

GERMAN REPLY ON LUSITANIA FAILS TO MEET U. S. DEMANDS

Lansing Appears Indignant Because Possibly Inspired Reports Had It That Note Satisfied This Government.

Rumor Says State Department May Break Off Negotiations With von Bernstorff and Insist on Show-down.

Germany's latest position in the Lusitania controversy is unsatisfactory to the American Government.

Out of a chaos of conflicting statements emanating from the State Department and German embassy quarters, this fact stands out as representing the views of the Administration with respect to the latest communication from Berlin.

Refusing even to admit that such a communication has been received, Administration officials are highly incensed over the announcement this morning that the controversy has been virtually settled. There is suspicion in Government circles that friends of the German ambassador, anxious for an early settlement, have assumed to declare that the new communication, represents entirely the views of the United States.

LANSING INDIGNANT.

Secretary of State Lansing appeared especially indignant this morning. On his way to the Cabinet meeting he at first brusquely refused to make any comment. Then he appeared to change his mind suddenly, and said:

"You can say for me that the stories printed this morning are wholly unfounded, and consist of mere speculation, not justified by the facts."

What these facts are he refused to say.

Germany, it is stated, has failed again to meet the demands of the United States with respect to the form of reparations demanded for the sinking of the 116 American women and children who sank with the Cunard liner in its death plunge.

At the present stage of the negotiations, it is understood, the German government still manifests a desire to justify in part at least the sinking of the vessel with its load of human freight. In the opinion of the American Government there is, and can be, no justification for the sinking of the liner.

The communication from Count von Bernstorff is understood to have been received some time last week. It is said to have been transmitted to the White House yesterday, affording regard it as a final expression from Germany to the State Department. It is believed that the intended continuing the confidential negotiations with the ambassador.

In view of what many officials are inclined to state, the "inspired" statements this morning that the agreement had been reached, it is regarded as not improbable that the State Department and the Administration may be considering breaking off these confidential negotiations and insisting upon a showdown direct from Berlin.

The entire atmosphere in Administration circles is one which is almost tense.

58,000 SHARE SALE SENDS STEEL UP

Price Is Boosted to 85 By Active Trading on Eve of Directors' Meeting.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Brokers jammed about the steel post on the stock exchange today in trading which boosted the price of United States Steel common up to 85 a few hours before the corporation directors were to announce their decision as to a dividend.

During the first hour of the market trading in Steel represented a quarter of the business transacted in the entire market. At 11 o'clock 58,000 shares of Steel common had changed hands at prices ranging from 84 to 85. At that hour the issue was quoted at 84 1/2, a fraction below the high mark of the morning.

The most persistent rumors on the floor were that the corporation would declare the regular dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. Other rumors had it, however, that the dividend would be passed, and few expected any extra dividend to be declared.

The attention of the entire market was centered on Steel. Announcement as to the dividend will not be made until after the close this afternoon.

More Danger of War With Britain Than With Germany, Says Mann

Minority Leader in House Speech Suggests Wisdom of Preparing Thoroughly Now For Future. Declares Present Conflict Will Not End Strife Between Nations.

There is more danger of a war with England than with Germany, Republican Leader Mann today declared in a ringing speech in the House announcing he would support preparedness legislation. He urged immediate creation of a standing army of from 250,000 to a half-million men.

"I have much more fear of a war with England than I have of war with Germany," he declared.

Regarding preparedness details, Mann said: "It were well as an emergency we should increase the regular army to 250,000, 300,000 or even a half-million; we should provide ample coast fortifications and a navy able to defend us on the seas."

APPLAUSE FROM BOTH SIDES OF HOUSE.

Loud applause was given Mann, from both Democrats and Republicans, nearly all leaders of both parties being present to hear his speech. The Republican leader urged non-partisan consideration of the question and support of the Administration.

"It is well known that I have never been in favor of a large standing army, and I suppose I have been properly classified as a little party man," said Mann.

Declaring the European powers are in a life and death struggle, Mann said: "Neither side pays much attention to the demands of some less powerful nation not engaged in the conflict."

"No one knows where the aggression on either side against our wishes will finally lead," he continued. "Perhaps this struggle will end in a peace which is the outcome of this, doubt whether a paper peace now, even if it could be entered into, would be the beginning of the end. I think the present conflict is likely to last for many years before either side is declared finally the victor."

"The part of wisdom for us is to prepare thoroughly for any possible trouble. We ought to maintain peace at all hazards, but the time may come when we will not be able to maintain peace. Because it is not within our power to withstand aggression too often."

Promise of Money.

Herbert B. Healis, brother of the negro driver of the death car, testified today in the State effort to establish the alleged guilt of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr as instigator of the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, is being taken today, and by night, it is expected, the decks will be cleared for the defense.

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STATE ENDING ITS TESTIMONY MOHR TRIAL

Handwriting Expert Called to Identify "Alibi" of Victor Brown.

DEFENSE STILL UNCOVERED

Brother of Death Car Driver Declares Brother Expected Lot of Money.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 25.—Closing testimony in the State effort to establish the alleged guilt of Mrs. Elizabeth F. Mohr as instigator of the murder of her husband, Dr. C. Franklin Mohr, is being taken today, and by night, it is expected, the decks will be cleared for the defense.

Herbert B. Healis, brother of the driver of the car in which Dr. Mohr met his death and Miss Emily Burger was wounded, was the first witness today. He was followed by J. H. Clark, a handwriting expert. Two police officers, Inspector Ahearn, and Captain Monahan are expected to take the stand before the day is over to clinch the last spike in the structure of the State's case.

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GERMAN DRIVE UPON FRENCH LINES CHECKED

Advanced Trenches Penetrated, Paris Admits, But Foe Is Driven Out.

RUSSIANS PUSH ON PINSK

Czar's Troops Pressing From Northeast Reported Within Three Miles of City.

PARIS, Jan. 25.—German troops penetrated advanced French trenches in their new offensive movement near the mouth of the Yser. The French war office admitted this afternoon. It was stated that the enemy was later driven out.

The renewal of the German attacks followed a few hours after the bombardment in which more than 20,000 shells were hurled against the French positions. The Germans were first held to their trenches by a screen of fire from French field pieces and machine guns, but later emerged and by a desperate charge gained a foothold in the advanced French positions.

French troops drove them out almost immediately with a shower of hand grenades that inflicted severe losses on the enemy, the war office stated.

The offensive carried enemy troops into the shell craters in the angle of the Arras-Lens road and in the angle of the Neuville St. Vaast-Thelus road. It was also admitted. These positions were subsequently recaptured by the French.

The fighting all along this front continues.

Russian Legions Now Within Three Miles Of the City of Pinsk

PETROGRAD, Jan. 25.—Russian troops, pressing down from the northwest, have approached to within three miles of the city of Pinsk, according to dispatches received here today.

The Germans are strengthening their positions along the Ogninski canal, north of Pinsk, to meet the expected Slav attack. The movement against Pinsk is an extension of the offensive launched against the Austro-Germans in the Kovel-Sarno railroad region a few weeks ago.

Pinsk was occupied by German troops under Field Marshal von Mackensen in the Teutonic drive following the capture of Warsaw. The Germans halted their eastward drive at Pinsk, and Mackensen then turned upon the Balkans. There have been no previous reports of a Russian advance on Pinsk.

Sixteen Aviators Raid Bulgarian Positions Along Greek Border

SALONIKI, Jan. 25.—Sixteen French aeroplanes again bombarded Ghegvel yesterday, killing and wounding more than 100 persons and causing heavy damage to Bulgarian camps.

More than 100 bombs were dropped by the forty-five French aviators who raided southern Serbia cities with important results early yesterday. It is learned. It was the greatest air raid ever executed in the Balkans.

It is reported that the raiders split into two parties, one bombarding Ghegvel, and the other bombarding Thessalonica. Though vigorously shelled, not a single aeroplane was hit.

Three Weeks More.

A verdict within three weeks is unlikely, Attorney Lewis believes. Just what the defense plans to show is not clearly understood today. Attorney Lewis places much credence in the story of an anonymous informant who approached him on the street in Boston promising to give him important information. The former Assistant Attorney General of the United States hopes to have the mysterious witness in court at the proper time. He will not reveal the nature of the man's story or the manner in which it will affect the defense of the negro youths.

END CONGRESS BY JUNE, WILSON BID

Tells Kitchin Legislation Should Be Complete Before Party Conventions Begin.

President Wilson wants Congress to hurry along its work and adjourn the session before the national conventions. He is urging the leaders to speed up legislation and quit for the summer about June 1.

This fact became known today at the Capitol following the conference between the President and Leader Kitchin of the House Democrats. President Wilson was insistent in his conference with Mr. Kitchin that the session end before the conventions.

When the fact concerning the President's desire to crowd through a legislative program and end the session by June 1 or thereabouts became known at the Capitol a stir was caused among both Democrats and Republicans. It is anticipated that strong efforts will be made to do away with dilatory proceedings.

House leaders as well as those on the Senate side indicated that they had no disposition to drag out the session. Many are skeptical about the possibility of ending the session early in June. One effect of the President's attitude will undoubtedly be to force preparedness legislation to a head much more quickly than has been anticipated.

DEMOCRATS PLAN TO MAKE RICH PAY FOR DEFENSE



CONGRESSMAN CORDELL HULL

DRASTIC MEASURE IS DUE SOON IS BOTH HOUSES

Income Tax Law to Raise \$100,000,000 Additional Revenue Planned.

TO PUT BILL UP TO WILSON

By THEODORE TILLER.

An income tax law that will raise approximately \$100,000,000 additional revenue—most of it wrung from the wealthier classes—is the Democratic answer to the national defense problem.

Plans are under way today at the Capitol to amend the income tax law so that the long arms of the taxing power shall extend deep into the pockets of the rich and delve gently into the purse of the man of moderate salary. It is only a question of time until an amended income tax bill is presented at the White House for the signature of the President.

If there existed any doubt that the income tax was destined to become the chief revenue producer of the Administration at this period of monetary need, it was removed by the decision of the Supreme Court which on yesterday upheld the constitutionality of the income tax in its every phase.

HALL CONGRATULATED.

Congressman Cordell Hull, author of the income tax section of the Underwood-Simmons tariff law, is today receiving the congratulations of his colleagues upon the fact that his legislative creation has withstood the highest test. Meanwhile, Mr. Hull bided his time, and is now ready to present his bill to the House and its further possibilities as a revenue producer.

Mr. Hull announced in effect that there is to be a general readjustment of the rates of the income tax, although he qualified his statement by saying that it is not proposed that the tax shall become "burdensome."

That the revenue from the income tax may be doubled without the imposition of unfair tax burdens was confidently asserted by the taxation expert of the Ways and Means Committee. It is generally believed that the amended law is to hit the man who is most able to pay. Proposals to increase more special taxes on such things as automobiles and dozens of articles in every day use are slated for the legislative discard.

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