

THE SPEECH OF WILSON

Breaking of Diplomatic Relations Formally Announced

Most Momentous Announcement In History Of U. S. Made to Congress.

The President spoke as follows: "Gentlemen of the Congress: The Imperial German Government on the thirty-first of January announced to this government and to the governments of the other neutral nations that on and after the first day of February, the present month, it would adopt a policy with regard to the use of submarines against all shipping seeking to pass through certain designated areas of the high seas, to which it is clearly my duty to call your attention.

Let me remind the Congress, on the eighth of April last, in view of the sinking on the twenty-fourth of March of the cross channel passenger steamer Sussex, by a German submarine without summons or warning and the consequent loss of the lives of several citizens of the United States, who were passengers aboard her, this government addressed a note to the Imperial German government in which it made the following declarations:

"If it is still the purpose of the Imperial German Government to prosecute relentless and indiscriminate warfare against vessels of commerce by the use of submarines without regard to what the government of the United States must consider the sacred and indisputable rules of international law and the universally recognized dictates of humanity, the government of the United States is at last forced to the conclusion that there is but one course it can pursue. Unless the Imperial Government should now immediately declare and effect an abandonment of its present methods of submarine warfare against passenger and freight carrying vessels, the government of the United States can have no choice but to sever diplomatic relations with the German Empire altogether."

In reply to this declaration the Imperial German Government gave this government the following assurances:

"The German Government is prepared to do its utmost to confine the operations of war for the rest of its duration to the fighting forces of the belligerents, thereby also insuring the freedom of the seas, a principle on which the German Government believes now, as before, to be in agreement with the government of the United States."

"The German Government, guided by this idea, notifies the government of the United States that the German naval forces have received the following orders:

"In accordance with the general principles of visit and search and destruction of merchant vessels recognized by international law such vessels, both within and without the area declared a naval war zone, shall not be sunk without warning and without saving human lives, unless these ships attempt to escape or offer resistance."

"But," it added, "neutrals cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence shall, for the sake of neutral interest restrict the use of an effective weapon if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply at will methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Such a demand would be incompatible with the character of neutrality and the German Government is convinced that the Government of the United States does not think of making such a demand, knowing that the government of the United States declared that it is determined to restore the principle of the freedom of the seas, from whatever quarter it has been violated."

To this the government of the United States replied on the 8th of

Wilson Gives The Reply Of United States To Teuton Declaration of Ruthless Submarine Warfare, and Reviews The Controversies Arising During the War

(From the Courier Second Saturday Edition)

Washington, Feb. 3.—The severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was formally announced to the country and the world by President Wilson at a joint session of congress to-day at 2 o'clock. The United States now stands on the verge with all the historic precedents, of centuries pressing it forward.

Fervently invoking the guidance of Almighty God in the step he had taken, President Wilson detailed to the congress why the United States could not continue relations with a warring power which repeatedly invades the sacred rights and takes the lives of its citizens. Calm, with a sense of right in what may prove the most sombre moment of American history, the president stood in the historic hall of the House of Representatives and with senators and representatives before him, spoke the words which may carry the country into the world conflict, not for aggression, and not for power; only for law and humanity.

Silent and attentive the nations law-makers listened with rapt attention, while President Wilson told of the United States course in the now unsuccessful diplomatic struggle to dissuade Germany from her campaign of ruthlessness.

In concluding his address President Wilson declared that he could not even now believe that Germany intends any overt acts against American citizens, but that if overt acts are forthcoming he will again come before congress to ask authority to "use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people." All neutral governments, he believes, will take the same course.

"We wish to serve no selfish ends," the President stated, "we seek merely to stand true alike in thought and in action to the immortal principles of our people—seek merely to vindicate our right to liberty and justice and an unmolested life. These are the bases of peace, not war. God grant that we may not be challenged to defend them by acts of wilful injustice on the part of the government of Germany."

While the president was addressing Congress, Law Advisor Woolsey of the State Department, was at the German embassy with a communication for Count von Bernstorff. The communication, Mr. Woolsey delivered, contained passports for the ambassador, his wife, the embassy staff and his suite, which comprised more than a hundred persons. A note, believed to be substantially the same as the President's address to Congress was included.

May, accepting, of course, the assurances given, but adding: "The government of the United States feels it necessary to state that it takes it for granted that the Imperial German Government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent on the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the government of the United States and any other belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages of the Imperial Government's note of the 4th instant might appear to be susceptible of that construction. In order, however, to avoid any misunderstanding, the government of the United States notifies the Imperial government that it cannot for a moment, entertain, much less discuss, a suggestion that respect by German naval authorities for the rights of citizens of the United States upon the high seas should in any way or in the slightest degree be made contingent upon the conduct of any other government, affecting the rights of neutrals and non-combatants. Responsibility in such matters in single, not joint, absolute, not relative."

To this note of the eighth of May, the Imperial government made no reply.

On the thirty-first of January, the Wednesday of the present week, the German ambassador handed to the secretary of state, along with a formal note, a memorandum which contained the following statement:

"The Imperial Government, therefore, does not doubt that the government of the United States will understand the situation thus forced upon Germany by the Entente Allies brutal methods of war and by their



CLEO RIDGLEY AND WALLACE REID
LASKY-PARAMOUNT
In the Modern Society Drama, "The Yellow Pawn" at the Brant, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

determination to destroy the Central Powers and that the government of the United States will further realize that the now openly disclosed intention of the Entente Allies gives back to Germany the freedom of

ing after February 1, 1917, in a zone around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean, all navigation, that of neutrals included, from and to England and from and to France, etc., etc.

"All ships met within the zone will be sunk."

I think that you will agree with me that, in view of this declaration, which suddenly and without prior intimation of any kind, deliberately withdraws the solemn assurance given in the Imperial government's note of the 4th of May, 1916, this government has no alternative consistent with the dignity and honor of the United States, but to take the course, which, in its note of the 18th of April, 1916, it announced that it would take in the event that the German Government did not declare and effect an abandonment of the methods of submarine warfare, which it was then employing and to which it now purposes again to resort.

I have, therefore, directed the secretary of state to announce to his excellency, the German ambassador, that all diplomatic relations between the United States and the German Empire are severed and that the American ambassador at Berlin will immediately be withdrawn, and in accordance with this decision to hand to his excellency his passports.

Notwithstanding this unexpected action of the German Government, this sudden and deeply deplorable renunciation of the assurances given this government at one of the most critical moments of tension in the relations of the two govern-

ments, I refuse to believe that it is the intention of the German authorities to do in fact what they have warned us they will feel at liberty to do. I cannot bring myself to believe that they will indeed pay no regard to the ancient friendship between their people and our own, or to the solemn obligations, which have been exchanged between them and destroy American ships and take the lives of American citizens in the wilful prosecution of the heartless naval program they have announced their intention to adopt. Only actual overt acts on their part can make me believe that even now.

If this inveterate confidence on my part in the sobriety and prudent foresight of their purpose should unhappily prove unfounded; if American ships and American lives should in fact be sacrificed by their should in fact be sacrificed by their naval commanders in heedless contravention of the just and reasonable undertakings of international law and the obvious dictates of humanity, I shall take the liberty of coming again before the congress to ask that authority be given me to use any means that may be necessary for the protection of our seamen and our people in the prosecution of their peaceful and legitimate errands on the high seas. I can do nothing less. I take it for granted that all neutral governments will take the same course.

We do not desire any hostile conflict with the Imperial German Government. We are the sincere friends of the German people and earnestly desire to remain at peace with the government which speaks for them. We shall not believe that they are hostile to us, unless and

"We Seek Only to Vindicate Our Right to Liberty and Justice"

—WOODROW WILSON

until we are obliged to believe it; and we propose nothing more than the reasonable defense of the undoubted rights of our people. We seek merely to stand true alike in thought and in action to the immortal principles of our people, which I have sought to express in my address to the Senate only two weeks ago—seek merely to vindicate our right to liberty and justice and an unmolested life. These are the bases of peace, not war. God grant that we may not be challenged to defend them by acts of wilful injustice on the part of the government of Germany!

TRAVELLERS AID IN FUND CAMPAIGN

Knights of the Grip Organize to Aid the Patriotic Fund

Brantford Commercial men will do their share in connection with "on to victory" Patriotic Campaign. An enthusiastic meeting of members of the Commercial Travellers' Association residing in Brantford, held at the Y. M. C. A. Saturday afternoon when the following committee was appointed to see that every knight of the grip who is a resident of Brantford, will be given an opportunity to contribute to this most worthy cause:

Dufferin T. Williamson, chairman, Thomas Fissette, George Bray, Harry Crayston, James Virtue, Charles, Secord, W. J. Silverthorne, Geo. A. Witmer, Andrew W. Peart, H. E. Edy, Frank Hearn, G. M. Huff, N. E. Clark.

Mr. John H. Spence, president Patriotic Fund, occupied the chair and gave an interesting address outlining the way the funds of the association were handled.

Rev. Mr. Woodside gave an inspiring address on the worthiness of the cause and urged need of Brantford citizens doing their share to back up the boys who have gone to fight our battles. Mr. Harvey T. Watt and C. Cook also addressed the gathering.

AT THE GRAND

To-morrow night's audience at the Grand Opera House will see the all-important role of Judy Abbott in "Daddy Long-Legs." The tremendous success of the romantic comedy has been due in no small measure to the superb acting of Miss Walton in the role of the pretty young heroine of the fascinating stage story. And it may be added that in the cities that have seen the play interpreted by nearly the same company which Henry Miller is sending to this city new house records for big business were established. "Daddy Long-Legs" is the reigning success on the American stage to-day, and it will be played here by the biggest and best cast Henry Miller has assembled in many years. Nevertheless, theatre-goers will find themselves particularly interested in the young girl whose youthful beauty and rare dramatic skill lend to the central character of "Daddy Long-Legs," the little Cinderella-like heroine of Jean Webster's internationally famous comedy. Other members of the cast besides Miss Walton, are Albert Roscoe, Julia Varney, Marie Taylor, Viola Cain, Sue Van Duser, Perdita Hudspeth, Alfred Heiton and Frank J. Kirk.

Pa Doesn't Want Cedric to Muss up Anything Expensive



That Son-in-law of Pa's