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SENATORS OPPOSE LIGHTING MEASURE AS PARTISAN ACT

Opposition Manifests Itself Directly Against Saunders Water-Light Bill on Floor in Debate.

DEMOCRATS ARE AGAINST IT

Grace Gives Views in Extended Debate When Matter is Up in Committee of Whole.

HOAGLAND DISLIKES SYSTEM

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Feb. 18.—(Special.)—

Opposition developed today to S. F. No. 6, the Saunders measure permitting the Metropolitan Water district of Omaha to engage in the electric lighting business. The bill was discussed in committee of the whole where Senators Grace and Hoagland made plain they were against it and an undercurrent of sympathy with their position was plainly apparent.

Senator Grace declared that Manager Howell of the district was urging the bill as a partisan measure. Off the floor it is frequently said he is seeking to build up a republican machine in his own behalf.

Senator Hoagland of Lancaster, a republican, told the senate that if the Greater Omaha bill were a law, the consolidated cities would be in better shape to enter the lighting business than the water district.

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DIPLOMATS LOOMING UP IN THE WAR GAME—Count von Bernstorff, the ambassador for Germany at Washington, and M. Bark, the Russian minister of finance (the latter in conference with the British minister in London and the French finance minister).



Count von Bernstorff

FRANK JAMES DIES ON MISSOURI FARM

One of Last Members of Notorious Gang Terrorizing Dozen States Succumbs.

IN ILL-HEALTH FOR MONTHS

EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, Mo., Feb. 18.—

Frank James, one of the last surviving members of the notorious James gang, died on his farm here late this afternoon. James, who was 74 years old, had been in ill health several months and was stricken with apoplexy early today.

One of the last members of a notorious robber band whose unparalleled career of crime during the civil war and the unsettled period that followed, kept the people of a dozen states in terror, Frank James had been living the life of a quiet farmer for more than thirty years.

How They Begun. The son of a minister, respected through out the community, Frank James joined Quantrell's Guerrillas in the civil war together with his brother Jesse, and took part in the sacking of Lawrence, Kan.

When the war came to an end they were hunted far and wide by relatives of those who had met death at their hands. Driven here and there, they soon became outlaws. Many notorious crimes of the decade following the war have been laid at the door of the Jameses.

(Continued on Page Five, Column One.)

Testifies His Firm Suffered Through Master Plumbers

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 18.—

Edward Hamman, vice president and general manager of a New York plumbing supply house, testified for the defense in the trial of the thirty-six master plumbers in federal court here today, and declared his firm had not suffered by reason of the activities of the National Association of Master Plumbers of America. He said he never had been influenced by the so-called "complaint slips" that had been sent to him, and that he sells non-members of the association as well as to those of the organization.

Out of about 4,200 customers, Hamman declared, at least 2,000 were independent, and the fact that he continues to sell to them has caused no estrangement between himself and the association or any of its members.

The witness quoted Frank J. Fee, president of the association, as once having said that he was "unalterably opposed to discrimination by manufacturers as to organization members or independents."

GRAND JURY REFUSES TO INDICT SUBWAY OFFICERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—

The grand jury investigating the elevated wreck in this city last December in which two lives were lost announced today its refusal to indict any of the officials or directors of the Interborough Rapid Transit company, who have been held under \$5,000 bail each by Coroner Riederer on charges of culpable neglect in connection with the administration of the road's affairs. The grand jury stated also that it would not indict employees of the company.

GERMANY TELLS U.S. IT WILL NOT CHANGE DECREE

Berlin's Reply Couched in Most Friendly Terms, but Nevertheless Firmly Maintains Its Position.

DRIVEN TO ACTION BY BRITAIN

Note to United States Says Neutral Shipping Must Take Chances in War Zone.

FAVORS ESCORT OF WARSHIPS

BULLETIN.

THE HAGUE (Via London, 5:15 p. m.)—

The government of the Netherlands has refused a request for war vessels to convoy Dutch merchant ships through the marine areas prescribed by Germany on the ground that such action would enhance the risks of ships without such escorts.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—(Via London)

The reply of Germany to the protest of the United States against a blockade of British waters is couched in the most friendly terms, but firmly maintains the position of Germany as already announced. The answer, which is a lengthy document, was converted into code at the United States embassy under the direction of Ambassador Gerard and has been transmitted in full to Washington.

The note explains that Germany's proposed action is rendered necessary by Great Britain's policy of attempting to cut off the food supply for the German civil population by a method never recognized in international law. England's course ordering merchantmen to fly neutral flags, equipping them with artillery with orders to destroy submarines, the German reply contends renders nugatory the right of search, thus giving Germany the right to attack English shipping. Germany holds that it cannot abandon the right under the stress which England has forced upon it.

Since Germany must compel the nations with which it is at war to return to the recognized principles of international law and restore the freedom of the seas, it argues that the stand it has taken is necessary.

Recommendations.

The note recommends that the United States government send warships to England to convoy merchant vessels through the danger zone as security against attack, with the understanding that vessels thus guarded shall carry no war supplies.

Hope is expressed that the American government will understand the position in which Germany has been placed and appreciate the reasons for its course.

The reply closes with an expression of the hope that the United States may prevail upon Great Britain "to return to the principles of international law recognized prior to the outbreak of the war" and in particular obtain the observance of the London declaration by belligerents opposed to Germany. If this were done, the note explains, Germany would be enabled to import food supplies and raw materials. Germany would recognize in this, says the reply, an invaluable service toward a more humane conduct of the war and would act in accordance with the new situation thus created.

Iowa House Repeals Mule Law, State Goes Dry January 1

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 18.—

Iowa has before it the prospect of statewide prohibition after January 1 next year as the result of action by the house of the general assembly today. The Clarkson bill, which last Friday passed the senate, was put through the house by "dry" leaders by a vote of 79 to 25, and now lacks only the signature of Governor Clarke to make it effective January 1, 1916. That it will receive the executive sanction was considered a foregone conclusion to anti-liquor leaders tonight.

It is quite likely, according to these leaders, that the measure will be in shape for presentation to the governor before the end of the week. The bill passed by the senate last week providing for the submission to the voters of a constitutional amendment for prohibition is expected to come up in the house next week, with excellent prospects for its passage, according to "dry" leaders.

The National Capital

Thursday, February 18, 1915.

The Senate.

Met at noon. Leaders conferred on some plan for considering the appropriation measures and the administration ship bill.

The committee investigating charges of influence against the ship bill continued taking testimony.

Sent ship purchase bill to conference after voting all amendments contained. Adjourned at 7 p. m. to 11 a. m. Friday.

The House.

Met at 10 a. m. Debate was continued on the pension "fortifications" bills carrying more than \$1,000,000, exclusive of the Panama canal, was reported to the house for action. Adjourned at 7:35 p. m. until 11 a. m. Friday.

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British and German Comment

KAISER TRAMPLES LAWS OF SEA UNDER FOOT

LONDON, Feb. 18.—

The reply of Sir Edward Grey to the United States shipping protest is given hearty approval in an editorial in the Times, which says:

"It is a powerful defense of the British position, founded upon those arguments of law and fact which appeal with particular force to American minds as to our own. It comes opportunely on a day when Germany boasts its intention to trample all laws and customs of the sea under its feet."

Sir Edward's reply, the Post argues in an editorial, already is antiquated because of Winston Spencer Churchill's announcement in Parliament Monday of reprisals proposed against the German threat of a blockade. The Post welcomes it, however, as proving that Sir Edward has come to a realization that war cannot be prosecuted successfully by indulging in ideals.

Let Germany do its worst," says the Post. "It has done the allies' cause excellent service because its threats have destroyed the declarations of London and Paris and persuaded our government to exercise the full pressure of our sea power as it was used in the days of Nelson."

The morning papers unite in expressing warm approval of the reply of the foreign secretary. The Daily News says:

"Europe is reeling into barbarism. The fault is not ours, but the position of the Washington government is none the easier for that."

The Telegraph says:

"Sir Edward Grey exposes the springs of British policy with a completeness which we believe will carry conviction in America. We hitherto have used the tremendous weapon of sea power with every reasonable restraint, but by Germany's flagrant and outrageous acts we stand defeated in our benevolent intention and now it only remains for the allies to announce the exact character of their measures to increase the economic pressure on the enemy."

JAPANESE MOVE WORRIES ENGLAND

Demands on China Cause Anxiety in Britain and Earl Grey Asked for Information.

SAYS HE IS UNABLE TO GIVE IT

LONDON, Feb. 18.—

The anxiety felt here concerning the demands Japan made upon China in the course of the negotiations which, almost immediately followed the occupation by Japan of the German concession of Kiao Chow, was exemplified in a request made in Parliament this afternoon for the publication of the text of these demands. Answering his questioner, Foreign Secretary Grey said:

"I am not at present in a position to communicate to the house information on this subject, which has been given me confidentially by the Japanese government."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—

China has devalued to Great Britain, France, Russia and the United States a memorandum of the demands made by Japan in the latter part of January. They differ materially from the eleven demands communicated to the powers by the Japanese government on February 9.

Kai Fu Shih, the Chinese minister here, delivered the memorandum to the United States, giving the first official information here as to the demands originally made by Japan on China.

Both the Chinese version and the Japanese memorandum of the demands now in hand the United States today directed an informal inquiry through its diplomatic representatives at both Tokio and Peking to clear up the discrepancies between the two versions and determine accurately what is the present basis of negotiation.

Report of Conversation.

It was suggested in some quarters that the memorandum now given by China to the powers was a report of a conversation between the Japanese minister at Peking and the Chinese foreign secretary, and that when the latter rejected the demands eleven were retained which were revealed to the powers in a memorandum given to the diplomatic representatives of the powers at Tokio.

While officials and diplomats representing Great Britain, France and Russia here guarded with the utmost secrecy the two versions of the demands it was learned that China originally was asked by Japan for much more extensive privileges than are contained in the eleven demands later pressed.

There was a disposition to believe that the latter demands asking for special privileges in certain localities—that is, in Shantung, Southern Manchuria and Inner Mongolia—would be the ones for which Japan would continue to ask for an acceptance, since those did not concern the whole of China, and in the view of many observers do not conflict with the principle of the integrity of China, the open door or freedom of opportunity in the far east.

TOKIO, Feb. 18.—

It was learned here today that Japan recently explained the tenor of its demands upon China to certain friendly powers, including the United States.

The impression is held in some quarters in Tokio that, without intending to disturb the open door policy, the integrity of China, or the spheres of influence of other powers, Japan will gradually seek to extend its influence in China. It feels, it is being argued in Tokio, that its position entitles it to a predominant role in development of the Chinese republic.

ADRIATIC FLIES UNION JACK ALL WAY ACROSS

LONDON, Feb. 18.—

The White Star steamer Adriatic, which arrived at Liverpool this afternoon from New York, after an uneventful trip, flew the British flag all the way across the Atlantic. The Adriatic crossed the Irish Sea at night.

TRAFFIC FROM GREAT BRITAIN TO HOLLAND TIED UP

Partial Suspension of Passenger Traffic is First Effect of the German Decree Creating War Zone.

INSURANCE RATES ARE LOWER

Government Also Arranges to Pay Sailors Injured as Result of Hostilities.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN EAST

The Day's War News

GERMANY has declined to alter its position in consequence of the American note concerning the war zone decree, although expressing the most friendly feelings toward this country. The German reply recommends that the United States send warships to protect American vessels passing through the danger zone.

EMPEROR WILLIAM has telegraphed to the president of the province of East Prussia that the Russians have been completely defeated and driven from the province.

VIENNA says that the Russians have been defeated in Bukovina, where the Austro-German forces have been advancing recently. The Austrians have occupied Kolomoia after a hard battle. A report from the Russians was at first, however, asserted that there is no change in Bukovina.

TURKEY has yielded to Greece and offered satisfaction for the insult to the Greek naval attaché at Constantinople.

BULLETIN.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—

Insurance was placed at Lloyd's today at 20 guineas per cent on policies covering the holder against war between the United States and Germany within six months. One month ago the premium for this same risk and period of time was 5 guineas per cent.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—

The blockade of the United Kingdom by Germany is on. With the dawn of February 18 there went into effect the German notice warning neutral shipping to avoid British waters.

What will be the effect of this declaration will take a day or two to demonstrate. British shipping interests profess to feel no alarm, nevertheless all passenger traffic from England to Holland has been tied up.

In the meantime the British public is perusing the German note answering the American communication concerning the war zone blockade. It perceives no yielding on the part of the Imperial government and it now awaits the pronouncement of Great Britain's expected retaliatory campaign.

Illustrations showing British and German submarines are now being distributed to acquaint skippers of merchant vessels with the appearance of their own and hostile undersea vessels, so they will not fire on or ram a British submarine by mistake.

It is not known what the admiralty instructions to skippers are, although a hint was found in the recent declaration of the captain of the British steamer Laertes, who refused to surrender to a German submarine.

Few Changes in Sailings.

All important shipping companies have announced that there will be no change in their regular sailings, while British, French and Belgian owned cross-channel steamers are maintaining their schedules. The Dutch company which maintains a mailing service between Flushing and Folkestone has suspended sailings and there has been some talk of mail being carried by Dutch destroyers.

There has been no increase in insurance rates and in fact the government actually has reduced rates for fishing vessels, at the same time having arranged to pay compensation to sailors who may be injured as the result of hostilities. They

(Continued on Page Four, Column Four.)

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