

WORLD AWAITS ACTION OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

CRITICAL SITUATION IN UNITED STATES AS RESULT OF HUN EDICT

Announcement of Decision of Washington Government on Murderous and Inhuman Declaration Issued from Berlin Yesterday was Anxiously Awaited Throughout the Republic—Upon Decision Question of Peace or War Possibly Hinged—How Edict was Received in America and Abroad.

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 no announcement of the course of the government would be made until certain steps had been taken through the navy department and the treasury for safe-guarding American ports and other interests.

Night Conference. 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 were very busy engaged preparing something for President Wilson.

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

Ruthless submarine warfare, inaugurated today by Germany, brings 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 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 for the first time in the morning papers 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 callers, 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.

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 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 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 on account of the ultimatum which the president sent to Germany in the Sussex case and the protests which led up to it. Immediate and vigorous action by the president is imperative.

Syracuse Post Standard: The first American merchant vessel sunk by Germany will be a virtual declaration of war. There is no other answer to Germany's note.

Germany Desperate. Albany, N. Y., Argus.—It is indeed Germany's last desperate throw, her recognition of the fact that in reversion to savagery is the only chance of winning this war. She knows now that she cannot conquer on land and even if she cannot be conquered 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 turn of the road at last and have reached the crisis so often threatened and so long deferred.

Pittsburgh Gazette-Times—The communication handed to Ambassador Gerard is insulting. It amounts almost to a declaration of war. It puts squarely upon 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?

Watterson's Paper Wants 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 war to 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 despotism of Germany which dares plunge the world into such a war, is completely and eternally crushed.

London Surprised. 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.

cate 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, says: "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 predominance over all rivals is unassailable. In 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 Again Open. New York, Feb. 1.—After being sealed off all night by a cordon of destroyers and coastguard patrol boats, the port of New York was today opened by the customs authorities to all in-coming and out-going shipping.

The stand taken by the collector of the port was that ships could sail at their own risk. They were permitted to clear as usual.

Passports Suspended. Washington, Feb. 1.—The state department suspends issuance of passports to American travelers abroad.

French Not Frightened. Paris, Feb. 1.—The central committee of French ship owners informed the Associated Press today that the new German submarine policy will cause no change whatever in sailings from France.

The Germans, it was declared, can do no more with their submarines than they have already done, and the only result will be to increase insurance rates and freight charges.

Caution in Spain. London, Feb. 1.—A Reuter despatch from Madrid, says the Spanish minister of the interior on communicating to the newspapers the note of the Central Powers regarding their new naval measures, appealed for the necessity of preserving neutrality and on account of the gravity of the situation, to observe discreet composure.

The minister said he feared that when the purport of the note became known disorders might occur particularly in the eastern districts, as the policy of the Central Powers meant interruption of foreign trade and grave dislocation of the internal life of the country.

The impression prevails in Madrid, the correspondent says, that parliament will be adjourned in order to prevent discussions which might be dangerous.

In Denmark. London, Feb. 1.—A Copenhagen despatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. says that a full meeting of the cabinet was held last night to discuss the German submarine note and its probable effect on Denmark.

Dutch Vessel Sunk. Lloyds announces that the Dutch steamer Epsilon, 3,211 tons, has been sunk. The crew was landed.

America, are booking passengers and freight today as usual. The American lines have received no intimation of any change in sailing programmes on account of the newly announced German naval policy.

CANADIAN ORDER OF FORESTERS. The Canadian Order of Foresters have for years occupied a prominent internal Insurance Societies operating in Canada.

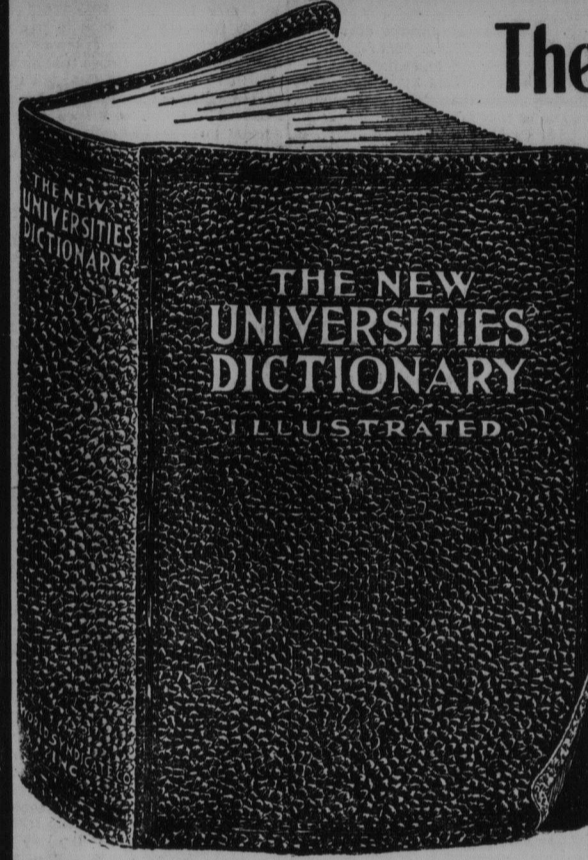
It was instituted in 1879 by 488 members who seceded from the American Order of Foresters. Today it has a membership of over 9,000, which is the largest purely Canadian membership of any of the fraternal insurance societies doing business in the Dominion.

The society has had a most successful record and has accumulated funds, which, at the present time, amount to between five and a half and six million dollars. Last year was apparently

one of the most successful years in the history of the institution. The amount added to the insurance funds for 1916 was between four and five hundred thousand dollars. Notwithstanding this success the management decided to ascertain what the actuarial standing of the society was, and secured the services of one of the most competent actuaries on the continent. Acting on the advice of the actuary, the society decided to re-adjust its rates and place itself upon a basis

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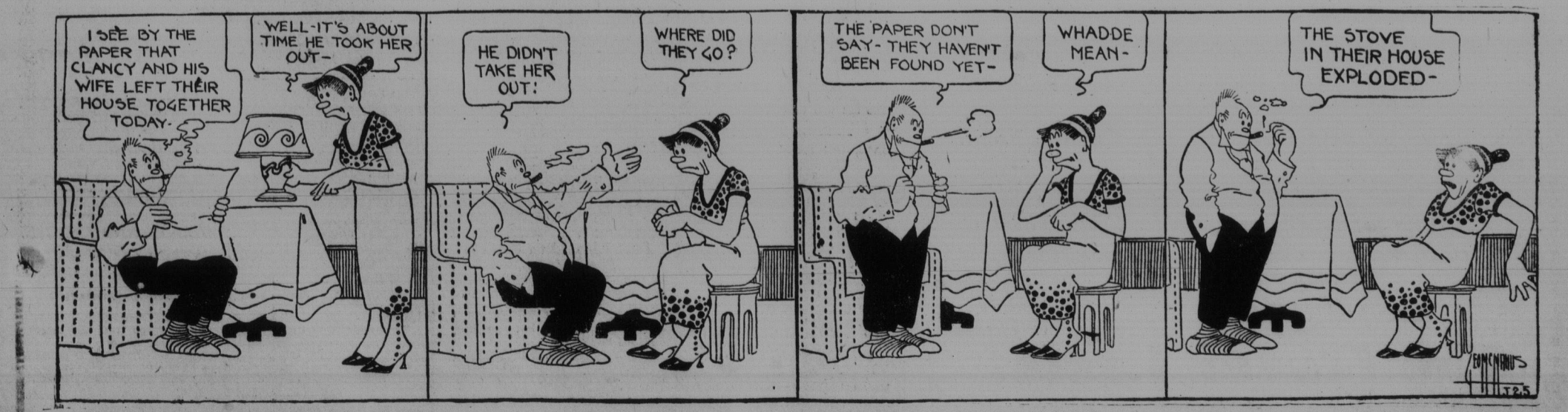
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