

# CRISIS DEVELOPES

## PRESIDENT WILSON FACED BY GRAVEST ISSUES IN HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

### TWO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS, THE CRISIS WITH GERMANY AND NEED OF IMMEDIATE ACTION IN MEXICO, AWAIT HIS DECISIONS.

Special Wire to the Courier.

Washington, May 31.—Two international problems, one a crisis in the relations between the United States and Germany, and the other the determination of the administration to bring about an early cessation of internal warfare in Mexico—developed for President Wilson to-day in a combination of circumstances hardly paralleled in American history.

#### MEXICO WILL BE WARNED

The President had prepared a statement to be issued to-morrow as a warning to the Mexican factions that their incessant strife had forced the innocent populace to the verge of starvation, and that unless the chief elements came to an agreement to restore order, some other means would be found by the United States to accomplish this end.

#### RELATIONS GRAVE

There was a confidence in executive quarters that the warning would suffice to set in motion definite plans for peace in Mexico, but in respect of the relations with Germany, made increasingly grave by the reply from Berlin to the American note sent as a consequence of the Lusitania disaster, pessimism and high tension were apparent.

#### PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT

The official text of the note from Germany had arrived and was before the President early to-day. Officials generally read it with profound disappointment, for they pointed out, it endeavored to obscure and evade the main issue—the question of human life involved—and sought to interpose a technical argument on matters of law hitherto undisputed under the universally accepted laws of nations. Most important of all, it was noted that attention was given to the request of the United States for assurance that American lives would be safeguarded in the future.

#### TO-DAY DECIDES

The course of the United States Government is expected to be shaped by the president before the day is over, and will be discussed at length with his cabinet.

## German Foreign Secy. Hopes the U. S. Will Take the Same View

Special Wire to the Courier.

Berlin, May 30.—Via London, May 30.—Gottlieb Von Jagow, the Imperial German foreign secretary, to-day delivered the correspondent of the Associated Press and outlined the reasons which impelled the German Government to send "an interim" note to the United States Government in lieu of a final and definite reply to the American representations regarding the Lusitania and other ships that have been torpedoed and Germany's submarine policy.

#### TAKE SAME VIEW

The issues involved, said Herr Jagow, "are of such importance that the views in regard to the Lusitania show such variance that the Imperial Government believed it essential to establish a common basis of fact before entering into discussion of the issues involved.

We hope and trust that the American Government will take the same view of the case and let us know in due points their understanding of the facts differs from the German point as set forth in the note, and what points they agree, before making a direct answer to their communication.

#### LEAVES WAY OPEN

The American note, of course, leaves the way open for a preliminary discussion of the situation as suggested in the German note. I hope that a common basis of fact, once established may serve as the ground for further conversations."

The minister was unwilling to give a definite statement or to commit himself to the suggestion that an agreement might be reached on a basis of an inspection and certification by the American Government of German ships not carrying war cargoes. Pointing out that he did not intend to anticipate as the other side would before suggestions could be fully taken up or discussed.

#### BRITAIN AGAIN

In reply to a question, Dr. Von Jagow said that Germany from the beginning had been willing to abandon

#### ANOTHER NOTE.

From a previous knowledge of the President's feeling over the Lusitania disaster, in which more than 100 Americans lost their lives, it is confidently believed in many quarters that he will order the despatch of a second note to Berlin within 24 or 48 hours, answering Germany's request for the facts of the Lusitania's cargo and equipment with a restatement of the circumstances as made clear in the first American note, and an intimation that a prompt reply is expected. Reference, it is believed, will be made to the understanding of the American government that another American vessel—the Nebraska—has been torpedoed without warning while the diplomatic discussion was in progress and urgent inquiry, it is thought, will be made as to what effective measures will be taken immediately by the German government to prevent the further destruction of American lives and property.

#### NEVER DISPUTED

Legal officers of the United States Government say the American point of view on the legal questions involved has never been disputed in the past by Germany or any other nation of the world in any of the essential features.

#### EVADES DIRECT ANSWER

Analyzing the German reply, it is pointed out that the German acceptance of responsibility for attacks on the American ships Gullflight and the Cushing with expression of regret and offers of reparation, could not aid materially in clearing up the situation, which it was declared that the note such promises do not remove a dangerous practice. This view, it is held, is proved by the attack on the Nebraska and the absence of any assurance that Americans on unarmed merchant ships of any flag in the future shall be transferred to a place of safety before such a ship is destroyed as a prize of war.

#### ARE HOSTILE ACTS

Continued attacks on American vessels, even though hostile intent may be disavowed in each case, is regarded by American officials as constituting in legal effect a hostile practice.

#### NOT AUXILIARY CRUISER

Germany's contention that the Lusitania was built as an auxiliary cruiser, and was on the British naval list and was armed with cannon, was met with the statement in official quarters that the merchant ships of all nations may be commandeered by the respective governments in times of war, but the change from a peaceful merchantman to an armed auxiliary vessel is a proceeding of such a distinct character as to leave no doubt as to when it has taken place. Great Britain's practice always has been, it was pointed out, to place a commissioned naval officer in command of converted merchantmen which are commandeered only in home ports, and to equip the vessels with guns. According to a report of an official investigation by government officials before the Lusitania was granted clearance papers from New York, the ship carried no guns, mounted or unmounted. Moreover, there has been no agreement for several months between the United States and Great Britain that no British merchant ships leaving American ports shall carry any guns. The argument in the German note that the Lusitania carried Canadian troops and ammunition is regarded by officials as irrelevant, for they declare it is well known that no Canadian troops could pass as an organized body over American soil and the sailing of a few unarmed individuals does not constitute an armed expedition under international law. Neither, it is contended, has traffic in arms and ammunition been regarded as warranting the destruction of any unarmed merchantmen without previous visit and search.

#### SETTLED ON MERITS

President Wilson has made it clear, however, that the issues raised by the sinking of the Lusitania and other violations of American rights on the high seas, must be settled on their merits entirely apart from conditions arising in the declarations of the United States with other belligerents.

#### DESTROYED A GERMAN AERODROME

Italians Occupy Val Dagna Today.

SWISS MOBILIZING

ALL CALLED UP.

Special Wire to the Courier.

Amsterdam, May 31, via London, 1:14 p.m.—The Reichsanzeiger of Berlin has published an order calling to the colors all first-class members of the landsturm, or the final reserve forces, not previously summoned. This order does not apply to Bavaria. Germans in Germany must report between June 8 and June 10, Germans outside of Germany as soon as possible.

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# SIX SHIPS LOST INSIDE PERIOD OF THREE DAYS

## Increased Activity of the Submarine War, While Berlin Was Preparing the Note to the United States Government.

Special Wire to the Courier.

London, May 31.—German submarines have been unusually busy while the German foreign office was engaged in the preparation of its answer to the Washington note on the Lusitania incident. The last few days, it is pointed out in London, provided them with a heavy bag of big merchant ships. These include the Steamer Ethiope, 3,700 tons, and the Turkish Moor, 3,500 tons, which were sunk by submarines Friday as they approached the English channel. On Saturday the British Steamer Ping Suey, belonging to the Holt Line was attacked twice by German undersea boats within the space of five hours, but she succeeded in escaping into Plymouth. Another victim was the Steamer Glen Lee, of 4,000 tons, which was sunk somewhere between the British and French coast recently. In the North Sea a German submarine sent the Russian ship Mars to the bottom a few days ago and the losses of the British steamers Spennycorne and Cadby also have been reported. Thus within the space of three days six ships of considerable size have been lost. Furthermore the transatlantic liner Megantic had a narrow escape from an attack by a German submarine.

London observers are drawing attention to these cases, particularly in connection with the presentation of the German note.

The lull along the western battle front has been broken by the French who claim to have taken a group of German trenches in the Pilkem region and to have made good progress north of Arras. With British co-operation they appear to have made slight progress north of La Bassée.

After repeated and costly repulses, the Germans for the time being seem to have abandoned their attempts to take Ypres. During the past week the Germans have made only slight gains in the neighborhood of this

#### BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS UNDER FIRE

This Time, However, It is Criticism of Officialism and Visitors.

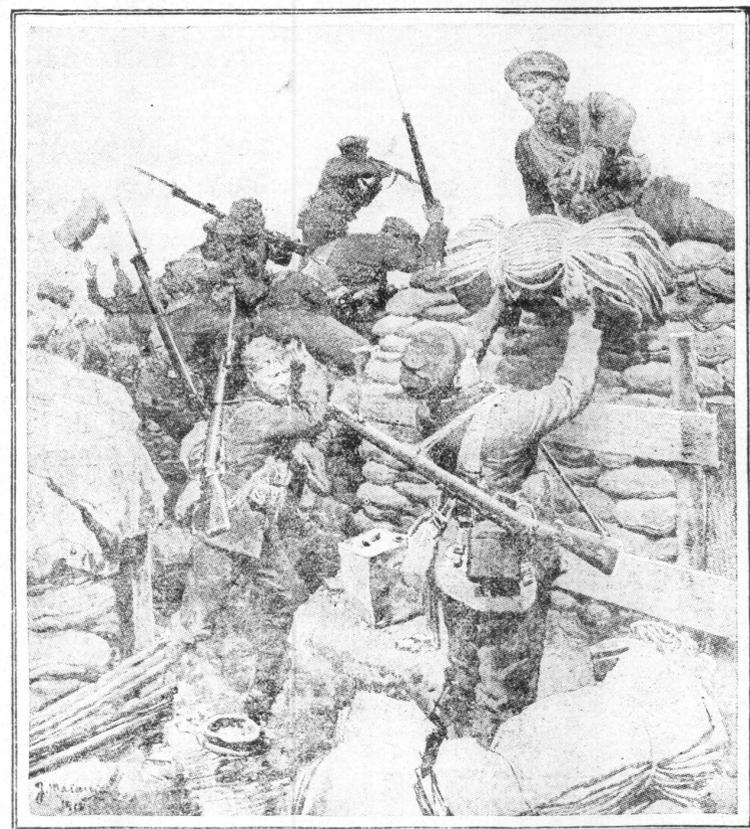
Special Wire to the Courier.

London, May 31.—The Daily Chronicle, a government organ, editorially expresses the hope that the coalition cabinet will be able to affect certain changes at British headquarters in France which it contrasts unfavorably with French headquarters.

British headquarters in France, says The Chronicle, "is constantly frequented by a swarm of people for whose presence it is difficult to believe there is any military justification. Not only is there an enormous official staff, far exceeding that of the French general's, who command larger armies than ours, but there is a perpetual stream of miscellaneous civilian visitors, including ladies.

"This state of things can scarcely continue. It is in contrast to the spartan habits of the French commanders, who sternly turn everything of this nature from their headquarters.

#### IN THE BRITISH TRENCHES IN FLANDERS



PITCHING SANDBAGS OUT OF TRENCH DURING AN ADVANCE ©NY HERALD

The fighting on and around Hill 60 gives point to this picture, drawn especially for this newspaper, the New York Herald and the London Sphere. The order for the advance has been given and the men are scrambling from the trench. A certain number of men carry forward with them bundles of a dozen sand bags with which to reconstruct the captured German trench, for as soon as occupied the new position has to be reconstructed on its rearward side in order to present the necessary protection and loopholes. The sand bag men work like demons in order to secure cover for their comrades with the least possible delay. This drawing has all the accuracy that personal observation conveys.

#### RISKY PASSAGE

By Special Wire to the Courier.

London, May 31.—The crew of eight men of the Russian ship Mars have arrived at Aberdeen after a perilous voyage. Their ship was shelled and set on fire on Friday by a German submarine off Fair Island, the Shetlands. The submarine towed the crew in a small boat for 40 miles and then cut them adrift without warning.

#### FAILS WHOLLY.

Chicago, May 31.—The Herald's editorial on the German note says: "The American people regret that the German Government's answer fails wholly to meet the main points at issue, both the specific point of the slaughter of American citizens on the Lusitania and the general point of the 'impossibility of employing submarines in the destruction of commerce without disregarding rules of fairness, reason, justice and humanity,' the established principles of international law.

"It is not any of our business what Germany does to England or England does to Germany. What we are concerned about is what each does to American citizens lawfully traversing the public highway of the seas. We have scores to settle with both England and Germany. We will settle each on its merits. We cannot permit either to be involved with or become dependent on the other."

#### GERMANY TRIFLING.

"To put it plainly, Germany is trifling with the United States," says The Tribune's editorial. "American ships have been torpedoed. Ships carrying American passengers have been sunk.

"What is the requirement of the United States in this respect? That the German Government shall take immediate steps to prevent the recurrence of anything so obviously subversive of the principles of warfare. What is the answer to the requirement? There is no adequate answer. The edict carried by the note to Germany was this: 'Thou shalt not, and the response is anything but satisfactory.

#### PRESIDENT'S DUTY PLAIN.

"It becomes the duty of the president to bring Germany with a round turn; to recall her from the realms of disputation; to pin her down to the direct issue which is the right of American citizens to travel on any merchant ship without fear of assassination—the right of American cargo ships to be free from molestation until an examination has first been made.

"The question is, 'will those rights be respected in the future,' and the answer need not contain more than one word, 'yes' or 'no.'"

#### German Note Evades the Issue; Blames Britain For it All

Berlin, via The Hague, May 31.—The American note regarding the Lusitania and other incidents, was made public here to-day, as follows: "The Imperial Government has subjected the statements of the United States to careful examination, and has a lively wish to contribute in a frank and friendly manner to clear up any misunderstandings which may have entered into the relations between the two governments through the events mentioned in the American note.

"With regard to the Cushing and Gullflight incidents, the American Embassy already has been informed that it is far from the German Government to have any intention of ordering attacks by submarines or flyers on neutral ships in the war zone not guilty of any hostile act. On the contrary most explicit instructions repeatedly have been given the German armed forces to avoid attacking such vessels.

"If neutral ships have come to grief through German submarine warfare during the past few months by mistake it is a question of isolated and exceptional cases which are traceable to the misuse of flags by the British, in connection with carelessness or suspicious actions on the part of ships. In all cases where a neutral vessel, through no fault of its own, has come to grief through German submarines or flyers, according to these facts as ascertained by the German Government, this Government has expressed its regret at the unfortunate occurrence and has promised indemnification where the

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# "VAIN REGRETS; APOLOGIES, AND INSULTS

## ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF GERMANY'S REPLY, SAYS THE AMERICAN PRESS' AND CALL FOR DOWN-RIGHT ACTION.

Special Wire to the Courier.

Philadelphia, May 31.—The Public Ledger says editorially: "The German reply to the American note as authentically summarized from Berlin is in effect a plea of confession and avoidance. It admits the allegation to be true, but drags in irrelevant issues to weaken the force of the admission. It practically ignores the whole point of the President's demand. It offers a lame and perfunctory apology for 'unintentional attacks upon American ships,' but ignores altogether the protest in the name of humanity against submarine warfare upon non-combatants.

#### MERE SUBTERFUGE.

The inquiry for further facts in the Lusitania case is a mere subterfuge, a device to secure delay in meeting the real issue. The assertion that the Lusitania was an armed cruiser is so absurd that the Berlin Foreign Office must have a poor idea of the intelligence of the State Department, if it believes that long discussion can be precipitated in this way. The intimation that the Gullflight and Cushing cases might be settled by arbitration is so offensive that only the inability of German diplomacy to recognize offensiveness can explain it.

#### INSULTS TO HONOR.

"Vague regrets that leave the main question untouched, attempts to put the blame elsewhere, apologies that reveal a wilful misconception of the enormity of the offence, are little better than insults to the national honor. There is nothing in the German note to make seas safer for non-combatants than they were on the day when the Lusitania went down.

"To say that the tone of the note is 'friendly' is to mistake the meaning of diplomatic language. It leaves the administration just where it was. It the national dignity and rights are to be vindicated the duty proclaimed by the President must be amply performed. The next step in the attempt to bring Germany to her senses must be taken. The United States cannot argue with any nation when the question involves the lives of American citizens brutally sacrificed by a government which repudiates law and humanity alike."

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