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United States Has Severed Relations With German Empire

Bernstorff Is Ordered Home; Gerard Recalled It Is Not War Yet But a Grave Step In That Direction

GATES OF NAVY YARDS ARE CLOSED

Relations With Germany Were Broken This Morning, Following Yesterday's Conference—The Matter of The Interned German Ships

Washington, Feb. 3.—Diplomatic sub-relations with Germany have been broken. Count Von Bernstorff has been handed his passports and Ambassador Gerard has been ordered from Berlin.

Notice of the break is outlined in detail in an address by President Wilson to a joint session of Congress this afternoon.

In spite of the fact that this became known definitely officially, the White House and state department would not discuss the situation in any form.

The president completed his message to Congress early this morning, and arrangements for his appearance were immediately made.

LIKELY ALSO WITH AUSTRIA

Whether the break with Germany would be accompanied by a similar break with Austria-Hungary could not be learned definitely. Inasmuch as Austria is understood to have endorsed the action of Germany, however, this action is expected to follow if it has not already been taken.

The state department notified Ambassador Gerard to ask for his passports.

The decision to break was reached after the president's conferences with the cabinet and members of the senate yesterday. The president by those conferences came to the conclusion that the country would stand solidly behind him in breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany.

RELEASE OF AMERICANS

TAKEN BY THE RAIDER HAS BEEN DEMANDED

Washington, Feb. 3.—The United States has formally demanded of Germany the immediate release of Americans who were taken prisoners on prize ships by the raiders in the South Atlantic.

REICHSTAG COMMITTEE

ADJOURNS TILL FEB. 21

Berlin, Feb. 2.—Via London, Feb. 3.—The ways and means committee of the Reichstag adjourned today until February 21, the day before the resumption of the Reichstag session but it is intimated the committee will probably be called together at an earlier date.

This evidently is conditioned upon political developments meanwhile which are regarded as being likely to render it advisable for the government again to take the committee into its confidence.

BROTHER OF MRS. J. S. FLAGLER

PASSES AWAY AT GLACE BAY

News of the death of Thornton Wells at his home at Glace Bay, N. S., has been received in the city. His sister, Mrs. J. S. Flagler, received word yesterday that her brother was seriously ill and she left on the late train last night for Sydney, the information that he had passed away reached the city this morning.

Mr. Wells was a native of Westmoreland and made his home in Moncton, where he was connected with the I. C. R., until about twenty years ago when he removed to Glace Bay, and at the time of his death he was in charge of the round-house there. He was about two years of age.

Besides his wife, Mr. Wells is survived by four children, one brother, Judge W. W. Wells, formerly of Moncton and now of Ottawa, and three sisters, Mrs. Flagler of this city, Mrs. O. J. McCully of Moncton and Mrs. A. L. Watson of Niagara Falls, N. Y. The body will be taken to Moncton for interment.

SENT UP FOR TRIAL

Agnes Graham, who was arrested some weeks ago, was this morning committed for trial by Magistrate Ritchie on the charge of stealing a muff and a pair of gloves. Some other remains were brought into court and further remanded to jail.

IS NOT YET WAR

Washington, Feb. 3.—Breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany does not mean war, but easily may lead to war. It is an act of protest characterized in the usage of nations as a "measure short of war."

The president's address to Congress, while guarded, closely reviews the negotiations with Germany, climaxed by the note giving warning that the Berlin government had removed restrictions on submarine warfare.

The decision to break was taken for granted by many senators with whom he talked late yesterday and by members of his cabinet.

Although he did not give his decision in those conferences, his outline of the situation gave such a serious picture that it was generally believed that he had come to the conclusion that he could follow no course but break relations with Germany.

Mr. Wilson remained in his study in the White House throughout the morning and saw no callers.

It was learned he began the preparation of his address to Congress soon after his return from the capitol last night.

While the steps leading up to the break were being taken apparent calm prevailed at the White House and state department.

WHAT IT MEANS

Washington, Feb. 3.—Breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany does not mean war but easily may lead to war. It is an act of protest characterized in the usage of nations as a "measure short of war."

The danger that war may follow is accentuated by the diplomatic history of the world. Modern times show no instance of a diplomatic break between two first-class powers that has not been followed by hostilities.

The rights of Germans in the United States, and of Americans in Germany are practically unaffected by the severance of diplomatic relations. No treaties are terminated or suspended, but remain in full force and effect unless either government later decides to denounce them, which, under international practice, generally calls for a notice of one year.

German consuls in the United States and American consuls in Germany holding their places by virtue of treaties continue to perform their usual functions, but they no longer work under supervision of diplomatic officers.

There is no change in commercial relations already badly crippled by the war. Individuals and corporations may continue their usual affairs, provided they do not deal in contraband, and their obligations are as binding as ever.

The courts still remain open to them for redress but they have no facility for direct intervention of their diplomatic officials. They may, however, be represented by the diplomats of the friendly powers selected to care for the interests of the respective governments.

THE INTERNED SHIPS

The sixty-five or more German merchant ships tied up in American ports since the beginning of the war may be used by the United States, but the German owners ultimately must be compensated. Only in case of war is there possibility of their being absolutely confiscated, and even then such action is doubtful, for the United States, in the world court of nations, has been the leading exponent of the inviolability of private property.

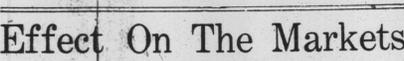
Mails will continue to move under the Geneva convention and other existing special conventions. There should be no restriction upon the free movement of travelers between the two countries other than the fixed policy of the United States to issue no passports to Americans wishing to visit the war zone unless they have pressing business there. In fact, so far as individuals are concerned, the status remains practically unchanged by a break in diplomatic relations. Upon the conduct of Americans in Germany and the conduct of Germans and German sympathizers in the United States depends the attitude of the respective governments regarding them.

WILSON WOULD SEND ANOTHER NOTE

Washington, Feb. 3.—A break with Germany on account of the submarine warfare was regarded as inevitable in all President Wilson's mind, according to one of



JAMES GERARD, AMERICAN AMBASSADOR AT BERLIN



VON BERNSTORFF, WHO IS ORDERED HOME

Effect On The Markets

New York, Feb. 3.—In the stock market the immediate effect of the announcement of a severance of diplomatic relations with Germany was slight. Some stocks reacting less than a point. Before 11 o'clock, however, U. S. Steel showed an extreme loss of 2 3/4, Crucible Steel, 1 1/2, Lackawanna Steel 3 1/2, Marine Preferred 3 1/2, Mexican Petroleum, 1 1/2 and Texas Company 3 1/2. Trading became feverishly active but the tone was fairly normal.

New York, Feb. 3.—Today's short session will go down in history as one of the most memorable in the annals of the stock exchange. Announcement of the break with Germany came at the end of the first half hour, the market then following an uneven course evidently in anticipation of momentous developments.

The first flash from Washington resulted in moderate declines. These gained headway on accelerated operations, with dropping one to two points with greater losses in industrials and specialties. In the last half hour a broad and general buying movement under lead of U. S. Steel soon turned many previous losses to substantial net gains. Steel rose to 10 1/2, a gain of four points, with two to six points in war issues, Utah-Copper and Shipways; thirty points in Bethlehem Steel. The closing was extremely feverish and strong as to important stocks.

Sales exceeded 1,000,000 shares. Bonds were irregular.

THE WHEAT MARKET

Chicago, Feb. 3.—News of the severing of diplomatic relations with Germany was flashed on the board of trade a few minutes after the opening and wheat prices immediately fell six cents to 155 for May. Within ten minutes the quotations had worked upward to 159. Other grains were not greatly disturbed.

COTTON

New York, Feb. 3.—May contracts broke thirty points in the cotton market from the opening price of 14.80 on receipt of news that diplomatic relations with Germany had been severed. They soon afterwards rallied twelve points.

Fifteen senators who conferred with the president at the capitol for nearly two hours last night. Most senators were declared to feel that a diplomatic break was the least the United States could do to maintain its honor, and that Count Von Bernstorff, German ambassador, should be given his passports today.

A few, notably Senator Stone and Senator Lewis, counselled against assuming that Germany's notice in itself meant invasion of neutral rights and urged that the diplomatic relations be continued until some overt act of a submarine compelled the severance.

A third course suggested by the president, but looked on with disfavor by a great majority of senators, was to send another warning to Germany.

Early today no arrangements had been made for the president to address Congress.

From various ports where German merchant vessels are laid up came reports that government officials were maintaining close watch over the ships and their crews and Secretary Lansing advised against sailings of American ships until the United States' policy is determined.

NAVY YARDS ARE CLOSED

Washington, Feb. 3.—No one other than officials and employees of naval yards and stations is to be admitted to such government reservations. Orders to this effect Secretary of the Navy Daniels announced today and they will be effective immediately.

No Action by Congress

Washington, Feb. 3.—Democratic leader, Kitchin told Republican Leader Mann when the house convened today that no action by congress was contemplated today in connection with the president's address.

May Go to Mexico

New York, Feb. 3.—A well defined rumor ascribed to official circles has given rise to an apprehension that Von Bernstorff will make straight way for either Cuba or Mexico with the chances favoring the latter country. This is according to the Herald. It is unbelievable, it is declared, that the allied powers would undertake to grant the German Embassy safe conduct to Germany and short of South America the nearest neutral country would be Cuba or Mexico.

THE FIGHTING

Paris, Feb. 3.—The following official communication was given out here today:

There were no important developments last night with the exception of patrol encounters in the sector between Louvain and Chaubrettes (Verdun front), and in the region of Palonvillers.

SOLDIER ARRESTED IN FREDERICTON ON THEFT CHARGE

Fredricton, Feb. 3.—Private J. D. Lobball of the special service company was arrested here last night on complaint of Mrs. James Bonar, who charges that he stole \$200 from her home. He was caught just as he was about to board the express for Chatham and a railway ticket and \$100 were found on him. He was turned over to the military authorities today for medical treatment.

CUTTER TAKES POST ALONGSIDE THE APPAM

Newport News, Va., Feb. 3.—A coast-guard cutter has gone alongside the German prize ship Appam, and it is thought the German prize crew will be taken off immediately. Two torpedo boat destroyers joined the super-dreadnought Arkansas off the Virginia Capes on emergency duty.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES

Ottawa, Feb. 3.—That the relations between Canada and the United States will not be affected—at least in any adverse sense—by the developments in Washington is the oft-heard impression in official circles. The severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Germany is regarded here as a distinct indication of friendliness towards the Allies' cause and the expectation is that it will lead to the definite entry of the United States to the war.

TEN DROWNED WHEN BRITISHER IS SUNK

London, Feb. 3.—Ten members of the crew of the British steamer Essentia, previously reported sunk, were drowned. The captain and two men of the crew have been landed.

The Dutch steamer Gamma of 2,198 tons gross, is reported sunk.

CALM IN ENGLAND; LESS CONFIDENT IN GERMANY

POLITICAL RUMORS; TALK OF CANDIDATES

One of the interesting features of the provincial campaign which is opening is the number of vacant places in the government ranks which will have to be filled. Perhaps reading the signs of the times, a large number of government supporters have sought shelter before the storm breaks.

Of the four members from St. John they have accepted offices and the fourth is said to be desirous to retire. The first to stand from under was Hon. John E. Wilson, who retired to a comfortable berth as deputy receiver general and manager of the local branch of the office of collector of customs for the Dominion Savings Bank. The next to go was C. B. Lockhart, who secured the office of collector of customs for the port of St. John. L. P. D. Tilley is provincial director of national service and it is expected that his duties in this office will prevent him seeking re-election.

There is speculation as to whether or not Mr. Granman will run again. It has been known for some time by his friends and party that he was desirous of retiring from public life, because of the demands of his business, and that he did not wish to become a candidate again, though he is being urged to stand once more on the city government ticket.

It is said that Hon. J. B. M. Baxter may seek election in the city. Among the other aspirants for the city nomination are: Frank L. Potts, Thomas Nagle, Fred C. MacNeill and Hugh H. McLaughlin.

In the county, it is said, if Mr. Baxter comes to the city, the slate may be composed of T. B. Carson, the present member, and H. Colby Smith of West St. John.

H. W. Woods, member for Queens, it is said, has been insisting for some time that he should be taken care of before the party meets defeat at the polls and that the matter has been settled, according to reports from inside circles. It is said that Dr. R. N. Colter, post office inspector, will be superannuated, special provision being made for his case, and that Mr. Woods will succeed him.

The Forecastle Members

Fredricton Mail.—Premier Murray further reorganized by calling to the cabinet two forecastle or "traveling" members, in the person of Dr. Taylor of Charlotte and Arthur Culligan of Resolute. Both are harless back-benchers. In his old home town Dr. Taylor enjoys quite a reputation as an organizer of political language.

Fredricton, Feb. 3.—It is said that Prider and Morehouse are the only present members for York who will be re-nominated. Col. Guthrie will retire from politics and John Young, although anxious to run again, will likely be passed in favor of Samuel Hunter of Harvey. The names of J. D. Palmer, Charles D. Richards and Harry Smith are mentioned in connection with the city nomination.

SEVERELY WOUNDED.

Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 3.—Casualties: Wounded Severely, INFANTRY, H. G. Graves, Chester, N. S.

Phelix and Pherdinand

Phelix and Pherdinand, two of the German submarines which were sunk in the Atlantic, are reported to have been sighted in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

WEATHER REPORT

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

Synopsis.—The weather has been for the most part fair and very cold over the Dominion except on the British Columbia coast, where it has been mild and rainy.

Ottawa, Valley.—Strong westerly winds, local snowfalls or flurries, but mostly fair and very cold today and on Sunday.

Cold With Snow

Maritime.—Strong northwest to west winds, very cold today and on Sunday. Local snow flurries on Sunday.

Britain Sees Enemy's New Move is One of Desperation

BOLT NEARLY SHOT, AT THAT

German Newspapers Warning People Not to Look for Results Immediately—Disappointment Because of Storm Raised in United States

London, Feb. 2.—Twenty-four hours' reflection over Germany's latest threat appears to have left the British public less worried than seems to be the state of public mind in most neutral countries. Two points of the issue stand out strongly in all public criticism: First, that the German decision is the council of desperation and a virtual confession that she had abandoned hope for military victory in the field and, second, that, having shown no restraint in recent months in her submarine warfare on shipping bound to opposing belligerent countries, it is needless to feel disappointed at what she is likely to do in the future since probably all available submarines have been in full employment and it is unlikely that in the near future Germany can have a much greater number of under water boats at her command.

No Special Alarm

It cannot be said that the British public is displaying any special alarm. There are some who are even inclined to welcome threats as providing a useful stimulus to the government and the nation; to the former as tending in the direction of inducing the admiralty to take whatever steps are possible to counteract submarine activity and to measure on the part of the government to speed up the construction of merchant shipping in order to replace daily losses; to the nation in inducing a stronger recognition of urgent economy, especially in the consumption of food.

In this connection there has been considerable criticism of the government in taking skilled farm hands for the army when the imperative need of the country was to increase the food production at home to the utmost. This question of the conflicting interests of the army and agriculture may be brought to a head by the present situation.

Germany Less Confident

The German press, on the other hand, appears less confident of the happy results of the latest stroke. The German papers are warning their readers not to expect too much immediately from the new submarine campaign. Disappointment seems to be reflected in the German press that the new move has failed to bring about further negotiations with the United States on the peace question.

London, Feb. 2.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent says several German newspapers received in Amsterdam published warnings, apparently inspired, against exaggerated expectations of the result of the new submarine campaign. The correspondent says the Rheinische Westfaliaische Zeitung adds to its warning the following: "England, we believe, will suppress as much as possible her losses in ships. It is even possible the figures concerning sunken enemy vessels in the near future will be lower than those recently published."

The correspondent quotes the Koelnische Volks Zeitung as saying: "It would be wrong to expect the sequel of our intensified U-boat war to appear very soon, perhaps within a few weeks. Rome was not built in a day."

Don't Like Storm Aroused in States

A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Amsterdam says: "Political circles in Berlin are much upset by the reports of the indignation aroused in America. It has been believed that the United States, understanding Germany's desperate position, would start negotiations to bring about an early peace conference. There is still hope President Wilson's answer will be conciliatory and afford a basis for negotiations."

LYON JARVIS DEAD

Many will learn with regret of the death of Lyon Jarvis, which occurred in the General Public Hospital this morning. He was sixty years of age and was in the employ of the Imperial Oil Company as a driver. Besides his wife, he is survived by one brother and five sisters. The brother is Walter Jarvis of New York and the sisters are Mrs. Redick and Mrs. Getwell of Boston; Mrs. Lent of Seattle; Mrs. Gross of New York and Mrs. Pilgson of New York.