

**SENSATION IN GREAT BRITAIN**

**GERMAN PROPOSAL OF ALLIANCE WITH MEXICO AND JAPAN AROUSES GREAT CONCERN**

London, March 1.—The time is long since past when any fresh orientation of the German policy is calculated to astonish the British public, but the revelation of the plot to induce Mexico and Japan to attack the United States surprised this country with a first-class sensation today.

The Associated Press Washington dispatch gave the late afternoon papers the first news, which was distributed under startling headlines, such as "Great Hun Plot Unmasked," "The International Plot of the War," "The Revelation of German Designs."

The edition of the papers early was completed. The immediate idea of the news in the street was that here, at least, was an undoubted cause belli for the United States, the only matter for uncertainty, appearing to be how soon an official declaration of war might be expected.

The news was too late for editorial comment in many afternoon papers and the government officials appeared to decline at the present juncture to make any statement for publication.

Next to the effect of the news in America, the attitude of Japan startled the public most. No one, however, did the idea prevail at a moment that Japan could be expected from the entente alliance.

Why does the president, who received on averting war, authorize a disclosure of this character at a time when the temper of the country is more bellicose than at any time since sinking of the Lusitania? The News says the question admits of only one answer.

**PACKING COMPANY OPENS BIDS.**  
Oranburg, March 1.—The offices of the Oranburg Packing company presented a busy scene this morning, when about 75 men interested in the bids for the construction and equipping of the plant showed up for business. The bidders are filled with parties interested either to erect the building, sell machinery or materials. The bids were opened this afternoon at 3 o'clock, but the awards have not been made yet. It will likely be a day or two before the awards will be made.

S. E. Washington, head of the Packers Engineering company of Chicago, is here and will remain here until all the awards are made. He is the consulting engineer for the Oranburg Packing company. Tomorrow, President W. M. Riggs of Clemson college and Mr. Parks, government special agent, will arrive in Oranburg in interest of the packing plant business.

The Oranburg Packing company is capitalized at \$300,000, all of which has been subscribed. The buildings will be erected in the southeastern portion of the city and will be of reinforced concrete and brick. The plant will be equipped with sufficient machinery to be able to use every part of hogs and cattle slaughtered at the plant.

**WOULD TRAIN YOUTH.**  
Washington, March 3.—President Wilson today signed the postal bill, with the "bone dry" provision.

Quedalajara, March 3.—Mexican Minister of Foreign Relations Aguilar today formally denied that the Mexican government had been approached by Germany with the object of forming an alliance hostile to the United States.

**UNES FOOD ECONOMY.**

**HOUSTON CALLS ATTENTION TO GREAT WASTE.**

Secretary of Agriculture Discusses Cause of Excessive Rise in Food Products.

Washington, Mar. 2.—Greater food crops and the practice of household economies were urged by Secretary Houston today as measures to help reduce the cost of living. American families, he estimated in a statement on the food situation, waste in their kitchens annually more than \$700,000,000 worth of edibles.

There is nothing in the situation to justify hysteria, however, he declared, because there is no real shortage of food in the country.

Mr. Houston emphasized the importance of the food cost investigation directed by President Wilson and held out hope that increased acreages this year may insure greater food supplies. Wheat and potatoes, he said, were unusually short last year but there will be enough to supply very nearly normal needs.

The food problem can not be solved, in the secretary's opinion, through price fixing by the federal or state government but by "intelligent planting and constructive action in conjunction with the operation of normal forces." Urging a full inquiry into the causes of advancing prices, he said:

"A full and satisfactory explanation of prevailing prices is not possible on the basis of existing knowledge. Where the food supply is located, who owns it, what may be the difficulties of securing it, whether the local market conditions are due to car shortage, whether there is artificial monopoly or control, no one can state with certainty. It is essential that we have the facts, not only because of the light they might throw on present conditions but also because they are prerequisites for the working out of a permanent, just and economical system of marketing. The investigation directed by the president ought to be made promptly and congress ought to give the federal trade commission and the department of agriculture the necessary funds."

Limitation of waste in the kitchen, he pointed out, would do much towards affording partial and immediate relief from oppressive prices. Prices must be maintained at a certain level or farmers will not increase their output, Mr. Houston declared, and either the government or the community must guarantee a reasonable price.

"It is evident," he said, "that the public has failed to look all facts involved, especially in the case of wheat." The wheat crop for the current year was reported to be 640,000,000 bushels against a five year average of 728,000,000 and the record crop of 1915, of 1,028,000,000. Apparently the public has compared the crop of 1916 solely with the record crop of 1915 and failed to take into account the unusually large carry-over from that year into the present year of 164,000,000 bushels or more.

"Furthermore, the public's attention has been fixed on the large exports of the two years immediately following the outbreak of the war. The exports of wheat in normal times are approximately 105,000,000 bushels. The year preceding the war it was 145,000,000. In 1914-1915 it was 322,000,000 and 1915-16 was 242,000,000. Looking only at the crop of 640,000,000 bushels and having in mind the possibilities of exports suggested by the figure of 322,000,000 for 1914-15, the public naturally apprehended there would be a lack of bread. Dealers and others became unduly excited.

"The total available supply, including both the crop and carryover, aggregating 804,000,000 bushels—part of which it should be said was not suitable for milling purposes—should have been considered as well as the relatively small exports for the first six months of the current year. Up to the first of January exports were only 97,000,000 bushels and they have tended to decrease, partly on account of the disturbed shipping conditions since the first of January. Our normal domestic needs for wheat for human food, for seeding purposes and for reserve to carry over into the next year require 640,000,000 bushels. As I have stated, the total year's supply is 804,000,000 bushels. This would give us an available export surplus of 164,000,000 bushels. The secretary pointed to an increased acreage of wheat last fall and predicted a large increase this spring. A big yield on this acreage, he said should give the country a one billion bushel crop.

The woman who is very good has never had the chance of being very bad.

There will be a hot supper and barbecue at Providence school house on Friday evening, March 9th, at 8:30 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

**No False Fronts Here In the South!**



No Red Vest -



No Horse-hair Wig -



No playing Possum -

No Sir—down South here we don't care much for make-believes or make-ups. You can't have any reason to hide, unless you're a possum!

A man came to our front gate one day wearing a red vest and horse-hair wig. I don't know what he wanted—but he didn't get it!

A Southern gentleman doesn't need disguise; he should be open-faced like an

old-fashioned watch, and open-handed like an old-fashioned grandmother.

That is my way, friends. I am telling you the simple truth when I say—I am SOVEREIGN, the cigarette of good blood and good breeding, made of fine, sweet, smooth, mellow Virginia and Carolina tobacco,—the very best stock on earth.

I am an aristocrat of the South,—born and bred and raised in a white, clean, healthful home. And I know—

**You Folks of the South KNOW good blood. You Folks of the South KNOW good tobacco!**

So, when I say to you—test me, believe in me, you understand what I mean. I don't wear any whiskers to deceive you! Let us always be together like real friends. And, take note of this:—

I am guaranteed by *The American Tobacco Co.* —Buy me. If you don't like me return me to your dealer and get your money back. I have said it. A Southern gentleman is known the world over for keeping his word, and I have given you mine.

**Sovereign Cigarettes**  
FOR THE GENTLEMAN OF THE SOUTH  
*"King of Them All"*

**DID NOT RECEIVE PROPOSAL.**

JAPAN DID NOT HEAR FROM MEXICO ABOUT PLOT.

Island Empire, According to Statesman, Would Scornfully Reject Such Treachery to Her Allies.

Tokyo, March 2.—Japan has received no proposition from either Mexico or Germany, directly or indirectly, to join in a possible war against the United States, Viscount Motono, Japanese foreign minister, informed the Associated Press today. Viscount Motono said he considered such an idea ridiculous, it being based on the outrageous presumption that Japan would abandon her allies. If Mexico received the proposal, Viscount Motono added, that country showed intelligence in not transmitting it to Japan.

Columbia, March 2.—The State railroad commission held a hearing today upon a petition presented by the Western Union Telegraph company, asking that it be allowed to discontinue its office at Gourdin, S. C. The citizens of the community had a counter petition before the commission asking that the office be continued. Decision was reserved by the railroad commission.

This would be a far happier place if our debtors had memories like our creditors.

**GERMANS ADMIT PLOT.**

DEFEND PLAN TO INDUCE JAPAN AND MEXICO TO ATTACK UNITED STATES.

Foreign Minister Zimmermann Says Germany Was Merely Considering the Possibility of War With United States and Using Means Universally Admitted as Permissible.

London, March 3.—Foreign Minister Zimmermann's instructions to German Minister von Eckhardt to Mexico, as published in the United States, are admitted in Berlin to have been correctly quoted, according to a Berlin dispatch via Amsterdam.

Information which seems to have been sent out by the semi-official Wolff News Bureau, declares that Germany was forced to consider the possibility of conflict with United States after she decided upon unrestricted submarine warfare. Therefore the German minister to Mexico was instructed to offer an alliance with Mexico in case the United States declared war.

According to information contained in a Wolff dispatch the German minister to Mexico was instructed in the middle of January that in the event of the United States declaring war on Germany he should offer such an alliance to Mexico.

Not Ashamed of Plot. Berlin, March 3.—The Overseas

News Agency quotes Foreign Secretary Zimmermann as saying that Germany expected and wished to remain on terms of friendship with the United States, "but we prepared measures of defense in case the United States declared war against Germany."

Continuing a discussion of the reports of a "plot" reaching here from England, Secretary Zimmermann says, "I fail to see how such a plot could be claimed to be inspired by unfriendliness on our part. It means nothing but that we prepared to use means universally admitted as permissible in case of war with the United States."

**American Liable for Penalty.**

Malmö, Sweden, March 2.—(Via London).—Joseph Westerberg, an American consular agent here, has been adjudged by the municipal court liable for a penalty of 119,000 crowns in a civil action brought to recover double damages under a contract. Mr. Westerberg imported a quantity of American pork last September through the plaintiffs and signed an undertaking not to re-export it to any other country at war with Great Britain. The plaintiffs alleged breach of the undertaking and the court decided the allegation had been substantiated.

Soy-bean meal, like cottonseed meal, has high fertilizing value. Feeding the meal to stock and applying the manure to the soil is the most economical way to use it.

**VILLA'S STAR ON DECLINE.**

Physical Condition Practically Eliminates Him as Factor.

Washington, March 2.—Practical elimination of Francisco Villa as a factor in the Mexican situation was reported to the State department today from two sources. An American consul whose name could not be given was authority for the statement that Villa is practically eliminated because of his physical condition. Gen. Murguia, Carranza commander, was quoted by another American official to the same effect. Officials here say that there is no indication that Villa forces have moved in behind Gen. Pershing's troops and occupied the abandoned territory.

**Padgett-Fromberg Act Signed.**

Columbia, March 2.—Gov. Manning tonight signed the Padgett-Fromberg act looking towards a revision of the military code of the State, the act to establish a county court for Richland county, and the act to authorize an election in the Charleston city school district upon the question of a bond issue for the erection and maintenance of school buildings.

Dr. Watson B. Duncan will be the speaker at the Rex Theatre tomorrow afternoon. His subject will be "The Shadow of the South." The exercises begin promptly at 8 o'clock and all of the men in Sumter are cordially invited to attend.