

BRANTFORD DAILY COURIER

FORTY-SEVENTH YEAR

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TWO CENTS

WAR TO LAST UNTIL YEAR 1918, SAYS WINSTON CHURCHILL

Wilson May Arm U. S. Ships Without Direct Sanction of Congress

WILSON IS URGED TO ARM SHIPS

Administration Officials Advise President to Proceed With Defensive Measures

1819 LAW IS OBSOLETE

Extra Session of Congress Is Looked for Within Three Months

WILSON DETERMINED TO OBTAIN AUTHORITY FOR ARMING VESSELS

Washington, March 7.—Some administration officials to-day are urging on President Wilson their view that he may legally arm merchant ships now without awaiting express authority which Congress might give if called in special session. They argued that the old law passed in 1819 forbidding a merchantman to fire on "a public armed vessel of a nation in amity with the United States," would not apply to the present situation. The President heard these views with keen interest, and indicated that he is seeking some legal means of acting promptly but would prefer Congressional approval.

EXTRA SESSION EXPECTED

Prospect of an extra session of Congress soon, suggested strongly to-day Members of Congress generally now look for an extra session to be called to meet not later than June, as a result of hints said to have been thrown out by officials close to President Wilson. Aside from any action on the armed ship bill, the need of an extra session to pass the big supply measures which failed at the last session is regarded by officials as imperative. Nearly all of the executive departments of the government will suffer, particularly the army's defense plans, unless Congress supplies the necessary funds.

Other Measures.—In addition to the other measures that the Administration regarded as almost imperative, which failed to pass, they included amendments to the shipping and federal reserve laws, legislation to strengthen the Adams law, conservation, foreign selling commissions, and enlargement of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Insists on Arming.—The President himself has not definitely indicated whether he has given up hope that an extra session may be avoided, but many members of Congress still insist that he will call Congress together soon should he decide he lacks authority to arm merchant ships.

No Trouble With Austria.—It appeared quite probable to-day that the United States would not press the issue created by Austria-Hungary's notification that she adheres to Germany's principles of submarine warfare, inasmuch as the communication has a conciliatory tone and points out that since Austrian submarines operate only in the Adriatic and Mediterranean, the chances of their actually violating American rights are not very great.

KILLED BY ROBBERS

Rochester, N. Y., March 7.—Webster, 32, who conducted a night lunch car at North and Achilles streets, was shot to death early this morning by two men who tried to rob the cash register. Webster chased the men from the car with a large knife and was shot as he was returning to his duties. He died on the way to a hospital.

Weather Bulletin

Toronto, March 7.—Pressure is now highest over the Atlantic states, while a well defined depression is centered in Iowa. Fair weather prevails in all portions of the Dominion. Forecast.—Fresh to strong southeast shifting to southwest winds, mild and mostly fair today, some snow or rain tonight and on Thursday.

"Zimmie"

Success at Kut May Have Deep Effect

Tremendous Amount of Work Done in Past Month, Says Lord Milner, Returning From Conference Held at Petrograd

By Courier Leased Wire
New York, March 7.—A cable from London to The Tribune says: Lord Milner was asked on his return from the Petrograd conference:

"Did you observe much change in the general situation during your month's absence from England?"
"Much Done"
"A tremendous amount of work has been done," he replied, "our success at Kut-el-Amara was most encouraging and heartening. I believe it may have a far-reaching effect, but I do not want to prophesy."

U.S. IN ALLIANCE WITH BRITAIN SAYS GERMANY

Otherwise She Would Fight Defensive Battles of Huns for Sea Power

GERMAN AMBITION In South America and Far East Legitimate

Berlin, March 7, via London.—(New York Times cable)—To prove that the United States has an alliance with England of some years standing, "The Vossische Zeitung" quotes an article from Roland G. Usher's book, published in March, 1915, by the Century Company. "The true policy of the United States would then without hesitation lie in a firm alliance with the sea power, which in its own interest would fight our defensive battles and in exchange for our economic assistance, further our legitimate ambition in South America and the Far East. Such an outstanding alliance the United States already possesses with England, and by virtue of it we are supreme in the western hemisphere, owners of the Panama canal, possessors of the Philippines and exert great influence in Latin-American affairs."

The Vossische Zeitung merely remarks that in the preface to his book, Professor Usher emphasizes his strict impartiality, and it argues that his work must be regarded as a historic representation of the political situation of the present war, which thus admits an Anglo-American alliance. Only yesterday the Lokal Anzeiger said that President Wilson was one of the first men who correctly judged the fact of the intensified U-boat war, and did everything to spare England this "fatal ordeal," and added that "knowing he can no longer prevent it, he proposes to plunge his country into the awful war."

CANADIANS MADE RAIDS

Entered German Line on Half Mile Front and Depth

London, March 7.—The following communique was issued yesterday by the Canadian War Records Office: "The main event of last week on the Canadian corps front was a raid of a German line on a more extended scale than usual. In fact the 'raid' was really a 'minor operation,' covering as it did a frontage of nearly 2,000 yards, and penetrating the enemy lines to a depth of 700 yards in one place. The whole affair was carried out with great gallantry, and the 'bag' of prisoners amounted to one officer and 44 other ranks, besides great damage to the defenses, dugouts and trenches, not to mention the heavy casualties inflicted."

"The troops engaged encountered stiff opposition before reaching their objectives. 'No Man's Land' at this particular point is a mass of shell holes, the ground being torn to pieces by months of continuous fighting. The ground rises gently from our right brigade front to the enemy's lines. Over such a terrain the troops on the right advanced despite a heavy rifle and machine gun fire. The enemy front line was reached and crossed, his dugouts were destroyed and such Germans as were left were killed."

AMERICAN VESSELS TO BE ARMED SOON

Washington, Mar. 7.—The definite impression that American merchantmen would be armed in the near future, gained ground to-day following conference between President Wilson and administration officials and Democratic senators.

After the conference the Democratic senators hurried to the Capitol for a conference with Republican leaders to lay before them a plan for modified closure, which the Democrats hope to bring before the Senate to-morrow.

Paper Shortage on the Increase in Great Britain

Unless Public Will be Satisfied With Less, It May Soon Get None; To Revive Old Custom of Circulation

London, March 7.—(New York Sun cable)—London newspapers, suffering from a shortage of paper, insist now that unless the public can be content with fewer papers, it presently will get none at all. The circulating departments are fighting harder to lessen their circulations than they ever fought to increase them.

There has been some talk of reviving the old custom once in vogue among readers of The Times. Years ago when The Times was higher priced, the paper was circulated by carriers and one copy was read by as many as a half dozen homes each day. This lessened the cost to the individual reader.

WAR WILL NOT END THIS YEAR

Winston Churchill In House of Commons Urges Preparation for 1918

BRITISH BLOCKADE Will Bring About Collapse of Central Empires by Next Year

FOOD SITUATION BAD At Present and is Growing Worse

London, March 7.—(New York Sun cable)—A speech by Winston Churchill in the House of Commons urging that preparations be made immediately for the year 1918, is construed as indicating that the end of the war this year, Mr. Churchill intimated a long belief that the blockade will force the collapse of the Central Empires and bring about the finish of the war in 1917 with such huge sacrifices of life as would be necessary in forcing a military decision. This view is widely entertained, and Mr. Churchill's wide reputation as a man whose ordinary favors action gives special significance to such a declaration.

The government knows that internal conditions in Germany and Austria-Hungary are very bad, that they are becoming worse rapidly and as the nations behind the fighting lines grow weaker than the allies, they cannot support the pressure indefinitely.

Men of the Chudchill school, including the naval party, believe a continuance of the blockade of Germany will force Germany to send its high seas fleet for a last desperate effort. Meanwhile with the mobilizing of the man power resources of the whole world and the tightening of the blockade, the allies are expected to starve the Central Powers into submission. This view is strengthened by the fact that in the House of Commons, A. Bonar Law has refused to discuss the Saloniki campaign, indicating that despite widespread criticism it will continue as a part of the plan to starve the interior countries.

Huns Halt Industries.—Amsterdam, March 7.—via London.—The Telegraaf says there will be an almost complete stoppage of industry in Belgium within a few days, the German authorities asserting that this is necessary of economy to the lack of coal and transport facilities. Practically the entire population of Belgium will be thus unemployed, with such few exceptions as receive special permission from the civil authorities to continue their businesses.

HUNS BURN STORE HOUSE IN BELGIUM

Twenty Thousand Kilos of Coffee Destroyed in Conflagration

OTHER GOODS BURNED

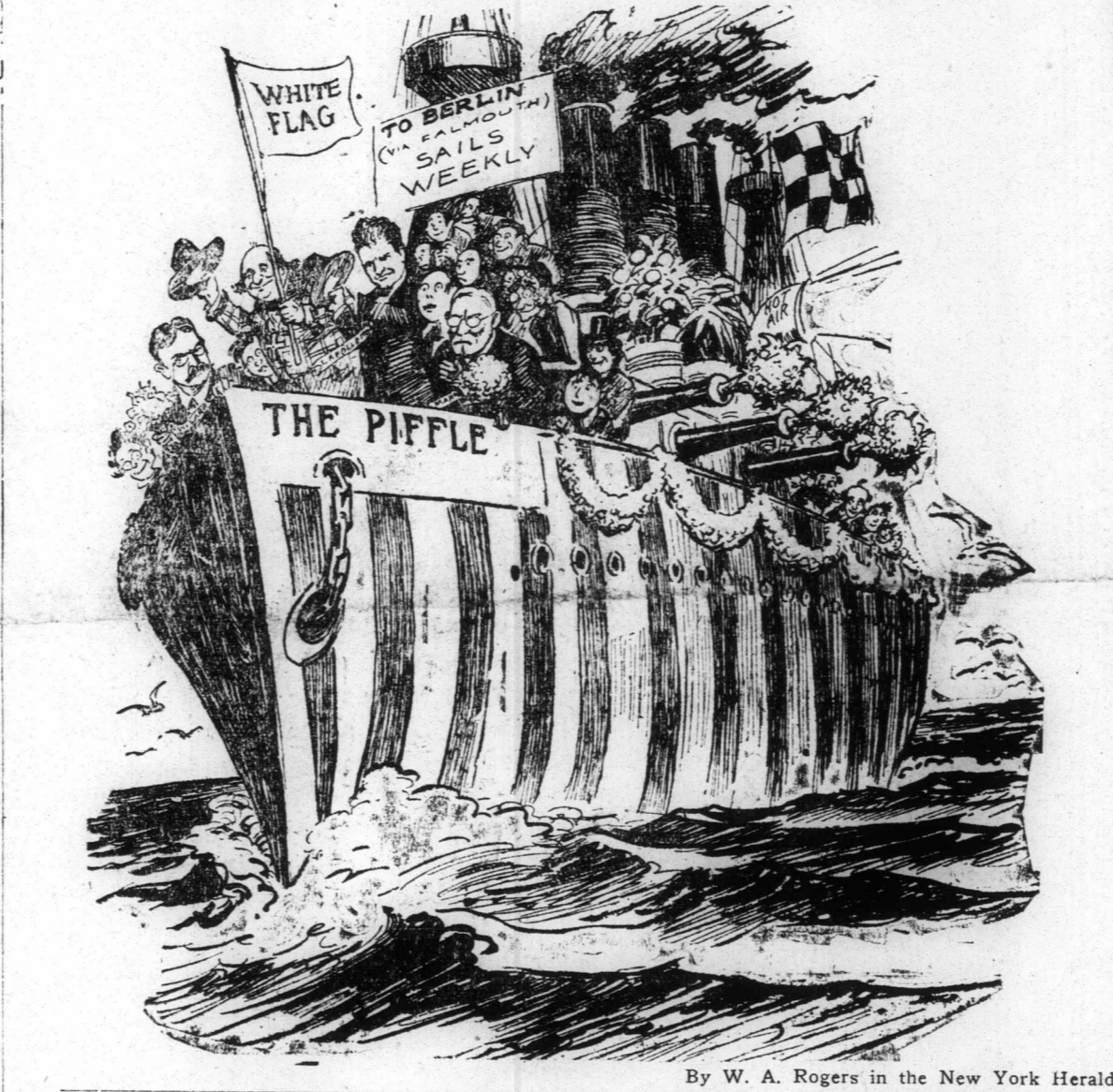
Two Persons Deported to Germany as a Result

By Courier Leased Wire.
Amsterdam, via London, March 7.—Twenty thousand kilos of coffee belonging to the Belgian relief commission were lost in a fire which destroyed a store house at Hasselt, according to The Telegraaf. A quantity of other foodstuffs was also burned. The Telegraaf says that two persons have been deported to Germany in connection with the fire.

ELECTED MODERATOR
By Courier Leased Wire.
Vancouver, B. C., March 7.—Rev. Dr. Neil of Westminster Church, Toronto, was nominated yesterday as moderator of the General Assembly by the Presbytery of Westminster.

Jacob Leulier, of East Zorra, has of the best known farmers in the county, and president of the Oxford Holstein Breeders' Association, died suddenly.

THE PIFFLE STEAMS UNDER ORDERS FROM WILHELMSTRASSE



JAPAN WELCOMES THE BREAK BETWEEN U. S. AND GERMANY

Wilson Must Take Decisive Step of Declaring War in Order to Realize His Ideal of Lasting Peace, Declares Press; U. S. Navy Would be of Benefit to The Allied Cause

Tokio, March 7.—Correspondence of the Associated Press: The diplomatic rupture between the United States and Germany was welcomed with enthusiasm throughout Japan. The press devoted columns to the telegraphic reports announcing the break, and to the observations of diplomats and publicists on the situation.

The Jiji said the strength and useful effect of the American navy will be very far-reaching, especially in sweeping the German submarines from the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the North Sea in co-operation with the Entente navies.

Epoch-Making Event.—The Vorodku called the departure of the United States the great evolution of the European war and an epoch-making event. "Too much liberalism and leniency had been shown Germany by the United States," said the Asahi. "If President Wilson did not take a decisive step and declare war on Germany and force her to abandon her aggressive ambitions, he would not be able to realize his coveted lasting peace of the world."

Navy Useful.—Admiral Kato, minister of the navy, in an interview said that if the American navy took the offensive against the Germans it would surely be effective in sweeping the German navy from the international sea routes and stop the menace to the world's shipping interests.

Natural Course.—Marquis Okuma, in a brief interview, declared that the determination of the United States was a natural course of the events of the past, and now that America had openly pledged her hostile attitude, it was needless to say that Germany would eventually be compelled to lay aside her arms and yield, abandoning her ambitions and aggressive designs. This was a cause of great congratulation for the sake of the world and the peace and happiness of humanity.

Fears that the situation would affect America's importation of Japanese silk caused a panic in the Yokohama silk market. Prices fell abruptly causing losses estimated at \$500,000. The directors closed the market.

Merchants think the panic not justified by conditions, and believe the Japanese eventually would benefit by complications between the United States and Germany.

HUN PLOTS DISCOVERED

Washington, March 7.—German plots to foment revolutions in Canada, which date back many years before the European war, were said at the State Department to-day to be entirely under control as far as operations in this country are concerned. San Francisco, which, with Germany and China, was used during the first part of the war as one of three bases of operations, but the activities of the person who directed operations there, whose name the department will not disclose, is stated to have been curbed. A smaller junta at Manila, against which the British government had protested, is also said to have been broken up.

ITALY TO ARM ALL HER SHIPS AGAINST SUBS

System of Defence of Merchant Vessels Reorganized; Admiral at Head

PRIZE MONEY GIVEN To Those Who Destroy Enemy Submarines

FIGHTING INCREASES.

Rome, via Paris, March 7.—A decree has been promulgated reorganizing the system for the defense of ships against submarine attack, and placing it in charge of an admiral. The new official will, among other duties, undertake the arming of merchantships and award money prizes to those who sink or disable hostile submarines.

Berlin, March 7.—via Sarville.—There has been a let-up in the severe cold along the Russian front, accompanied by an increase in the activity, army headquarters announced to-day.

CUNARD LINER EQUIPPED WITH SUB DEFENCES

Carries Smoke Screen Which Hides Vessel From Sight of U-Boats

SIX INCH GUN ALSO Manned by Royal Naval Reserve Gunners

New York, March 7.—The Associated Press this morning carries the following: The Steamship Carmania of the Cunard Line, which arrived last night from Liverpool, is equipped with the best submarine defences carried by any merchant vessels that have reached this port. The Carmania is screen apparatus recently invented by the British admiralty. In addition to this device she carries a naval six inch gun with a range of eight miles. By pressure of an electric button on the bridge the officer on watch can discharge through a ventilator on each side of the after bridge dense clouds of chemical smoke. The Carmania's gun is handled by three gunners from the royal naval reserve, one of whom is always on duty.

Rates Increase.—Scarcity of tonnage and the uncertainties of the submarine situation caused an increase in freight and insurance rates today. The International Mercantile Marine advanced its cotton rate to Genoa by the Croatic, sailing about March 31, to \$5 a hundred pounds. Rates last week were from \$3.25 to \$4. The general cargo rate is \$4 a hundred.

War risks insurance rates to the United Kingdom, which have been at six to seven per cent, were quoted generally at eight per cent, with some underwriters asking ten.

THE BRITISH DRAW NEAR TO BAGDAD

Famous City of Fable and History Met by Gen. Maude's Forces

London, March 7.—British cavalry had advanced within 9 miles of Ctesiphon, on the Tigris front, on Monday afternoon it was announced officially to-day.

The British are now within less than 30 miles of Bagdad. The town of Laji, which they reached on Monday, is 28 miles from that city. Since the fall of Kut-el-Amara on February 26, the British have advanced about 80 miles.

On account of the nature of the ground between Kut-el-Amara and Ctesiphon, which is but poorly adapted to defensive purposes, it has been predicted by military writers that the Turks would make no serious attempt to halt their retreat until Ctesiphon was reached, and that a decisive engagement probably would occur at that point.

Jacob Leulier, of East Zorra, has of the best known farmers in the county, and president of the Oxford Holstein Breeders' Association, died suddenly.