

U. S. TO ESTABLISH ARMED NEUTRALITY

Wilson to Ask Congress For Authority To Defend American Ships

FOOD SHORTAGE GROWING MORE SERIOUS IN GERMANY

President of Food Regulations Board Admitted That Stocks are Scanty and Must be Carefully Managed

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 26.—A telegram from Berlin says that it is officially announced that the Bundesrat has authorized Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg to claim and wherever necessary seize, the whole production of coal, lignite, briquettes and coke in Germany. London, Feb. 26.—Adolf von Batocki, president of the Food Regulation Board, discussed food problems with the Reichstag's advisory committee on Saturday, according to an Amsterdam despatch to Reuters. Explaining the plans for the coming year, Herr Batocki said that available stocks were scanty and must be carefully managed. He added that the use of bread corn for fodder must be prevented. Herr Batocki announced the intention of the food board to fix the price of potatoes for the entire year at five marks a hundredweight, except in the west and south of Germany, where it would be six marks. He emphasized the importance of a supply of bread corn to Germany for everybody, and milk for children at least. The food dictator said that it was impossible to increase the meat rations owing to the urgent necessity of maintaining the stock of milk cows for butter and milk.



THE LATE MAJOR WALTER A. WILKES.

SUGAR CARDS IN FORCE IN FRANCE NOW

Must be Signed by All Household in Order to Obtain a Supply FRESH ROLLS BARRED And Parisians Have Now Only Stale Whole Meal Bread

Paris, Feb. 26.—Dinners in Paris restaurants were served Saturday night with fancy bread fresh from the ovens, the last they will get in all probability for a long time. Sunday only stale whole meal bread was on sale in accordance with the new government relation. In future night work in bakeries will be entirely abolished. Must Bear It. The abolition of night work often has been demanded by working bakers and this has been brought about by force of circumstances. Many Parisians scarcely relish the prospect of stale whole meal bread in place of the fancy rolls to which they have been accustomed, but they are expected soon to reconcile themselves to it in the same cheerful spirit, shown in meeting many other minor hardships resulting from the war. Sugar Cards. Preparations for the distribution of sugar cards also were begun in earnest yesterday when papers to be filled out and signed by each household became available. Every householder must sign and return his declaration by Monday night or he will get no sugar in future. The new regulations become effective March 11.

GERMANY IS REGRETFUL OF SINKING

Deplores Loss of Seven Dutch Merchant Vessels Sunk in Channel

Berlin, Feb. 26.—An official statement with reference to the sinking of the Dutch steamers by a German submarine is given out through the medium of the semi-official news agency. News Agency as follows: "According to telegrams received from Holland, on February 22 at five o'clock in the afternoon several Dutch ships were destroyed, which, with the agreement of the Dutch Government, to leave the barred zone in a westward direction from Falmouth and Dartmouth.

"In answer to this, it is stated, in authoritative quarters that after the declaration of the barred zone Dutch ship owners asked the British authorities to permit thirty-three steamers lying at Falmouth and Dartmouth, of which twenty were loaded with grain for the Dutch Government, to proceed out of the barred zone, which were still there after the expiration of the time fixed (by Germany) February 5. "The German authorities agreed to this, making an exception, in order to let the twenty cargoes of grain reach the Dutch Government, but the condition was added that the ships ought not to sail later than midnight, February 10-11. In this way the ships would have been able to leave in all safety the barred zone within the extended time, which was known to all submariners. Continued on page four

AMERICAN SHIP IS SAFE

Freighter Orleans Has Passed in Safety Through Danger Zone

Bordeaux, Feb. 26.—The American Freighter Orleans, was sighted off Pointe de la Coure, at the entrance to the Gironde at 8.30 this morning. Owing to contrary tide she is not expected to arrive at Vauliac, 30 miles northwest of Bordeaux, before 5 o'clock this afternoon. Sailed Unarmed. The Orleans and the Freighter Rochester were the first American vessels to leave the United States for Europe after diplomatic relations with Germany were severed. Both ships sailed from New York on February 10th from Bordeaux, unarmed. They were said by their owners to be loaded with non-contraband freight, consisting chiefly of canned fruits, meats, machinery and a few motor trucks. The Orleans is a vessel of 2,808 gross tonnage and carries a crew of 35, mostly Americans. The Rochester has not yet been reported.

Weather Bulletin Toronto, Feb. 26. A moderate disturbance is moving eastward across the Great Lakes causing unsettled weather with rain and snow from Ontario to the Maritime provinces. It continues cold in the western provinces. Forecasts Strong southwest to northwest winds, some light falls of rain and snow, cold tonight. Tuesday—Fair and moderately cold.

State of Armed Neutrality Signifies Protection of the Rights of the American Nation But Does Not Necessarily Enter War--Pres. Wilson Will Act in Spite of Opposition

By Courier Leased Wire Washington, Feb. 26.—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. The President completed the address to Congress early this morning and it was sent to the public printer at 9:30 o'clock. At the same time the president discussed his speech with Chairman Stone of the Senate 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 the step regardless of that. In his address the President will point out that Germany's acts since the break in diplomatic relations indicate her determination to go forward with her campaign of ruthlessness despite the protests of neutrals whose rights are invaded.

Washington, Feb. 26.—President Wilson will address a joint session of congress at 1 p.m. today. 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 will point out, that while he desires peace, there is something greater than peace—the protection of the sovereign rights of America, and that of the untrammelled right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any nation must be upheld. Mr. Wilson's decision to go before Congress was partly caused by the fact that Germany's campaign is keeping American ships tied up in American ports. Such a condition, the President will point out, is unbearable. 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. Continued invasion of the pledged regard of neutrals on the high seas, and further sacrifices of American lives and ships, the intolerable blockade of American commerce—almost as effectual as if the country were at war—have taken the place of a decided "overt act" which was expected to shock the world, and have forced the president into the next step towards war. President Wilson, asking to be empowered to take whatever steps are necessary, which includes the arming of ships, the conveying of merchantmen by war vessels, or whatever steps are necessary, made it plain again that he wanted peace, but not at the price of American lives and rights or by driving the American flag from the seas. Congress is expected not only to authorize the President to use the armed forces of the country, but also to provide money. Whether 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 took his action today with the calm confidence that Congress and the country will stand behind him.

KUT-EL-AMARA FALLS TO THE ATTACKING BRITISH FORCES

Andrew Bonar Law Makes Momentous Announcement in House of Commons A CUNARD STEAMER IS SUNK

Liner Laconia is Torpedoed With Americans Aboard; Some Saved

By Courier Leased Wire. Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The Cunard Line Steamship Laconia of 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York, Feb. 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk. New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard liner Laconia, which sailed from New York on February 18 had 100 passengers on board, among whom were ten or more Americans. Queenstown, Feb. 26.—The survivors of the Laconia are said to number 270. They will be landed to-night. London, Feb. 26.—It is stated authentically that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning. New York, Feb. 26.—The Cunard line announced at 1:36 p.m. that they had received confirmation from the British admiralty of the destruction of the Laconia and that the survivors stated there was only one casualty thus far known. She was torpedoed last night, the line announced. The Laconia was one of the largest vessels of the Cunard fleet and the largest thus far sunk since the new German submarine warfare was commenced. She registered 18,099 tons, was 600 feet long, 71 feet beam and 40 feet depth. She was built in 1911 at New Castle.

London, Feb. 26.—The Turks on the Tigris River front are in full retreat toward Baghailah, 24 miles to the west of Kut-el-Amara, says an official statement issued to-day by the British war department. The fleeing Turks are being engaged by pursuing British cavalry. German Destroyers Shell Broadstairs and Margate; Two Killed. By Courier Leased Wire. London, Feb. 26.—German destroyers bombarded Broadstairs and Margate early this morning. One woman and one child were killed and two persons were injured. Two houses were damaged. This announcement was made in the House of Commons to-day by Sir Edward Carson, first lord of the admiralty. Sir Edward Carson said that one of four British torpedo boat destroyers on patrol duty in the English Channel last night encountered several German destroyers, and a short engagement ensued. The British destroyer was not damaged, though she was under heavy gun and torpedo fire. The German vessels were lost sight of, the first lord said, but in the darkness another force of German destroyers bombarded the undefended ports of Broadstairs and Margate. British light forces in the vicinity closed in on the German warships, which only remained a short time, he added, and were gone before the appearance of the British vessels.

"ALL OR NOTHING" IS THE ISSUE NOW FACING GERMANY



SERGT.-MAJOR S. RIDLEY A former employee of The Courier, who has won promotion at the front.

Have Reason For Satisfaction in Results of Sub. Campaign, Says Prominent Teuton Shipping Magnate

Amsterdam, via London, Feb. 26.—In an interview in the Taegelsche Rundschau, Albert Ballin, director-general of the Hamburg-American Line, says that Germany can be most highly satisfied with the success so far of unrestricted submarine warfare. Herr Ballin says that the object of the campaign was not to sink ships but to stop commerce with England, and that this had been fully attained, as neutral traffic was stagnating. Referring to the German ships lying in United States harbors, Herr Ballin said that a treaty existed between Germany and America, which did not allow confiscation, and that he had no ground to assume that the United States would not observe this treaty. President Wilson, he added, had based the rupture of diplomatic relations on international law, and therefore he considered it quite impossible that the president would himself disregard international law agreements. Win or Lose "Germany's aim," he concluded, "is to issue from the war victorious. With victory she will have won all, without it she will have lost all."

ENEMY LINES ENTERED BY THE FRENCH

Number of German Shelters Destroyed and Number of Prisoners Taken

THREE HUN PLANES Brought Down by French Pilots, Says Official

Paris, Feb. 26.—"Late yesterday French detachments broke into the 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 statement. "Two surprise attacks by the enemy on one of our trenches north of Beaulne, northeast of Soissons, the other on one of our posts northwest of Avocourt, were broken up. We took prisoners, including one officer. "There was intermittent cannonading at some points on the front. "Yesterday our pilots brought down three German airplanes. One of these machines fell in our lines near Mersy, in the vicinity of Rheims; the second, south of Pinon, in the Aisne; the third southeast of Aikireh. Our air squadrons threw projectiles on bivouacs and installations depots near Spincourt, where a number of explosions were heard; also on the aviation ground and hangars at Buzanoy, the railway at Ars-sur-Moselle and on the railway station at Boussewiller and Woelfling in the region of Wissembourg."

BATTLE OF VERDUN ON THE SCREEN

Thrilling Film "War as It Really Is" Shown Under Auspices of The Courier

Success should attend the exhibition at the Box theatre to-night and to-morrow evening of "WAR AS IT REALLY IS," the marvellous seven reels of film made at the firing line in France by Capt. Donald C. Thompson, and brought to this city under the auspices of The Courier. These pictures give a detail of the great campaign of Verdun, and most prove of interest to every Canadian audience. They are the only war pictures of undoubted authenticity, and they show every method of warfare as it really is. They prove conclusively that the Allies are winning the war, and that the peace efforts put forward by the Germans, were simply a trick to try and save themselves from the overwhelming defeat that is surely approaching.

BERNSTORFF TO SAIL SOON

Steamer Frederik VIII Is Practically Ready for Departure From Halifax

Halifax, Feb. 26.—The Steamer Frederik VIII with the German ambassador and consular officials from the United States on board after a stay in Halifax of ten days for examination, was practically ready to put out to sea this morning. The ship is only being detained by coaling operations which, as 1,700 tons are to be put aboard, will hold her here to-day and perhaps part of to-morrow. All the officials who have been engaged in examining passengers and baggage had completed their work and those operatives brought from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, had left for home. About the last thing the officials did was to remove the rubber heels from the boots of any of the German officials who might be wearing them. All the passengers on the vessel have been passed. The guards who have been stationed in every part of the Frederik VIII will not be taken off till the last minute.

WAR WILL END FEB. 28 The war on high prices of House furnishing will be over then, you had better come now. J. W. Burgess, 44 Colborne St.

NTS Theatre... Conquest of Canaan... Shieldingadow... Opera House... 27th... Miles... Adele... Creations... \$1.50... DAILY... Zimmie