

NEUTRALITY FOR ACTIVITY

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT BEFORE CONGRESS ON GERMAN SUBMARINE SITUATION.

Executive Order: Permission to Take Any Necessary Steps to Protect American Rights at Sea—Include Arming of Merchantmen and Convoy if Need Be.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson appeared before congress at 1 o'clock this afternoon and asked for authority to place the United States in a state of "armed neutrality," to resist the German submarine menace.

Once before, in the infancy of the republic, a state of armed neutrality was proclaimed to check "predatory violence" upon American rights, in the war between France and England, but it did not result actually in war for the United States.

Whether another armed neutrality will mean war depends on whether Germany realizes that the United States is ready to protect its neutral rights by whatever means are necessary.

With a full realization of the solemnity of the occasion the president said his action today with the calm confidence that congress and the country will stand behind him.

President Wilson arrived at the capitol just before 1 o'clock and promptly at that hour stepped up to the clerk's desk in the hall of the House, where both branches of congress meet in special joint session were assembled before him. He spoke as follows:

"Sustained of the Congress: I have called the privilege of addressing you because we are moving through critical times during which it seems to me to be my duty to keep the close touch with the houses of congress so that neither counsel nor action shall run at cross purposes between us.

"On the 3rd of February I officially informed you of the sudden and unexpected action of the imperial German government in declaring its intention to disregard the promises I had made to this government in April last, and undertake immediate submarine operations against all commerce, whether of belligerents or of neutrals, that should seek to approach Great Britain and Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of Europe, or the harbor of the eastern Mediterranean and to conduct those operations without regard to the established restrictions of international practice, without regard to any considerations of humanity even which might interfere with their object. That policy was forthwith put into practice. It has now been in active execution for nearly four weeks. Its practical results are not fully disclosed.

"The commerce of other neutral nations is suffering severely, but not perhaps vary much more severely than it was already suffering before the 1st of February, when the new policy of the imperial government was put into operation. We have asked the cooperation of the other neutral governments to prevent these depredations but I fear none of them has thought it wise to join us in any common course of action.

"Our own commerce has suffered, is suffering rather in apprehension than in fact, rather because so many of our ships are timidly keeping to their home ports than because American ships have been sunk.

"Two American vessels have been sunk, the Housatonic and the Lyman M. Law. The case of the Housatonic, which was carrying foodstuffs consigned to a London firm was essentially like the case of the Frye, in which it will be recalled the German government admitted its liability for damages and the lives of the crew as in the case of the Frye were safeguarded with reasonable care.

"The case of the Law, which was carrying lemon box staves to Palermo, disclosed a ruthlessness of the method which deserves grave condemnation, but was accompanied by no circumstances which might not have been expected at any time in connection with the use of submarines against merchantmen as the German government has used it.

"In sum, therefore, the situation we find ourselves in regard to the actual conduct of the German submarine warfare against commerce and its effects upon our own ships and people is substantially the same that it was when I addressed you on the 3rd of February, except for the tying up of our shipping in our own ports because of the unwillingness of our ship owners to risk their vessels at sea without insurance or adequate protection and the very serious congestion of our commerce which has resulted, a congestion which is growing rapidly more and more serious every day. This in itself presently accomplishes, in effect, what the new German submarine orders were meant to accomplish, so far as we are concerned. We can only say, therefore that the overt act which I have ventured to hope the German commanders would in fact avoid, has not occurred.

"But while this is happily true, it must be admitted that there have been certain additional indications and expressions of purpose on the part of the German press and the German authorities which have increased rather than lessened the impression that if our ships and our people are spared it will be because of fortunate circumstances or because the commanders of the German submarines which they may happen to encounter exercise an unexpected discretion and restraint rather than because of the instructions under which those commanders are acting.

"It would be foolish to deny that the situation is fraught with the gravest possibilities and dangers. No thoughtful man can fail to see that the necessity for definite action may come at any time, if we are in fact, and not in word merely, to defend our elementary rights as a neutral nation. It would be most imprudent to be unprepared.

"I can not in such circumstances be unmindful of the fact that the expiration of the term of the present congress is immediately at hand, by constitutional limitation; and that it

MANNING TO ATTEND CEREMONY

GOVERNOR'S STAFF WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO WASHINGTON.

Leave Saturday by Special on Southern—To Ride in Inaugural Parade—A Number from State to Attend LaRoque to Take New Office Thursday.

Columbia, Feb. 26.—Gov. Manning and other members of the South Carolina party will leave Columbia on Saturday afternoon at 7:30 o'clock on a special train for Washington. The special will be known as the "South Carolina Governor's Special," and will travel over the Southern Railway. Mr. S. H. McLaughlin, division passenger agent of the Southern Railway in Columbia, will be in charge of the special. It will reach Washington on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock.

Gov. Manning and his staff will be quartered at the New Willard Hotel, where quarters have been reserved for the entire week. It is thought that there will be about twenty-four in the party, which will include Governor and Mrs. Manning, members of the governor's staff, and a few personal friends.

Gov. Manning and his staff will ride in the inaugural parade, mounts for them having been arranged for to be available on their arrival in Washington. The governor will carry along the big silken Palmetto flag, which will be flung to the breeze from the headquarters of the South Carolina party at the New Willard and may be carried by the party when they ride down Pennsylvania avenue in the inaugural parade.

Several scores South Carolinians from all parts of the State will go to Washington for the inauguration, for this has been one of the loyal and original Wilson strongholds and none rejoice more than the sons and daughters of South Carolina that Woodrow Wilson is to preside over the destinies of the United States for another four years. A great many of the Palmetto citizens have reserved space on the governor's special, while others will go over the Seaboard Air Line and Coast Line railroads.

Col. O. K. LaRoque, who was on Saturday night appointed State bank examiner by Gov. Manning, will assume the duties of his office on March 1. He is getting ready to take charge and will have the judiciary committee room on the second floor of the State house for his office. Col. LaRoque will be succeeded as private secretary to Gov. Manning by Mr. J. E. Puckette, who is already familiarizing himself with the new duties which he will formally assume on the first of the month. Col. Ivy M. Mauldin, whom Col. LaRoque succeeds as State bank examiner, will become active vice president of the Palmetto National Bank, of Columbia.

would in all likelihood require an unusual length of time to assemble and organize the congress which is to succeed it. I feel that I ought, in view of that fact, to obtain from you full and immediate assurance of the authority which I may need at any moment to exercise.

"No doubt I already possess that authority without special warrant of law, by the plain implication of my constitutional duties and powers, but I prefer, in the present circumstances, not to act upon general implication. I wish to feel that the authority and the power of the congress are behind me in whatever it may become necessary for me to do. We are jointly the servants of the people and must act together and in their spirit, so far as we can divine and interpret it.

"No one doubts what it is our duty to do. We must defend our commerce and the lives of our people in the midst of the present trying circumstances, with discretion but with clear and steadfast purpose. Only the method and the extent remain to be chosen upon the occasion, if occasion should indeed arise.

"Since it has unhappily proved impossible to safeguard our neutral rights by diplomatic means against the unwarranted infringements they are suffering at the hands of Germany, there may be no recourse but to armed neutrality, which we shall know how to maintain and for which there is abundant American precedent.

"It is devoutly to be hoped that it will not be necessary to put armed force anywhere into action. The American people do not desire it and our desire is not different from theirs. I am sure that they will understand the purpose in which I am now acting, the purpose I hold nearest my heart and would wish to exhibit in everything I do.

"I am anxious that the people of the nations at war also should understand and not mistrust us. I hope that I need give no further proofs and assurances than I have already given throughout nearly three years of anxious patience that I am the friend of peace and mean to preserve it for America so long as I am able.

"I am not now proposing or contemplating war or any steps that need lead to it. I merely request that you will accord me by your own vote and definite bestowal the means and the authority to safeguard in practice the right of a great people who love peace and who are desirous of exercising none but the rights of peace to follow the pursuit of peace in quietness and good will—rights recognized time out of mind by all the civilized nations of the world. No course of my choosing or of theirs will lead to war. War can come only by the willful acts and aggressions of others.

"You will understand why I can make no definite proposals or forecasts of action now and must ask for your supporting authority in the most general terms. I believe that the people will be willing to trust me to act with restraint, with prudence and in the true spirit of amity and good faith that they have themselves displayed throughout these trying months; and it is in that belief that I request that you will authorize me to supply our merchant ships with defensive arms should that become necessary, and with the means of using them, and to employ any other instrumentalities or methods that may be necessary and adequate to

OUR RIGHTS VIOLATED.

Sinking of Laconia So Regarded by President and Secretary of State, It is Reported.

Further Investigation of Case not Considered Necessary—Congress May Limit Authority It Gives to President—Ships May Arm and Government Must Supply Guns and Gunners, Says Resolution.

Washington, Feb. 27.—According to an authoritative expression of opinion obtained after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, the sinking of the Laconia with the loss of American lives is looked upon as a clear violation of American rights. No further investigation is considered necessary.

While no formal action has been taken by either the house or senate foreign relations committee on the president's request, both indicate a tendency to restrict the authority to be given the president. Senate committee decided to make its bill more explicit. The right to arm ships, it said, will take the form of authorizing the owners of American ships to arm themselves and to authorize the government to supply guns and gunners.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming the death of Americans on the Laconia, which was torpedoed without warning, establish this case as an "overt act." The sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case, in principle. The situation is the same as the president left it yesterday, but the sinking of the Laconia is expected to hasten action by congress. It is indicated that the government's first step will be to arm American merchantmen.

REPORT ON LACONIA.

Consul Frost Sends Details of Submarine Attack on Liner.

Washington, Feb. 27.—A dispatch from Consul Frost at Queenstown, dated 11:15 last night has been received by the State department. It said that Mrs. Hoy and daughter were lost and the four American cabin passengers saved were F. B. Gibbons, of the Chicago Tribune; Mrs. F. E. Harris, the wife of Col. Harris, U. S. A., Fort DuPont; Arthur Kirby, of New York, and Father Waring, of St. Joseph's Seminary, Baltimore.

He also gave the names of fifteen American negro firemen who were saved and fixed the number landed as two hundred and sixty-seven at Queenstown and fourteen at Bantry. This, Consul Frost said, left thirteen missing, of whom five were drowned and eight, including Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, died from exposure. Consul Frost said: "The Laconia was torpedoed without warning at 10:30 p. m., February 25th, one hundred and fifty miles west of Fastnet. The second torpedo was fired twenty minutes after the first. Thirteen boats loaded with passengers and crew got away. A wireless message had been sent out and the boats were picked up by British patrol boats at 4 o'clock next morning."

BURIED AT SEA.

Two American Women Perished as Result of Sinking of Laconia.

London, Feb. 27.—American Consul Frost, at Queenstown, today telegraphed the American embassy that Mrs. Mary E. Hoy and daughter, Elizabeth, American passengers aboard the Laconia, died of exposure and were buried at sea.

A Central News dispatch from Queenstown said that eight Americans, negro firemen on the Laconia, also died of exposure. According to Consul Frost the total number landed from the Laconia was two hundred and eighty-one of two hundred and ninety-four aboard. Six persons are in Queenstown hospitals, but their condition is not serious.

protect our ships and our people in their legitimate and peaceful pursuits on the seas. I request also that you will grant me at the same time, along with the powers I ask, a sufficient credit to enable me to provide adequate means of protection where they are lacking, including adequate insurance against the present war risks.

"I have spoken of our commerce and of the legitimate errands of our people on the seas, but you will not be misled as to my main thought, the thought that lies beneath these phrases and gives them dignity and weight. It is not of national interests merely that we are thinking. It is, rather, of fundamental human rights, chief of all the right of life itself. I am thinking not only of the rights of Americans to go and come about their proper business by way of the sea, but also of something much deeper, much more fundamental than that.

"I am thinking of those rights of humanity without which there is no civilization. My theme is of these great principles of compassion and of protection which mankind has fought to throw about human lives, the lives of combatants, the lives of men who are peacefully at work keeping the industrial processes of the world quick and vital, the lives of women and children and of those who supply the labor which ministers to their sustenance. We are speaking of no selfish material rights, but of rights which our hearts support and whose foundation is that righteous passion for justice upon which all law, all structures alike of family, of state and of mankind must rest, as upon the ultimate base of our existence and our liberty. I can not imagine any man with American principles at heart hesitating to defend these things."

YAROWDALE MEN HELD.

NOW DETAINED UNDER COLOR OF QUARANTINE.

Germany Announces That Contagious Disease Has Broken Out in Place of Detention.

Berlin, Feb. 26, via Sayville, Feb. 27.—The release of the American prisoners brought to Germany on the steamer Yarowdale, although ordered some time ago, says the Overseas News agency, can not be carried out for the moment, as an infectious disease has been discovered at the place of their residence.

As the outbreak of the malady necessitates a quarantine measure affecting the number of persons about to leave Germany, the Overseas agency states that the delay in the departure of the Americans is in the interests of neutral countries. The hope is expressed that the quarantine will be of short duration.

The American citizens, it is announced, are safe and well.

TO ISSUE FARM LOAN BONDS.

Entire Amount to be Sold to Bank Syndicate—To Let Farmers Get Money at 5 to 5 1/2 Per Cent.

Washington, Feb. 28.—It is understood that federal farm loan board officials have arranged to place the entire first issue of forthcoming farm loan bonds with a syndicate of bankers at a rate of four and a-half per cent. The amount of the issue is undetermined. The rate charged the farmer will be between five and five and a-half per cent.

GERARD HOMEWARD BOUND.

Former Ambassador to Germany Sailed Today From Spain for Havana.

Corunna, Spain, Feb. 27, via Paris.—Former American Ambassador Gerard sailed today for Havana aboard the steamer Infanta Isabel. He is expected to reach Havana March 8 or 9. The Infanta Isabel is filled to capacity, carrying seven hundred and fifty steerage passengers besides cabin passengers.

MONEY FOR THE ARMY.

Senate Increases Appropriation for Army \$37,500,000.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The senate military affairs committee has ordered thirty seven million, five hundred thousand dollars increase in the army bill. As reported to the senate the bill carries two hundred and seventy-seven million, four hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

REPORT ON LEAK INQUIRY.

HENRY GIVES FINDINGS TO LOWER HOUSE.

Essary and Price, Washington Journalists, Only Ones of All Mentioned Found Guilty.

Washington, Feb. 27.—A unanimous report saying that no one save two Washington newspaper men, J. Fred Essary and W. W. Price, were responsible for whatever "leak" there was on President Wilson's peace note, was presented to the house tonight by Chairman Henry of the rules committee. All persons connected with the government, including Secretary McAdoo and Secretary Tumulty, members of both houses, and R. W. Bolling, a brother-in-law of the president, are specifically cleared of suspicion.

Chairman Henry failed in an effort to have the report adopted immediately but it probably will be accepted in a day or two and formally end the leak investigation.

The report says, Essary who wrote the forecast of the president's note from the local brokerage firm of F. A. Connolly & Co., did not profit financially by his act, but Price was regularly in the employ of Chicago brokers to supply them with Washington news likely to affect the stock market.

Fewer persons should be permitted to handle important papers such as a president's message, the report declares.

The practice of "short sales" in Wall street is condemned and members of the brokerage firms of E. F. Hutton & Co. of New York and F. A. Connolly & Co. of Washington are criticized for their conduct in the course of the investigation. The report says that the testimony of Connolly was demonstrated to have been false.

Statements made by Thomas W. Lawson of Boston, the committee finds, took the form of "suggestion and innuendo" and were not proved. Only one of the charges made by Representative Wood of Indiana was proved, the report adds. That was that brokers had advance information on the president's note.

Included in those specifically cleared of suspicion by the report are: Pliny Fisk, Archibald S. White, Otto H. Kahn, Stuart Gibbons, Malcolm McAdoo, Bernard W. Baruch and James B. Regan.

HOY WANTS WAR.

American Resident of England Whose Mother Perished on Laconia Cables President.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Austin Y. Hoy, whose mother and sister were lost on the Laconia, has cabled President Wilson calling upon the American government to prevent similar outrages.

He said: "I am able to fight. If my country can use me against these brutal assassins I am at its call. If it stultifies my manhood and my nation by remaining passive under our rage I shall seek a man's chance under another flag."

Washington, Feb. 28.—It has been officially established that American schooner Lyman M. Law was not sunk by an Austrian submarine.

New York, Feb. 28.—John Wallace better known as "Captain Jack," Crawford, the noted Indian fighter and "poet scout," died at his home at Woodhaven, Long Island, last night from pneumonia. He was born in Ireland in 1847.

MANNING TO HEAD DIVISION.

TO HAVE PLACE OF HONOR IN INAUGURAL PARADE.

South Carolina Governor and His Colonels Will be Given Most Cordial Greeting to Capital.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Robert N. Harper, inaugural chairman, today announced that Gov. Manning and his staff would head one of the four big divisions in the parade next Monday.

Final details for the inauguration are being rapidly worked out. Preparations for the parade, which is, of course, one of the big attractions of the occasion, are almost complete.

The parade will be in four divisions and each brigade will be headed by a governor and his staff. The first brigade will be headed by Gov. Manning and the members of his staff, and then will follow Gov. Pleasant of Louisiana; Gov. Bilbo of Mississippi; and Gov. Gardner of Missouri.

Other details were made public here today but naturally the home people will be most interested to know that Gov. Manning and the members of his staff will be in the line and in addition to this will come near the front of the big parade.

It is certain beyond dispute that when the Palmetto State executive and his colonels pass in review before the president there will be many thousands of persons in the big crowd who will lustily cheer the men from the South.

Gov. Manning is a favorite in Washington and there will be no one in the parade who will receive a better or more cordial welcome than he, especially as he will be here with his staff members.

"Just say we are waiting for the governor," was all that could be had from Chairman Harper today, "and that the city of Washington will be his as long as he wants it. Tell the colonels to get out their trappings and come on; we are waiting for them."

HOLDING FOUR CONSULS.

Germany Persists in Unlawful and Uncivilized Treatment of American Officials.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Four American consuls are being detained in Germany, while the Berlin government awaits official advice that all German consuls in the United States who have been ordered to South and Central America have been permitted to leave.

BRIEF WAR BULLETINS.

New York, Feb. 28.—Berlin announces the resumption of their offensive on the northern Roumanian front, where the Teutons captured Russian hill positions and more than thirteen hundred prisoners.

London says the British forces engaged the retreating Turks on the Mesopotamian front 30 miles northwest of Kut, indicating that the British are now about 75 miles from Bagdad.

BATTLE IN COURT HOUSE.

Nashville, Feb. 28.—E. G. Tompkins was killed, Will Hoffstetter was probably fatally shot, and Jim Hoffstetter, and Mrs. W. A. Bevington, and a bystander were wounded in the court house today. Tompkins, who was suing the Hoffstetter brothers and their sister for alienating his wife's affections, fired on the Hoffstetters as they left the building after the case had been postponed. Will Hoffstetter stabbed Tompkins to death after he had been wounded.

NEW SPRING GOODS

We have just received a nice line of new
Hart Schaffner & Marx Suits

—AND—
Knox Hats




If in need of a new Spring Hat or Suit, come in and see our line. It will pay you to make your selection early, before the goods are picked over.

When You Want Quality, See Us.

We handle only the highest class lines.

THE D. J. CHANDLER CLOTHING CO.
Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx.