this, it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer the lost territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the president of Mexico of the above as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States and suggest that the president of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"These call to the attention of the president of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months." (Signed) "Zimmermann."

This document has been in the hands of the government since President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. It has been kept secret while the president has been asking congress for full authority to deal with Germany and while congress has been hesitating. It was in the president's hands while Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg was declaring that the United States had placed an interpretation on the submarine declaration "never intended by Germany" and that Germany had promoted and honored friendly relations with the United States "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great."

Of itself, if there were no other, it is considered a sufficient answer to the German chancellor's plaint that the United States "brusquely" broke off relations without giving "authentic" reasons for its action.

The document supplies the missing link to many separate chains of circumstances, which until now have seemed to lead to no definite point. It sheds new light upon the frequently repeated but indefinable movements of the Mexican government to couple its situation with the friction between the United States and Japan. It adds another chapter to the celebrated report of Jules Cambon, French ambassador in Berlin, before

the war, of Germany's worldwide plans for stirring strife on every continent where it might aid her in the struggle for world domination which she dreamed was close at hand. It adds a climax to the operations of Count von Bernstorff and the German embassy in this country, which have been colored with passport frauds, charges of dynamite plots and intrigue, the full extent of which never has been published.

It gives new credence to persistent reports of submarine bases on Mexican territory in the Gulf of Mexico; it takes cognizance of a fact long recognized by American army chiefs, that if Japan ever undertook to invade the United States it probably would be through Mexico, over the border and into the Mississippi valley to split the country in two. It recalls that Count von Bernstorff when handed his passports was very reluctant to return to Germany, but expressed a preference for asylum in Cuba. It gives a new explanation to the repeated arrests on the border of men charged by American military authorities with being German intelligence agents.

Last of all, it seems to show a connection with Gen. Carranza's recent proposal to neutrals that exports of food and munitions to the entente allies be cut off, and an intimation that he might stop the supply of oil, so vital to the British navy, which is exported from the Tampico fields.

What congress will do and how members of congress who openly have sympathized with Germany in their opposition to clothing the president with full authority to protect American rights will regard the revelations of Germany's machinations to attack the United States is the subject tonight of keenest interest.

Such a proposal as Germany instructed her minister to make to Mexico borders on an act of war, if actually it is not one.

No doubt exists here now that the persistent reports during the last two years of the operations of German agents not alone in Mexico but all through Central America and the West Indies are based on facts. There is now no doubt whatever that the proposed alliance with Mexico was known to high Mexican officials who are distinguished for their anti-Americanism.

Among them are Rafael Zubaran, Carranza's minister to Germany, and Luis Cabrera, Carranza's minister of finance.

It is apparent that the proposal had taken definite form when Zubaran returned to Mexico City from Berlin recently. His return from his foreign post was covered by the fact that Carranza had called in many of his diplomats for "conferences." Some time before that Cabrera, while still at Atlantic City in the conference of the American-Mexican joint commission, had suggested in a guarded way to a member of the American section that he regretted that the commission had not succeeded fully in settling the difficulties between Mexico and the United States, for he said, he had hoped it might continue its work and make peace for the world.

When pressed for some details of how the commission could restore world peace, Cabrera suggested that the American republics controlled the destiny of the war by controlling a large part of its supplies. Mexico, he intimated, might do her part by cutting off exports of oil. The American commissioners dismissed his ideas as visionary.

Almost coincident with Zubaran's return from Germany, Cabrera returned to Mexico City, open in his expressions of anti-Americanism. Zubaran, before being sent abroad had represented Gen. Carranza here, while the Niagara conferences were proceeding and was no less avowedly anti-American than Cabrera.

Meanwhile, Baron von Schoen, secretary of the German embassy here, was transferred to the legation in Mexico City. No explanation could be obtained of the reason for his transfer and such investigation as was possible failed to develop why a secretary from the United States should be sent to the German legation in Mexico. Baron von Schoen's association with the moves, if any at all, does not appear.

The only outward indication that he might have been connected with them is found in the fact that he recently had been detached from the German embassy in Tokyo and was well acquainted with the Japanese minister in Mexico City. Carranza's peace proposal was openly pronounced an evidence of German influence in Mexico by officials here, who declared it was intended only to embarrass the United States. Then apparently some influences showed their effect on the course of the Mexican government and on February 25 Cabrera, the minister of finance, issued a statement describing the "amazement" of the Mexican government that the American newspaper should have interpreted Gen. Carranza's proposal to cut off exports of munitions as a suggestion that he might cut off shipments of British oil. They were, Cabrera, declared, "entirely groundless," and that feature of the situation ended. There was an intimation that Japan turn traitor to her allies was answered by Tokyo.

Count von Bernstorff's connection with the plot, further than serving as the channel of communication, is intensified by the fact that the German embassy here was not merely the medium of delivering a message in this instance but was really a sort of headquarters for all the German missions in Central and South America.

The German naval attaché, Capt. Boy-Ed, and the military attaché, Capt. von Pape, whose recall was forced by the state department because of their military activities in this country, also were accredited to Mexico and before the outbreak of the war and their departure from this country made at least one visit here.

For months many naval officers here have believed that the mysterious German sea raiders of the South Atlantic must have found a base somewhere on the Mexican coast, and that such a base could not be main' without the knowledge and consent of Mexican officials. Last November the British charge at Mexico City presented to the Carranza foreign office a notification that if it was discovered that Mexican neutrality thus had been violated the allies would "take drastic measures" to prevent a continuance of that situation.

In a note almost insolent in tone Foreign Minister Aguilar replied to the charge that, if in effect, it was the business of the allies to keep submarines out of western waters, and that if they were not kept out Mexico would adopt whatever course the circumstances might command.

To German influence also have been attributed in some quarters the vigorous steps taken by the de facto finance minister to force loans from the Banco Nacional and the Bank of London and Mexico, owned by French and British capital. The institutions were closed by the Mexican authorities and some of their officers imprisoned and held for weeks despite repeated protests by France, Great Britain and the United States.

Reports of German machine guns and German gunners in the Carranza army also have been persistent, although the relative importance to the proposed alliance is not fully established. It was recalled tonight, too that last November when the Mexican-American joint commission was making its futile effort to adjust the differences between the two countries, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Mexico City, Count Kalman Volkanyr made a trip to the United States on what he described as a "secret mission."

A suggestion interpreted by some officials as an indication that Germany might have made approaches to Mexico at that time was made by Cabrera, in an address at Philadelphia on November 10.

"The foes of the United States will certainly assume to be friends of Mexico," said Mr. Cabrera, "and will try to take advantage of any sort of resentment Mexico may have against the United States. Mexico, nevertheless, understands in case of a conflict between the United States and any other nation outside America, her attitude must be one of continental solidarity."

LODGE PLAYING POLITICS.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS STILL ENDEAVORING TO EMBARRASS PRESIDENT.

Desire to Gain Partisan Advantage is Paramount With Republican Leaders Even in the Hour of Crisis in American Relations With Foreign Enemies.

Washington, March 1.—Senator Lodge, Republican, today introduced a resolution providing that President Wilson be requested to inform the senate if the "Zimmerman" note is authentic. Senator Swanson, Democrat, informed Senator Lodge that the Democratic senators were authorized by the president to state that the Zimmerman note as revealed this morning by the Associated Press was substantially correct. Senator LaFollette, Republican, favored an amendment, to the Lodge resolution, asking the president to say when the United States government got possession of the note.

The senate foreign relations committee has ordered a favorable report on the Lodge resolution. The committee amended the resolution by striking out the provision asking the president when the "Zimmerman" letter came into the United States' possession. The Republicans appear to be abandoning the filibuster on defense and armed neutrality legislation.

HOUSE WOULD LIMIT AUTHORITY.

Willing for President to Arm Ships for Protection, but Would Not Grant Other Agencies.

Washington, March 1.—The Flood bill authorizing the president to arm and protect American lives and ships, but not giving him the power to use "other instrumentalities," as asked to meet the submarine crisis, was taken up by the house on an agreement vote, after three hours debate. The administration backs the senate bill, which grants the use of "other instrumentalities."

STATE SENATORS EXPELLED.

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 28.—State Senators I. V. Burgess and S. C. Sims indicted Monday on charges of bribery, today were expelled from the senate. A resolution which declared that bribery charges against them had been sustained in an investigation by a senate committee and ordering them expelled, was adopted by a vote of 25 to 8.

It has been an open secret that department of justice agents in their investigation of plots to violate American neutrality by setting on foot armed expeditions in Mexico more than once have uncovered what appeared to be trails of the German secret service.

A few days ago Fred Kaiser, suspected of being a German agent, was arrested at Nogales on charges brought under the neutrality statute; department of justice agents declaring he had attempted to obtain military information on the American side of the border and had cultivated the society of American army officers with an apparent intention of promoting those efforts.

Last July, when W. H. Schweibz who claimed to be a former German army officer, escaped into Mexico at Nogales after arrest on similar charges, the deputy marshal who tried to follow him was stopped by Mexican authorities.

The full extent of the evidence of Germany's plotting against the United States gathered by the American secret service, may become known only according to the course of the future relations between the two countries. It is known that such evidence of the operation of the German embassy and persons who were responsible to it never has been permitted to come out because officials had to guard against inflaming the public mind in the tense situation with Germany. The public amazement which a full exposition of the evidence in the hands of the government would cause can not be overestimated.

Only today the council of national defense created by act of congress is sued an appeal to all Americans to show every consideration for alien in this country.

"We call upon all citizens," said the appeal, "if untoward events should come upon us to present to these aliens, many of whom tomorrow would be Americans, an attitude of neither suspicion nor aggressiveness. We urge upon all Americans to meet these millions of foreign born with unchanged manner and with unprejudiced mind."

GERMAN PLOT CONFIRMED.

WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALLY CONFIRM PRESS REVELATION.

Evidence of Von Bernstorff's Hostile Activities Was in Possession of the State Department Before the Break With Germany—Washington Stirred as Never Before.

Washington, March 1.—Full official confirmation of Germany's proposal to Mexico to form an alliance with Mexico and Japan to attack the United States was given today both at the White House and state department.

The revelation of German Foreign Minister Zimmermann's letter to German Minister Von Eckhardt, at Mexico City, transmitted through former German Ambassador Von Bernstorff, urging Mexico to propose such alliance to Japan has stirred the capital and congress to the utmost depths.

Although the part taken by Ambassador Von Bernstorff, other than transmitting the letter for the German foreign office, has not been revealed, it is known positively evidence of his activities sufficient to force his departure from the United States at any time was in the hands of the government, even before it knew of Germany's attempted intrigue with Mexico and Japan.

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE.

Washington, March 1.—After some debate, in which Senator Hardwick urged delay in the consideration of the resolution, because Senator Stone, the chairman of the foreign relations committee, was not present, Stone appeared and requested that the resolution be referred to the committee without instructions as to when it should report. The senate agreed to this unanimously. In making the request Senator Stone said: "It seems that the resolution ought to go to the committee. Here is a newspaper report that the secretary of foreign relations of the German government sent a hostile communication to German ambassador in Washington. It appears in the morning papers, but we are not informed of its source. There may be information in the hands of the State department that it might be incompatible with the public interest to reveal."

LANSING MAKES STATEMENT.

Washington, March 1.—Secretary Lansing today authorized this statement: "We do not believe Japan has had any knowledge of this German proposal or that she considered any proposition made by her enemy. We are confident that Mexico would not be a party in such an agreement." Secretary Lansing also said, in view of the fact that the plan was not to be presented until "it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States," it is not certain that the matter has been officially presented to Carranza. Secretary Lansing declined to say how the information came into the United States' possession.

SPARTANBURG HOTEL OPENS.

Cleveland Gives Dinner for Old and Young, Followed by Dance.

Spartanburg, Feb. 28.—The Cleveland, Spartanburg's new \$300,000 hotel, was formally opened last night. The stockholders and their guests were served an eight course dinner, and immediately after this a dinner was served to the younger set, patrons and patronesses of the initial dance, social event of the new hotel. This event was probably the greatest in the history of Spartanburg's social life.

Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford college, presided at the stockholders' dinner. After the dinner Dr. Snyder made a speech at the close of which he presented a loving cup to J. W. Allen, president of the Spartanburg Hotel corporation, who had given diligent effort and unlimited time to the work of building the hotel. Mr. Allen replied with a few remarks in which he expressed his appreciation of the gift. John B. Cleveland made the last speech in which he praised the efforts of C. O. Hearon, editor of the Spartanburg Herald, whose assistance, Mr. Cleveland said, was largely the cause of the successful completion of the hotel. The first guests registered today.

TURKISH ARMY SHATTERED.

London, March 1.—It was announced in the house of commons that the retreating Turkish forces have been completely shattered. It is said that the Turks reached Bagdad only as a disorderly mob.

GERMANS FALLING BACK.

GERMAN WAR OFFICE ADMITS WITHDRAWAL IN FRANCE.

Abandon Advanced Position on Ancre and Prepare to Evacuate Bapaume—British Continue Pursuit of Turks in Mesopotamia.

New York, March 1.—German army headquarters has announced that a voluntary and systematic withdrawal has been made from parts of the German advance positions on both sides of the Ancre river, on the French front.

London officially announced that a hostile airplane had bombed the town of Broadstairs. It also reported that the British pursuit of the Turks on the Tigris front continues.

Unofficial reports from Paris said that the German lines have been dropped back to Bapaume on the Ancre front and the evacuation of that town is imminent. Patrol encounters between the French and Germans occurred in the Argonne and Alsace.

WOMAN ENDS HER LIFE.

Anderson, Feb. 28.—Mrs. Robert F. Irby, wife of a well known cotton man of Oklahoma City, who has offices in several large cities in the cotton belt, committed suicide here this morning by shooting herself with a pistol. The bullet entered her right temple and passed through her head. Mr. and Mrs. Irby arrived here Friday to see their friends, Capt. and Mrs. R. J. Ramer. Mr. Irby was called back to New York on Sunday and because of Mrs. Irby's extreme nervous condition she was prevailed upon to remain here and visit the Ramers.

The tragedy occurred at the Ramer home before any of the household had got up for breakfast. Mrs. Irby fired the shot as she lay in bed, death resulting 30 minutes later.

She was unconscious until the end and left no note giving reasons for her rash act. Ill health is given as the cause and after conference with the physician who was called in, Coroner Beasley announced that he did not think an inquest necessary.

Mrs. Irby was 45 years of age and married Mr. Irby last Christmas. As Mrs. Bentley before marrying Mr. Irby she visited Anderson on two occasions and was a social favorite here.

The body will be taken to Oklahoma City tomorrow for burial. Capt. Ramer, at whose home the suicide was committed, is captain of the Machine gun company of the First regiment and once resided in Oklahoma City.

WILSON RECEIVES PEACE ADVOCATES.

Reminds Callers Country is Faced by Momentous Problem in Present Situation.

Washington, Feb. 28.—President Wilson told peace advocates who called on him today to protest against the steps he proposes in dealing with Germany that the country was faced by a momentous problem in the present situation; that he always had been for peace and would do everything within his power to maintain it. The president received their suggestions sympathetically, members of the delegation said, but told them the country must realize the magnitude of the question.

Washington, March 1.—Great Britain has withdrawn its objection and made known its permission for Haddfields, Limited, an English munitions concern, to sell shells to the United States navy.

New York, March 1.—A cablegram to the Kerr Steamship line received this morning announced that the American steamer Rochester had arrived at Bordeaux. Four American ships, the Doehra, for Genoa, and the Gold Shell, Orleans and Rochester, for Bordeaux, safely traversed through the submarine war zone.

Juarez, March 1.—The German consulate was robbed last night and a number of important papers were stolen from the files of Consul Max Weber, who has been handling German affairs in northern Mexico.

York, Feb. 28.—John E. Bankhead, a well known farmer of the Bullock creek section of York county, committed suicide early this morning by hanging himself with a rope in his barn. He had been in ill health for some time and brooding over his physical condition is thought to have temporarily unbalanced his mind. He is survived by his wife and ten children.