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WEATHER—SNOW

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THE U. S. MAY DECLARE WAR! GERMAN PIRATES LET LOOSE; PLOT TO KILL LLOYD GEORGE

CAMPAIGN OF RUTHLESSNESS LAUNCHED BY THE KAISER TO STARVE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN

Warfare of Devilish Ingenuity Conceived by Von Hindenburg to be Waged by Means of Submarines, Raiders and Wholesale Sowing of Mines in All European Waters in War Zone--Announcement of Policy of Desperation by Germany May Compel United States to Enter Struggle on Side of Entente.

STARVATION BLOCKADE, LIKE OF WHICH WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN — UNITED STATES FACES SEVERANCE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GERMANY, WITH ALL ITS EVENTUAL POSSIBILITIES — WASHINGTON STAGGERED BY FIERY DECLARATION SENT TO PRESIDENT WILSON IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S "PEACE" NOTE—HUNS DESPERATE.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare. A starvation blockade of England, the like of which the world never has seen, has been announced to the world today in notes delivered to American Ambassador Gerard, in Berlin, and to the state department by Count Von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-feared campaign of ruthlessness, conceived by Von Hindenburg, it is said here, on a magnitude never even contemplated by Von Tirpitz. Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of "a world afire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statements are being recalled in the capital tonight with feelings of apprehension and misgiving.

Germany's action is the supercrisis of all those that have stirred the American government into a and a half years of war.

Peace Has Gone Glimmering, is Opinion.

Peace and means of preserving peace have gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document, which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to make a comment. President Wilson began at once a careful study of the document.

The President has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.

On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British food blockade. It is regarded as a determination to strike back in kind. German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.

Elaborate Plan to Starve British People.

Admittedly the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of Britain with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to "use every weapon and agency at her command to end the war quickly."

She counts on the operations of an unheard-of number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within sixty days. One German official here predicted today the war would be over in a month.

Conveyed to the world as her answer to the refusal of the Entente Allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:

"From Feb. 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the Eastern Mediterranean all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."

Will Give No Warning.

It virtually is a renewal and an extension of the celebrated submarine blockade of the British Isles proclaimed on Feb. 4, 1915, and which became effective Feb. 18, 1915. Under it ships were sunk without warning until Germany abandoned the practice and gave her assurances, in the Sussex case, to abide by international law. The Lusitania, Falaba and scores of other ships were sunk under the doctrine.

American citizens and American ships are warned from entering the war zones, although certain precautionary measures are suggested for distinguishing American steamers not carrying contraband, according to the German list. These conditions, in almost the same form, were rejected when proposed by Germany early in the negotiations over the Lusitania.

At that time Germany proposed to guarantee immunity from attack to certain specified passenger ships, sailing on prescribed courses with agreed distinguishing marks and carrying no contraband. President Wilson rejected the proposal promptly on the ground that the United States was contending only for its rights.

Germany Desperate.

The new German proclamation brushes aside all the perplexing collateral issues which have surrounded the submarine controversy and brings it back to the point where it was left at the conclusion of the Sussex case.

Today's announcement, reciting the refusal of Germany's enemies to discuss her peace proposals, and referring to the starvation blockade, says: "Thus a new situation has sprung up which forces Germany also to new decisions."

The new decision is exactly the one forecast when the Sussex negotiations were closed. In the note conveying her pledges to keep submarine activity in line with international law Germany included a threat of resumption if the United States did not succeed in lifting British restrictions on commerce to Germany and the European neutrals, and the United States, in reply, expressly warned Germany that her pledge must be absolutely unconditional.

"Neutrals," said Germany in the Sussex note, "cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, shall, for the sake of neutral interests, restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemies be permitted to continue to apply at will methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. . . . Should the

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THEORY PREVAILS THAT GERMANY'S DESIGN IS TO PLUNGE U. S. IN WAR.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Unrestricted submarine warfare, it was declared, was determined upon as soon as the nature of the Entente reply to President Wilson's note became known, and before the president's address to the senate. The president's address, it was said, was made in the midst of the situation, and because of its nature it appeared for a time as if the new campaign might be postponed.

It is expected that Austria-Hungary will take action similar to that of Germany.

Every public intimation from Germany in the last few months has been that an unrestricted submarine warfare, almost certain to bring in the United States, would be adopted only as a last act of desperation.

One view known to have been held by some high officials here, was that Germany might, in desperation, seek to involve the United States as an actual enemy on the ground that her influence at the peace conference would be a generous one.

SHIPMENT OF R. R. MATERIAL IS REDUCED

Ottawa, Jan. 31. (By Leased Wire.)—Announcement that, owing largely to the shortage of ocean transportation facilities, the quantity of rails and railway material sought by the imperial authorities in Canada for the construction of roads behind the British lines in France had been largely reduced, was made by Hon. Frank Cochrane in the house this afternoon. The first request which reached the Canadian government was for 1,000 miles of railway. The government, feeling that it should do anything in its power to assist the Mother Country, then concluded that no hardship would result if it obtained the necessary materials from points in Western Canada where the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Northern railways parallel one another. Subsequently the amount of railway asked was cut down to 300 miles. The government was consequently obtaining the material from divisional points on the National Transcontinental Railway.

HOCKEY RESULTS.

N. H. A. games Wednesday night—
At Montreal—Quebec, 4; Wanderers, 3.
At Toronto—Toronto, 5; Canadiens, 2.
At Ottawa—Ottawa, 8; 22nd Battalion, 0.

FOUR CHARGED WITH PLOT TO KILL BRITISH PREMIER

Alleged Attempt Also Made to Assassinate Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, Premier's Right Hand Man in War Council--Three Women and Husband of One Arrested--All Deny Charges When Arraigned in Court.

U. S. LIKELY TO FIGHT GERMANY

BULLETIN.

New York, Jan. 31.—Despatches to the Associated Press from every quarter of the United States tonight reveal a remarkable unanimity of editorial opinion that the country is on the verge of war with Germany.

PORT OF N. Y. IS CLOSED

BULLETIN.

New York, Jan. 31.—The port of New York was sealed tight tonight by order of Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port. Vessels of every description, including tugboats, were turned back at quarantine by the torpedo boat stationed there to maintain the neutrality of the United States. The purpose of Mr. Malone's order remained a mystery upon which he declined to throw any light. He has full authority to act upon his own initiative in case of emergency, as he is held responsible for enforcing neutrality.

NATIONAL SERVICE SALARY QUESTION

Ottawa, Jan. 31. (By Leased Wire.)—An enquiry whether or not certain members of the national service commission were drawing salaries from the government was made by Hon. Wm. Pugsley in the house today. The member for St. John referred to is B. Bennett, M. P., the director-general of national service; R. F. Green, M. P., of Kootenay; and Major Leonard P. Tilley, M. L. A., of St. John, N. B.

He said that under the law of New Brunswick if Major Tilley accepted a salary for his services for the Dominion government, he would be disqualified from sitting in the New Brunswick legislature. Sir Robert Borden replied that Messrs. Bennett and Green received no salaries as members of the commission and that he would make enquiries as to the case of Major Tilley and the law of New Brunswick bearing upon his case.

MRS. ALICE WHEEDON, HER TWO DAUGHTERS, MISS ANN, MRS. ALFRED GEO. MASON AND LATTER'S HUSBAND ARE DEFENDANTS— UNDERSTOOD SCOTLAND YARD DETECTIVES CLAIM POISON WAS TO BE USED.

Derby, Jan. 31.—Four persons were arraigned quietly in the police court at the Derby Guildhall this morning, charged with plotting to murder Premier Lloyd George and Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson, the premier's right hand man in the war council. The accused persons indignantly denied the charges, declaring they had been trumped up as punishment for their conscientious objections to compulsory military service.

The proceedings at the Guildhall, over which the mayor presided, were merely of a formal nature. No details of the charges or evidence were divulged, although gossip has been busy with rumors of various details since the news of the arrest was received late yesterday. The accused persons, who are well known here, are Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, her two daughters, Miss Ann Wheeldon and Mrs. Alfred George Mason, and the latter's husband. Two of the women are school teachers.

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\$1,000,000 FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HARBOR OF ST. JOHN

Main Estimates for Coming Fiscal Year Tabled in House of Commons — Scaling Down of Expenditures Generally — Estimates for Maritime Provinces.

Ottawa, Jan. 31.—(Leased wire)—

The main estimates for the coming fiscal year tabled in the commons this afternoon by the Minister of Finance provide for a total expenditure of \$203,472,756, of which \$182,359,215 is on consolidated fund account, or for the ordinary expense of administration. The total amount of capital expenditure is \$21,113,550.

There is a very considerable scaling down of expenditures for public works and for railways and canals both on consolidated funds and capital accounts. The big increase is in the interest on the public debt, which jumps from \$37,000,000 to \$54,000,000. The war is also responsible for an increase in the pensions bill by \$5,398,000. The amount required for the coming year is \$8,763,000.

Few New Public Works.

There are scarcely any new public works authorized. There is a reduction of \$11,026,162 in the total expenditure to be voted for public works under consolidated fund account. The reduction on railways and canals expenditure on capital account of \$12,216,756.

As compared with the estimates of last year there is a reduction of \$1,500,000 in the total for consolidated fund account and of \$16,000,000 in expenditure on capital account. The estimates, of course, do not include anything for war appropriation.

The main items on capital account for railways are \$6,500,000 for construction and betterments of government railways; \$200,000 for Welland ship canal construction (as compared with \$4,500,000 last year); \$600,000 for canal inspection; \$1,600,000 for Quebec bridge, and \$2,000,000 for the Hudson Bay Railway.

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UNITED STATES STAGGERED AT POSSIBILITY OF WAR WHEN PEACE EXPECTED.

Washington, Feb. 1.—Officials here, stunned at the suddenness of the German action, do not hesitate to conceal their disgust over the mental unpreparedness of the American public for what may be coming. The recent flood of peace discussion started by the German offer, increased by the president's note and again by the Entente reply, are thought to have turned public opinion in this country entirely away from the possibility of war, and to have focused attention on the terms of a near peace.

A revulsion is expected to take place in the Entente countries, with the result that the world war will enter a period of frightfulness unimagined heretofore. With the massing for huge offensives by land, the announcement of ruthlessness by sea, officials look forward to at least a spring and summer of unprecedented slaughter.