

President to interrupt his trip because of the Ancona crisis. The decision not to send an ultimatum was hailed to-night in Teutonic quarters as a sure indication that the United States is anxious to avoid a break. Until to-night officials of the Austrian and German embassies had believed that this government was deliberately seeking a rupture with Austria.

An ultimatum, it was said in quarters close to the Austrian Embassy, would be the only logical step to follow the recent exchange of notes. By electing a milder course, it is held, the State Department plainly shows that it regrets the harshness of its first note and indicates a willingness to debate the Ancona case.

Expected Sterner Course. That Austria expected this government to adopt the sterner course is believed here to be shown by the fact that the correspondence was published in Vienna. Unofficial statements had been made that its publication would make it impossible for the Austrian government to yield. Giving the American note and the Austrian reply to the press was, therefore, the logical step to be taken by the Austrian government to convince its people that the break in relations was forced by the United States.

"The Austrian government had only one alternative to the course it has chosen," The Tribune was told to-night. "That was to break off relations with the United States. The language of the American note was not such as one friendly nation uses toward another. It was a slap in the face, and no self-respecting nation could comply with any demand so expressed."

"If the State Department is of the same mind as when it wrote that note it will send an ultimatum to Austria at once. If this step is not taken,

then it is evident that the State Department has changed its mind. In that case there is no doubt about the final outcome. When two nations agree to discuss a matter in the language of friendship a solution can usually be found.

There is no direct suggestion that Austria is willing to yield to the United States, even after a prolonged controversy. On the contrary, Austrian circles believe that an agreement will be reached on a compromise basis and that the United States will consider-ably modify its demands after another exchange of views. It is believed probable that the chances of concessions from Austria will be greater a few weeks hence, when the indignation caused by the first American note has subsided.

Only Widened Gap. If these forecasts are correct, the only effect of the Ancona correspondence will have been to widen the gap that separates the United States and the Teutonic powers and to postpone indefinitely a settlement of the Lusitania affair. The advantage of such an outcome would be all in favor of Germany. Whereas, technically, the administration will be credited with another "diplomatic victory" if the Ancona crisis passes without a break in relations, the net result of such a victory will be a long breathing spell for Germany, during which new events may conceivably grant a new postponement of the reckoning for the Lusitania.

Prince Hohenzollern, one of the attaches of the Austrian Embassy, called at Secretary Lansing's office to-day and aroused much speculation by leaving what appeared to be a communication. Later it was learned that the prince had left several dispatches in either which he desired to transmit to his government. Code messages of this character are

required to pass through the State Department before they can be wireless. The messages, it was said, contained reports of informal conferences Baron Zwoedinek, charge of the embassy, has had with Secretary Lansing, as well as an interpretation of public opinion here in regard to the Ancona negotiations.

The Lusitania has already been relegated to the remote background by a succession of new happenings which, while intrinsically of minor importance, are regarded by the administration as of more immediate interest. There is little likelihood, in the opinion either of American or German officials, that any earnest attempt at settlement will be made until Captain von Papen and Boy-Ed and the Ancona case are forgotten.

The only uncertain element, it is generally admitted, is Congress. While there is no present indication that the President's international policy into the foreground, several Southern members are ready to spring forth at any moment against Great Britain's blockade tactics. What this will call down from the other side was hinted a few days ago by Senator Lodge, who declared in answer to a pro-conviction speech by Senator Smith that "the body of an innocent child, floating dead upon the ocean, is to me a more poignant spectacle than an unsold bale of cotton."

Five Die as Fog Causes R. R. Crash. Eleven Injured in Rear-End Collision of B. & O. Trains Near Chester.

Chester, Penn., Dec. 17.—Five persons were killed and eleven injured, one probably fatally, in a rear-end collision between an accommodation train bound from Wilmington to Chester and a train of empty express cars on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to-night at Felton, two miles south of this city. Two of the dead were employees of the railroad and two were negro passengers whose bodies have not been identified. Daniel Gallenger, a passenger from Philadelphia, was the fifth victim. Of the injured, Otto Phillips, also of Philadelphia, was the most seriously hurt. His skull was fractured and physicians say that his recovery is doubtful. All the injured live in Philadelphia, Chester and nearby towns.

The accident was due, according to railroad officials, to dense fog, which made it impossible for the engine men to see signals. The accommodation train, consisting of three day coaches and an engine, was standing at Felton station when the other train crashed into it. All three coaches of the accommodation were telescoped and the engine was hurled down an embankment.

A moment after the accident an express train from Philadelphia for Baltimore crashed into the wreckage, but little damage resulted. Traffic was completely tied up for several hours, trains to and from the South being run over the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks between Edgemore and Wilmington.

WAR VETERAN A KIDNAPPER. Arrested at Grand Central With Little Massachusetts Girls.

Seventy-three-year-old David Gilson, with no home, no money, no occupation—nothing in fact, but a Grand Army uniform, credentials, and Elsie and Vivian James, eleven and nine, whom he kidnapped from Lowell, Mass., several days ago—was arrested at the Grand Central Terminal last night, and locked up in Police Headquarters.

Inspired by an appeal from Mrs. Alice James, mother of the missing children, Detectives Curry and Kalbfleisch were watching the terminal last night when they saw the venerable Gilson leading the two little girls from the building. The attitude of the charges toward their guide did not indicate the confidence of grandchildren, and Gilson was arrested on suspicion. He confessed to the kidnapping, but would give no reason for his act. The two little girls were placed in the care of the Children's Society and their mother notified.

AUSTRIAN PRESS ASSERTS WILSON OVERSTEPS LAW. Editorials on Reply to the U. S. Note Are Marked by Moderation.

DENY THAT VIENNA IS BERLIN'S VASSAL. Germans Back Ally's Stand—France Expects Penfield Will Be Recalled.

Vienna, Dec. 16 (delayed).—The editorial comment on the Austro-Hungarian government's reply to the American government's note concerning the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona is characterized by moderation. The reply was published this morning. The comment of the "Neue Freie Presse" is probably the most caustic of any of the newspapers.

"Baron Burian," says this newspaper, "has answered the uncouth note of the United States with careful reserve. In the preliminary counter explanation the effort is made to induce the Washington Cabinet to establish the reliability of the charges that international law had been violated, instead of accepting the generalities of accusations made in a state of superexcitement."

The calm treatment of the American note is good, for the reason that the Old World has been stupid enough to make itself economically dependent upon the New World by wasting its strength. But it will show itself superior in the politeness governing the relations between peoples.

"Evidence is Missing." The "Neue Freie Presse" and other papers point to the impossibility of the Austro-Hungarian government admitting that the commander of the submarine which sank the Ancona should be punished for a possible deficiency on the demand of another government when the evidence on which such a demand is based is not accessible to the Austro-Hungarian government and consists entirely of statements made by the plaintiff's side. The newspapers say this is contrary to any law or system of jurisprudence, and, in addition, incompatible with the fundamental principles of state sovereignty.

The American government, the newspapers assert, would not think of granting any such demand for the reasons stated, nor could it entertain doing so if it did not desire utterly to demoralize its naval service by giving its officers to understand that, while they were expected to carry out orders, the consequences of performing the duties so imposed would be visited on them.

U. S. is Plaintiff. Concerning the American attitude—that Austria-Hungary should base its instructions to submarine commanders on the American notes to the German government in the Lusitania case—the newspapers say that, while the American government would be justified in making its position in that instance a precedent, it could not use it on the principle that ignorance is no excuse before the law, since in this case the American government is not a grantee, but the plaintiff, who enjoys, according to international law, no prerogatives nor privileges which the Austro-Hungarian government, as the agent of a sovereign people, does not have.

Nor, say the editorials, is the American government justified in looking on Austria-Hungary as Germany's vassal state. This idea, which they assume the Washington note indirectly indicates, they declare to be most absurd. Austria-Hungary, they add, is never, is a separate and independent state, and any relations the American government may have with Austria-Hungary must have this fact as a basis.

Some of the papers express the belief that the American note was hastily drafted, and that its equity aspects were not thoroughly considered before the note was transmitted, because, they argue, there is no reason to believe that Washington, as the champion of international law, would have purposely ignored so fundamental a principle of international law as state sovereignty, which the note in many essentials entirely overlooks.

Berlin Papers Call U. S. Note Inapt and Deficient. Berlin, Dec. 17.—The afternoon newspapers to-day print a wireless dispatch from New York, circulated by the Wolff Bureau, giving the editorial comment of some of the American newspapers as indicating that Washington would consider Austria's refusal to fulfil the American demands regarding the Ancona sufficient cause for severing relations, not only with Austria-Hungary, but with Germany.

The news was prominently featured, but only the "Tageszeitung" commented on it, saying that it seemed to be an attempt to bring pressure to bear on Austria-Hungary through Germany. "The American assumption that Germany and Austria in the submarine problem cannot be regarded as separate parties," says the "Tageszeitung," "is absolutely without any legal foundation. The American hopes, either to force submission on Austria, or to sow dissension between the two allies by this method, will come to naught."

Captain J. Persius, naval expert of the "Tagblatt," in the following comment this morning on the Austrian note: "Washington plainly forgot when it sent its note that its case rested on statements of excited passengers and against sworn statements of Austrian naval officers. The American note shows little diplomatic aptness. It was regrettable hurried work, based on one-sided and inadequate information, and amazingly deficient in juristic understanding."

"The Austrian note, on the contrary, points out the weakness and absurdity of these accusations."

"The 'Cologne Gazette' says: 'America may now choose. If it desires intercourse as a well managed state with another large and well managed state, it must bring itself to concede to the standpoint of the Vienna note and first fulfil conditions without which the question at issue cannot be dealt with between nations of equal standing. As an alternative it will have to send its note that its case rested on statements of excited passengers and against sworn statements of Austrian naval officers. The American note shows little diplomatic aptness. It was regrettable hurried work, based on one-sided and inadequate information, and amazingly deficient in juristic understanding.'"

TO RIP LID OFF DEALS DWARFING WOOD CHARGES. Startling Exposures Promised To-day by Head of Signal Company.

GRAND JURY ASKED TO AWAIT DETAILS. Rumor of \$280,000 "Slush Fund" Spreads at Thompson Committee Hearing.

New and startling disclosures regarding the methods employed by signal companies in getting large and juicy contracts in which other than Commissioner Wood are implicated are looked for by the Thompson Committee to-day.

The testimony which Senator Thompson expects was considered so valuable by him that last night he laid the subject before District Attorney Perkins and asked him to hold up the grand jury investigation of the Wood charges until he had an opportunity to examine several witnesses at to-day's hearing. The notes charged were discussed at an executive session of the committee yesterday, with the result that the committee also deferred action on the Wood charges until after to-day's session.

Senator Thompson refused last night to say what the new charges or testimony he expected consisted of, but there were intimations that the lid would be ripped off the methods employed by some signal companies in getting business, with results more startling than the charges made against Commissioner Wood.

Hints before the committee yesterday that the General Signal Company hired Sydney G. Johnson for the purpose of obtaining the big Fourth Avenue subway contract by the same means that he sought to obtain the Centre Street loop contract for the Union Switch and Signal Company, and for which the latter company demanded \$1,000,000, and that Mr. Uptegraff had suggested a warfare between the two corporations. The officers of the two concerns declare that no mercy will be shown and that all the cards will be laid on the table and a spade called a spade.

Attorney Causes Bad Feeling. Salmon O. Levinson, attorney for the Union Signal Company, is responsible for the bitter feeling between the officers of the two companies, which has assumed larger proportions than a mere business rivalry. As a result of this sensational testimony is expected, Mr. Levinson testified before the committee yesterday that an honest man the inference was irresistible that the General Company was to use Johnson for the same purpose for which the Union Company had discharged him.

Mr. Levinson was testifying to a conversation he had had with W. W. Salmon, president of the General Company, soon after that company had hired Johnson. In the course of this conversation, he said, he had protested against the employment of Johnson because of his connection with the demand for \$500,000 which he said was to be given to Commissioner Wood.

Mr. Salmon, who was sitting near Mr. Levinson, became so aroused that as soon as the Union company attorney left the stand he rushed up to Senator Thompson and demanded that he be placed on the stand in order to tell some things which would prove startling and sensational. Senator Thompson promised to give him the opportunity to-day.

After Mr. Salmon's talk with Senator Thompson rumors of a slush fund approximating \$280,000, used to get signal contracts, began to spread around the hearing room. Testimony and that of Colonel Henry G. Prout and John R. McCune, president of the American National Bank of Pittsburgh and a director in the Union company, was largely corroborative of previous testimony regarding the slush fund. Mr. Salmon for \$5,000 to give to Wood, although the details in some instances were different.

Tells of Directors' Meeting. Mr. Levinson is from Chicago and is a large stockholder in the Union Company. He testified that Johnson and Colonel Prout, then president of the Union Company, had demanded at the directors' meeting on July 15 that the \$50,000 be given at once, that the time in which they had promised to give the money to Wood was overdue and that unless they got it at once there was danger that the Union company would not get the Centre Street loop signal contract.

"Will you tell us what occurred at that meeting," asked Mr. Lewis "in that connection with the Centre Street loop contract?"

"The question came up—we had known it for a few days—as to the payment of the \$50,000 asked by Colonel Prout and Mr. Johnson to be paid, as I understood it," Mr. Levinson said, "to Mr. Wood, of the Public Service Commission, for or in consideration of Mr. Wood securing this Centre Street loop contract for the Union Switch and Signal Company."

"Was it for securing or in consideration of his influence or efforts to secure?"

"Well, it seemed to be taken for granted, that he could land the contract, but I don't know whether it would include his influence. It certainly meant his vote, as we understood it, the acquisition of the contract."

and they wanted to make their word good." "Had the check been drawn?" asked Mr. Lewis.

"Oh, I did not understand that any check or voucher had been drawn at all," Mr. Levinson answered. "I stated to them and I was impressed it was a sort of strange proceeding, that they seemed to think mere of making good their word than they did of the helplessness of bribing a public official. They insisted because they wanted to make their word good."

"That was Johnson's promise?" Mr. Lewis asked.

"Johnson's promise," Mr. Levinson replied, "but the colonel knew about it, and had cooperated with Johnson in dealing with Wood."

Tells of Talk with Salmon. Mr. I. Johnson before going on the witness stand had been before the grand jury, and he seemed full of pep in the relating of his story. He never hesitated to answer the questions of Mr. Lewis, and it seemed that his answers were merely a rehearsal of testimony he had given only a short while before.

Getting down to the meeting with Mr. Salmon, president of the General Company, at the Vanderbilt Hotel soon after the General Company had hired Johnson, Mr. Levinson said he merely happened at the hotel, and at the suggestion of Mr. Uptegraff agreed to see Mr. Salmon.

"Among other things," Mr. Levinson said, in telling of the conversation, "I said: 'Mr. Salmon, I understand your company has taken over Mr. Sydney Johnson and have made him an official of your company.' He said: 'Yes, vice-president in charge of sales, and also a director.' I said: 'Do you know the circumstances under which he was let out of your company?' He said: 'You know all about it.'"

"Did you ask him what he was going to have Mr. Johnson do?" the chairman asked.

"I know what that meant, as vice-president and in charge of sales. We did not discuss it. He had charge of getting contracts for the General Signal Company. That meant getting contracts and getting work, such as the B. R. T. contract which followed."

"Well, do you know, do you mean to indicate from that, that they were to use him for the same purpose for which you had discharged him?"

"Well, I think to an honest man the inference would be irresistible. They were giving him the same title that he had with our company, and therefore it is to be assumed he would do similar work, whatever he could do."

Colonel Prout is a nervous little man, seventy years old, with a somewhat bad memory, and when he went on the witness stand about the only things he was sure about were that Johnson had not promised to pay Wood the \$500,000 and that Mr. Uptegraff had not suggested to Johnson that he charge up that sum to his expense account as a way out of the difficulty. He refused to waive immunity.

He said he believed that Johnson had assured him that Wood would use his influence in the Union Company's favor.

Colonel Prout said that after the proposition had been broached by Johnson he insisted on taking it before the board of directors. The Centre Street loop contract, he said, was the beginning of a situation which meant that the company that got it would be in a strong position to get the larger one which followed. That was the reason he took the responsibility for getting the contract up to the board of directors.

Mr. McCune's testimony, in the main, was similar to that given by Mr. Levinson. He said that Johnson and Prout had insisted on the money being paid on the day of the directors' meeting, because, they said, that if they did not get it the company would not get the contract.

Colonel Prout, he said, was asked for his resignation because he was just as guilty as Johnson.

"What do you mean by just as guilty?" Mr. Lewis asked.

"Just as guilty of bribery, or attempted bribery," Mr. McCune answered.

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BLOW-THEN THROW MATCH Ordinance Censors Smokers in Fire Prevention Campaign. Blow out your matches before you throw them away in any building or public conveyance, or you will subject yourself to arrest. Be careful not to throw away any lighted cigars or cigarette stumps. If a metal receptacle happens to be handy, it is all right to deposit them in it; otherwise, beware!

An ordinance to that effect was favorably received yesterday at a meeting of the General Welfare Committee of the Board of Aldermen. It was introduced by Alderman Henry H. Curran at the suggestion of Fire Commissioner Adamson. Deputy Fire Commissioner Weeks presented a brief to the committee which showed that fires started by the careless use of matches, cigars and cigarettes during 1913 and 1914 had caused an estimated loss of \$727,402.

Human Haberdashery Arrested. Westfield, N. J., Dec. 17.—Stanley de Rosa, an eighteen-year-old Austrian who lived for more than a month in his haystack on the Frank Paulliker farm, was held by the police to-day, pending an investigation. He wore five pairs of trousers, three shirts and three coats which had to be cut off so he could take a bath. His only food for the last month has been dried lima beans and apples, which he picked up on the ground.

Diamonds 20 to 30 Per Cent. Under the Market. Because of a purchase from two manufacturing jewelers of integrity, we are offering 506 pieces of platinum mounted diamond jewelry with pure white, perfect stones, at 20 to 30 per cent. below current rates—now \$22 to \$2,900. This is the great Christmas news for Saturday. Brooches from \$70 to \$1,150. Rings from \$22 to \$680. Bracelets from \$280 to \$500. Collars from \$1,275 to \$2,900. Chains from \$55 to \$525. Necklaces from \$60 to \$2,800. Scarf Pins from \$40 to \$210. Links from \$68 to \$285. Jewelry Store, Main floor, Old Building.

John Wanamaker Broadway at Ninth, New York. JOHN WANAMAKER—SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER Victrola Outfits Include Records BUT ONLY IF PURCHASED IN DECEMBER—as explained below.

Will There Be a Victrola in Your Home This Christmas? It is So Easily Arranged at WANAMAKER'S. Go to Our Victrola Section—New Building. It is on the First Gallery—adjoining the Auditorium. Twenty private rooms—for our patrons. Plenty of salesmen—ask any to demonstrate. HOW IT IS DONE. The assortment includes all models with great stocks back of them. Make your selection—get the best you can afford. The price is the least consideration, as you need not pay the whole amount at once. \$5 down and a like amount monthly—and either the \$50, the \$75 or the \$100 Victrola comes into your home. \$10 to be paid each month buys the best—the one in the picture. Either Purchase Entitles You—during December only, to Victor records to the value of your first payment. In simple words, buy the Victrola—pay \$10 down and take it in records and the \$200 Victrola can be paid off in twenty monthly payments of \$10 each—first payment being due in January, 1916. JOHN WANAMAKER Broadway at Ninth Street (Astor Place), New York.

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