

The Herald

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Wilson and Submarines

The latest from Washington relative to President Wilson's attitude in connection with the Submarines is dated the 26th, and is in brief as follows: President Wilson will ask for authority to establish a state of armed neutrality. He has made full and detailed plans for protecting American ships desiring to enter the German war-zone. President Wilson will point out that while he desires peace there is something greater than peace, protection of the sovereign rights of America and that the untrammelled right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any foreign nation must be upheld. Mr. Wilson's decision to go before Congress was partly caused by the fact that Germany's campaign is in progress among ships tied up in American ports. Such a condition, the President will point out, is unbearable. Arming American merchantmen or conveying them through the war zone are the two methods of protecting American commerce are being considered. Exactly what steps will be taken has not been revealed.

Further Washington intelligence of the 26th continues the subject thus: "President Wilson will address a joint session of Congress at 1 p. m. He will ask Congress to empower him to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights on the high seas. The President completed his address to Congress early this morning and it was sent to the public printer at 8.30 o'clock. At the same time the President discussed his speech with Chairman Stone of the Senate on Foreign Relations Committee. No announcement was made but it was learned that the President was going to do just what he outlined in his address announcing the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Germany. To ask for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights is not in any sense to ask for a declaration of war, nor is it an act of war. It is to prepare the United States for what may be warlike acts by any other nation. The President decided that before Congress adjourned for the session it was necessary that he be given additional authority to protect American rights. There have been reports that such a move would be opposed in Congress but he decided to take this step, regardless of that. In his address the President will point out that Germany's acts since the outbreak of diplomatic relations indicates her determination to go forward with her campaign of ruthlessness despite the protests of neutrals whose rights are invaded."

From the foregoing it will be seen that "armed neutrality" is the limit of warlike progress thus far made by the President. But why, it may very reasonably be asked, did he so long delay coming to even that conclusion. The commerce of his country has been stagnated by the German proclamation of ruthlessness, and up to the present he has done nothing to assist or protect it. There is ample evidence that the people and press of the United States are much chagrined over the apathy of the Government. Among other papers, the Boston Advertiser has been constrained to speak out. Among other things it says: "The question of protecting American merchant ships, bound

on peaceful errands, against attacks which threaten the lives of those on board, is the chief thing to be settled in our national policy, today. So far, the President has contented himself with merely declaring that these attacks are against the law of nations, and the laws of humanity, alike. He has told the public that our vessels have every right to sail the high seas with immunity against any such danger. He has practically invited the ship to continue their voyages, regardless of the German threats. But, when it comes to the protection of such ships; he seems to consider it enough that our nation shall shoulder the entire burden over upon the Entente. He counts on the Entente navy's resources to sweep the new menace away as it will do and is now doing—but he seems unwilling to employ our own navy for the protection of what he declares to be the inalienable rights of the American merchant marine. If that is the President's policy, he should state plainly and recognize in some formal official fashion, the duty we owe the Entente in accepting such protection. The advertiser cites precedents which should guide the administration in this crisis, cases in which for similar reasons the United States had not only severed diplomatic relations but armed her merchantmen against raiders and pirates. Washington and Adams are quoted as holding that to convey merchantmen with armed ships is not an act of war and that the United States would be perfectly justified, in the present crisis in conveying her merchant marine with armed ships. Continuing the Advertiser says: "In declining to use our own navy for the purpose of protecting our own commerce, and in throwing all the responsibility for such protection upon the Entente navy, President Wilson not only repudiates the straightforward policies of Adams and Washington, but he apparently bids fair to earn for our whole nation the contempt of both groups of combatants. He denounces Germany for piracy, but confesses that he will make no attempt, with our own navy, to prevent such piracy. He bases his whole policy on the ability of the Entente navies to protect our own commerce, but offers not one concession to the Entente, in return for such protection. He states our right bravely in ringing words, but shirks the logical consequences of his own resolute declaration. "Can other nations," it asks, "be expected to respect our National policy, knowing this to be true?"

From the above it is fair to assume that President Wilson's decision to ask congress for ample powers to inaugurate "armed neutrality" has been forced upon him by the rising tide of public opinion.

The London weekly Nation says it hears that the war loan is a great success, and that sums have been mentioned suggesting that the collection of new money is approaching £1,000,000,000. Arthur Neville Chamberlain, director-general of national service speaking at Bristol tonight, said that he ventured to predict that the result of the war loan would be a bitter pill for Germany to swallow. The great success of the British war loan has astonished Europe, said the Lausanne Gazette. "This prodigious loan," says the paper, shows, to employ a sporting phrase, the British in splendid form. The German press has lately been publishing articles showing that England was in a financial gulf whereas the success of the loan proves that the English people are as strong financially as they are militarily. There is the truth, which the nation that began the war is now realizing.

Army estimates issued in London the 24th, provided for an army of 5,000,000 men exclusive of India. Additional navy estimates a call for 50,000 officers and men to bring the total of the navy personnel to 450,000.

Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, accompanied by Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Hon. Robert Rogers, Minister of Public Works, arrived in London on the 22nd. The voyage from Halifax to London was made in about a week. Speaking of the trip, Sir Robert stated that it was uneventful except for the taking of necessary precautions. The Premier said the voyage across the Atlantic under war conditions impressed him most vividly with the wonderful achievement of the navy in keeping the ocean pathways comparatively secure against the most deadly menace ever devised.

Paris, Feb. 21.—Successful enterprises were carried out by our troops last night on different points along our front," says tonight's official report from British headquarters in France. "On the Somme front" we seized a section of the enemy's trenches north of Guendecourt, and took 21 prisoners. "The enemy's trenches south of Armentieres were entered by us on a front of some 650 yards. Our troops penetrated deeply into the enemy's position, inflicted many casualties and captured 44 prisoners. "We also raided enemy's lines southeast of Ypres on a front of 500 yards and reached his support line. Many Germans were killed and several dugouts and mine shafts were destroyed. Great damage was done the enemy's defenses. One hundred and fourteen prisoners were captured, including one officer and four machine guns were brought back. In all these enterprises our casualties were slight. The total number of prisoners taken in the last twenty-four hours was 124. "Our artillery was active during the day north of the Somme and at a number of points between Armentieres and Ypres."

Paris, Feb. 21.—The official communication issued by the war office tonight reads: "Both our artilleries were active in the region of Butte Du Mesnil and on the right bank of the Meuse, in the direction of the Carrières Wood and Bezouvaux. Our artillery caused an outbreak of fire in the enemy lines on the western outskirts of Grand Chenay. "An enemy surprise attack on our small posts in the sector of Chambrettes failed. "Belgium communication: "Nothing of interest has taken place."

London, Feb. 22.—The war office communication issued this evening follows: "Hostile raids attempted early this morning east of Vermelles, and south of Neuve Chapelle were successfully repulsed. The enemy suffered a number of casualties, and left prisoners in our hands."

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London, Feb. 24.—British troops yesterday entered the village of Petit Miraumont, south of the Ancre. They also pushed forward their lines southeast of Serre One, on a mile and a half front.

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British headquarters in France, Feb. 26.—From a Staff Correspondent of The Associated Press.—On a portion of the British front, the war today became a war of movement. Under cover of fog and mist which has been particularly heavy in the past forty-eight hours, the Germans carried out the greatest retirement they have made on the western front in the last two years and the British have swept into possession of Pys, Serre Miraumont, and Petit Miraumont including the famous Butte de Warlencourt, which has been the scene of the fiercest fighting of the war and in places is deep with the bones of dead men. The exact extent of the German retirement is not known, but it is estimated that it approaches a depth of three miles at some points. The British patrol are out in all directions harassing the Germans and keeping in touch with their movements. Until they report, it will not be possible to say just where the Germans have determined to fix their next line of resistance. Nevertheless, it can be stated that the British now or soon will be in a position possibly to force the evacuation of Bapaume which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. Points which already have fallen into British hands have stood out in the history of the fighting on this front and had been most stubbornly defended.

Canada Supplying Russia

Ottawa, Feb. 22.—Canada is to take still a greater share than heretofore in supplying Russia with sinews of war. Up to the present Russian purchases of war supplies in the Dominion have aggregated about \$75,000,000, chiefly consisting of saddlery, shells, locomotives and box cars. The government felt, however that Canada was in a position to supply a bigger proportion of Russian war wants, and representation to that effect was made to Petrograd. The result is that a Russian purchasing commission is being sent to Canada with the same authority to purchase war supplies in the Dominion as the Russian commission in New York has to purchase war supplies in the United States. A Russian government war credit will likely be established in Montreal, and the result will probably be many additional millions for war orders in Canada.

Paris, Feb. 26.—Late yesterday, a French detachment broke into German lines near Ville Sur Tourbe, 25 miles west of Verdun, destroyed a number of shelters and brought back prisoners and materials, says today's official announcement. Two surprise attacks by the enemy on one side of our trenches, north of Beune, northeast of Soissons, another on one of our posts north-west of Avocourt were broken up. We took prisoners including one officer. Yesterday our pilots brought down three German airplanes. One of these machines fell in our lines near Mersey in the vicinity of Rheims, the second south of Pinon, in Aisne, and the third southeast of Altkreh. Our squadrons threw numerous projectiles on bivouacs and munition depots near Spin-court where a number of explosions were heard; on the aviation grounds and hangars at Buzanoy, the railway at Ars Sur Moselle and on railway stations at Bouze Willer and Woelfing in the region of Wissembourg.

London, Feb. 26.—It was announced in the House of Commons this morning that the British had captured Kut-el-Amara, and that the Turks are in full flight.

Scotia Steel.

Montreal, Feb. 22.—It so often happens that Scotia shares have a better market when the directors come to town, and the street will soon be looking for this to happen regularly, but today's instance may, like others, be merely a coincidence. W. D. Ross of Toronto, the vice-president, and N. Bruce MacKelvie, the New York member of the board, were here today, after a visit to the Company's plants at Toronto and Sydney Mines, N. S. They were accompanied by M. A. Untermyer, a New York broker, and James R. Nelson of the New York staff of Hayden, Stone & Co. The advance in Scotia today carried the price up sharply to 110, the highest in some time, the advance being effected on very limited trading. It is understood that a meeting of the full board will be held here in about a week, when the statements to be presented at the forthcoming annual meeting next month will be passed upon and made public. That the meeting will be a most favorable one is well known and there is great interest among the shareholders to learn the policy of the board with reference to the disposition of the large profits.

Vocational Training

Ottawa, Feb. 23.—The parliamentary committee dealing with the welfare of returned soldiers will not be confined to sessions here, but has announced the following meetings: Montreal, March 15 and 16; Toronto, March 21, 22, 23 and 24. A sub-committee may be delegated to go to the west. It is hoped to have a report ready when parliament meets on April 19. Colonel Patter, acting director of medical services, was today closely questioned as to the system on which the granting of pensions was based. Senator McLellan, of the hospital commission, stated that vocational training of returned men had proved a great success. All work had been sold and more requested. The report of Lieut. Colonel Marlowe on medical services was tabled, but will not be made public until next week.

Before Congress.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The generally accepted ideas that President Wilson will address the congress on the German crisis again before the end of the week virtually was confirmed today in official quarters. There was no announcement, and it was said that the president still was considering his next step, but officials pointed out the necessity of providing for any emergency which might arise after adjournment and explained that the president would go to the capitol, not to ask for a declaration of war, but merely for authority to protect American rights. The president, it was reiterated, is just as anxious as any member of the senate or house to avoid war, although determined that the rights of the United States must be respected. One of his reasons for desiring action by congress now, instead of "risking" the necessity for a special session, was said to be a belief that a call for an extra session in an emergency might result in dangerous excitement.

Influx of Gold.

New York, Feb. 23.—In responsible banking quarters the opinion is expressed that the influx of gold from Canada will continue for at least another fortnight or so. On Wednesday gold to the amount of \$28,500,000 was received from Canada and deposited at the assay office to the credit of J. P. Morgan and Co. This brings the total gold imports from all sources this year up to \$130,000,000. The total imports since Jan. 1, 1915, amounted to \$1,267,500,000. The New York Federal Reserve Bank has purchased from J. P. Morgan and Co., approximately \$12,000,000 of the \$28,500,000 gold which has just arrived from Canada. Although the gold consists of foreign bars, some of which are nine-tenths fine and others eleven-twelfths fine it will be secured in the vaults of the bank for the time being. The market for securities recently has been gradually developing a more confident tone. The first rush of liquidation consequent upon the sudden interruption of diplomatic relations between Washington and Berlin seems to have ended. The nervousness that so naturally accompanies a period of strain as this has had opportunity to calm down.

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