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American Action May Already Have Been Decided Upon

Washington Has An Intimation But No Details ALL EYES ARE ON WILSON

Crisis in War—London Papers Look Upon Situation as Serious—A Race Against Time, Says One Writer—French Shipping Men Not Disturbed

Washington, Feb. 1.—After an hour's conference between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing, it became known today that the German situation is viewed with extreme gravity and that the American government had already begun to formulate definite steps. It was regarded as not impossible that action of some kind had already been taken but there was no indication of its nature.

There were also indications that an announcement of the course of the government would be made until certain steps had been taken through the navy department and the treasury for safeguarding American ports and other interests.

It was disclosed that Mr. Wilson and Mr. Lansing had a conference last night although it was then denied they had conferred at all.

Passports for Count Von Bernstorff, orders for recall of Ambassador Gerard, solemn warnings to Berlin that breach of her pledges means a severance of diplomatic relations, or tense waiting for an overt act which would sweep aside diplomacy and bring the American government to the point of action, are among the contingencies which fill the situation today.

Diplomats who asked for Secretary Lansing were told he was very busy engaged preparing something for President Wilson.

EXPECT WILSON TO ACT QUICKLY

New York, Feb. 1.—An Associated Press despatch from Washington this morning says:

Without submarine warfare, inaugurated today by Germany, bringing the United States face to face with what President Wilson has solemnly declared to be the only alternative to recognition of American rights on the high seas—a break in diplomatic relations, with its accompanying grim possibilities.

Washington awoke this morning with a shiver to a realization of this situation. It had come so suddenly in the midst of lingering hopes for an early peace in Europe and speculation over what might be the president's next move toward that end that there had been little time for deliberation. In fact, even members of the foreign relations committee of the senate read the text of the warning note handed yesterday to Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and delivered to the state department by Count Von Bernstorff.

President Wilson, upon whom lies the burden of determining the nation's course, was alone in his study at the White House until late in the night with a copy of the German note. He saw no copy but it is understood to have held several telephone conversations with members of the cabinet and to have sent a summons to Col. E. M. House, his close friend and constant adviser on foreign affairs, Colonel House, leaving his home in New York after midnight to reach here early this morning.

There is every indication that whatever the American government does will be done quickly. Apparently it is agreed that there are but three courses open: handing Count Von Bernstorff his passports without further ado, sending at once a warning to Germany that she will violate American rights at her peril, awaiting the development of the new starvation campaign against England, announced to begin today.

LONDON PAPERS SAY SITUATION IS SERIOUS ONE

London, Feb. 1.—"Signs of increased ruthlessness and intensity in the submarine campaign are accumulating fast," says the Times. "The German manifestoes with regard to hospital ships has all the familiar marks of German document designed to prepare the way for inhuman deeds."

The Daily Telegraph's naval expert declares that Germany's latest "manifestoes" exceeds in "hideous barbarity" anything in the history of modern war. "Behind everything the enemy does," the naval expert adds, "there is a determination to prove that he will admit of no restraint and therefore cannot be defeated except by those who will not descend to his level."

The Morning Post's naval correspondent, discussing the submarine menace generally, says Germany knows if she can reach a certain point in commerce destroying the Entente Allies must yield and therefore she is desperately yet methodically striving to reach that point while there is yet time.

"In general terms," says the correspondent, "the situation may be defined as a race against time. If Germany can destroy enough ships both neutral and belligerent before she is defeated on land, she will win. If the Allies can maintain sufficient sea transports they

NEW YORK HEARS THAT BRITAIN HAS 4,000 SMALL, FAST CRUISERS READY FOR THE SITUATION

New York, Feb. 1.—The effect of Germany's declaration of a sea blockade of the Entente nations to be enforced "with every available weapon and without further notice" was felt today in every port on the Atlantic coast. Owners and agents of vessels flying neutral flags were in doubt as to their future course of action and it is believed that most of them will keep their ships in port until instructions are received from their governments.

In the offices of British and French lines it was said that there would be no interruptions in the sailing from American ports of ships carrying the flags of the Entente Allies. To meet just such an emergency as this the British government has assembled, it was said, a large fleet of small fast cruisers to be used as "submarine chasers." These vessels, said to number 4,000, will be available to keep the sea lanes clear of raiders and submarines and act as convoys.

F. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine and head of the American Line, declared: "I do not think there is any danger for American ships on their present voyages."

Halvor Jacobson, representative of the Scandinavian-American Line, and William Van Doorn, manager of the Holland-American Line, expected to receive cable instructions today from their governments.

There is no indication that the United States will win. At this moment it is impossible to predict the issue, but the people of this country would do well to prepare for certain contingencies.

American Comment

New York, Feb. 1.—The Buffalo Express says: "The note is a virtual declaration of war on the United States and on all other neutral countries, and upon all civilization. It is especially a defiance of the United States, and a challenge of the ultimatum which the president sent to Germany in the Sussex case and the protests which led up to immediate and vigorous action by the president."

The first American merchant vessel sunk by Germany will be a virtual declaration of war on the United States, and a challenge of the ultimatum which the president sent to Germany in the Sussex case and the protests which led up to immediate and vigorous action by the president.

Her Last Chance

Albany, N.Y., Argus—It is indeed Germany's last desperate throw, her recognition of the fact that in reverting to savagery is the only chance of winning this war. She knows now that she cannot conquer on land even if she can conquer there.

Philadelphia Inquirer—It can hardly be necessary to say that the United States cannot upon any ground or for any consideration excuse or condone or tolerate the heinous, abhorrent course which Germany has determined to pursue. Apparently, after all, we have come to the end of the road. The communication handed to Ambassador Gerard is insulting. It amounts almost to a challenge of the United States to a fight. It is up to President Wilson to act with promptness and vigor to maintain the rights of Americans on the sea. How long will President Wilson endure the official presence of Count Von Bernstorff in America?

Urges War

Louisville Courier Journal—Surely the president has been awakened from his dream of the millennium by Germany's latest note. It is a direct challenge of the United States. It is a time for no further parleying. That challenge should be accepted within twenty-four hours, and the war thus entered on by America should not end until the imperial disposition of Germany which dares plunge the world into such a war, is completely and eternally crushed.

Holland Notified

London, Feb. 1.—A Reuter despatch from The Hague says that the Dutch foreign minister received on Wednesday evening communications from the German and Austrian ministers detailing the new German blockade arrangements. The communications are similar to those transmitted to the United States.

INTIMATION OF REPRISALS

London, Feb. 1.—The text of the German note to neutrals announcing the abandonment of restrictions on naval warfare reached London an hour after midnight in a summary of the Berlin despatch cabled from New York. It was consequently too late for the first editions of the morning papers or for editorial comment.

The statement of the German decision in regard to hospital ships was, however, given the greatest prominence and the comments thereon indicate that the note to neutrals will not cause surprise.

The intimation that the government plans reprisals is generally acclaimed through the Daily News, while refraining from speculation as to the form, "reprisals" may take. "The question is peculiarly difficult, both practically and ethically. If we are already waging war to the full extent of our capacity within legitimate limits there is little margin left for reprisals unless we are prepared to follow Germany into the region of lawlessness and barbarism where her proclamation over all rivals is unassailable. On a contest of that kind we have been and always will be at a hopeless disadvantage. Of that Germany is doubtless aware and lays her plans accordingly."

NEW YORK PORT OPENED AGAIN

New York, Feb. 1.—After being sealed all night by a cordon of destroyers and constant patrol boats, the port of New York was today opened by the customs authorities to all in-coming and out-going shipping.

GERMAN LINER SUNK AT DOCK SALING OF ONE IS POSTPONED

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 1.—The German freighter *Linschoten* of the Hansa Line, tied up here since the beginning of the war, began sinking slowly at 9 o'clock this morning and master says believe she had been scuttled. This belief seemed to be borne out by the fact that the captain declined the offer of a tug.

New York, Feb. 1.—Announcement was made this morning by a representative of the Scandinavian-American line that the sailing of the passenger liner *Holligen* was postponed at 2 p. m. today, with 500 passengers and cargo for Copenhagen via Kirkwall, had been indefinitely postponed.

CHANCELLOR'S SPEECH ON THE U. BOAT ISSUE

London, Feb. 1.—Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, addressing the Reichstag committee, declared that Germany was ready to state everything and everything that she had done in the past year, but he opposed unrestricted submarine warfare, and why again in September, "according to the unanimous judgment of the political and military authorities the decision was not considered ripe for decision."

In this connection he repeated his previous utterance that as soon as he, in agreement with the supreme command, reached the conclusion that ruthless submarine warfare would bring Germany nearer a victorious peace, then the U-boat would be started. "This moment," he continued, "has now arrived. Last autumn I had to make a choice between a victorious peace and unrestricted submarine warfare, and why again in September, "according to the unanimous judgment of the political and military authorities the decision was not considered ripe for decision."

ONLY PATROL FIGHTING ON THE WESTERN FRONT

Paris, Feb. 1.—"Patrol encounters occurred at various points along the front, especially east of Rheims and in the region of Albiach," says today's official communication, "elsewhere the night was calm."

Admiral Madon yesterday brought down his fifth German airplane. "Last night one of our aerial squadrons bombarded the railway station and enclaves at Marcy and Voynac, and also some barracks to the east of Neale. One of our airplanes armed with a cannon, fired fifty shells upon barracks of the enemy at Messel-St. Nicolas and at Berly, on the Somme."

PERCY CARTER WOUNDED

Moncton, N. B., Feb. 1.—Percy W. Carter, son of Thomas Carter, of Sunny Beach, has been wounded in action. An additional loss of \$1,000. The walls alone remain today and if rebuilt it is likely that one of these walls will have to come down. C. E. Allen is the local manager.

WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Stewart, director of meteorological service.

Synopsis—The disturbance which was over the middle states yesterday is now centered near the middle Atlantic coast, while a pronounced area of high pressure and very cold weather covers the western portion of the continent. Light snowfalls have occurred in Ontario and western Quebec.

Ottawa, Feb. 1.—Casualties: MOUNTED RIFLES Killed in Action

W. H. Holt, Chatham, N.B. Seriously III

E. J. Rockwell, Oceanview, P.E.I. Wounded

H. A. Tucker, Anslow Mountain, N.S. STILL HAULING WATER

The county hospital at East St. John continues to get its entire supply of water in barrels delivered by city trucks. A sufficient supply for ordinary purposes is being secured in this way but the county officials are very anxious to have the pipe line service restored in case of emergencies arising. The examination of the main leading to the hospital is continuing but, so far, the workmen have been unable to locate the reason for the cessation of the flow.

Clarke Resigns; Murray Premier

(Canada Press.)
Fredericton, Feb. 1.—Hon. George J. Clarke has resigned as premier of New Brunswick, stating that ill-health prevents him from continuing as leader of the present administration.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor has called upon Hon. James A. Murray, minister of agriculture, to form a new cabinet. Hon. Mr. Clarke, it is understood, will succeed Hon. Josiah Wood as governor of New Brunswick, the latter's term expiring in March.

Bottom Falls Out Of Wall Street Market

Stocks Break With Extreme Violence at Opening, Declining From Five to 20 Points—Nearly All Classes Affected

New York, Feb. 1.—Wall Street, 10.30 a.m.—Stocks broke with extreme violence in today's early dealings, the new policy of the German government completing anomalous liquidation.

Decline in stocks of all descriptions ranged from one to three points today, U. S. Steel making a gross concession of fifteen points, and the market was in a demoralized condition. The market was in a demoralized condition. The market was in a demoralized condition.

THE PREMIER HAS RALLIED

Doctor Mich. Planned Today Will Condition of Hon. Mr. Clarke

ONE OF HIS COMPANY SO FAR UNSCATHED

Mr. and Mrs. John Tait of 71 Somerset street, have received letters from both of their boys at the front. Cheery of the 1st contingent, and Charlie of the 20th battalion.

EMPRESS THEATRE IN AMHERST IS GUTTED BY FIRE

Amherst, N. S., Feb. 1.—The Empress Theatre was gutted by fire early this morning and damage done to the extent of \$25,000. The fire broke out in the basement and was not noticed until the building was suddenly enveloped in flames. Despite the efforts of the local fire fighters nothing could be done to save the structure and only a shell of the former magnificent theatre now remains.

RAMBLERS VS. NATIONALS

On Black's alleys last evening the Ramblers and Nationals met in the first of a series of three games to decide the championship of the first and second series of the City Bowling League. The Ramblers won by thirty-nine pins after an interesting and evenly contested match. The scores were:

Ramblers	Totals	Nationals	Totals
Duffy	104 87	McKean	95 109
Covey	115 103	Gilmour	97 94
Deatney	96 98	Cosgrove	105 101
Coughlan	103 86	McDonald	79 95
Kiley	83 105	Moore	91 109
	503 479		471 1453

GOVERNMENT MAY DECIDE TODAY AS TO LOCAL ELECTIONS

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 1.—Hon. Dr. Landry arrived last evening and a meeting of the government is being held today. It is likely the question of an election or a session will be decided. It is likely that a majority of members who were in the city yesterday are opposed to an early election and so expressed themselves to members of the government.

The city school teachers have petitioned the trustees for twenty-five per cent. increase in salaries.

Rev. Dr. Courtenay of New York, former Bishop of Nova Scotia, will preach in the Cathedral here on Sunday evening. He will attend the synod meeting in St. John.

This morning's session of the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association was given over to a discussion on poultry raising led by J. B. Daggett and Seth Jones.

Many local landlords have notified their tenants of an increase in rents. In several cases the increase is in excess of the amount of the original rent. The increase is given as the principal reason.

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