

WILL INSIST SHIPS FLYING U. S. FLAG BE IDENTIFIED BRITAIN REFUSES TO YIELD

England Refuses to Discontinue Use of American Emblem, Saying It Is Right of Belligerents.

PASSES BUCK TO GERMANY

If U. S. Vessels Are Sunk Such Act Will Constitute Piracy For Which She Alone Is Responsible, Claim.

London, Feb. 22.—Sir Edward Grey, the British foreign minister, last night made public Britain's reply to the United States' protest against the use of the American flag by British merchant vessels in the German war zone. England refuses to discontinue the practice, though Sir Edward declares the use of the Stars and Stripes will not be made a general custom. Britain maintains that it is the privilege of vessels of a belligerent nation to use the flags of neutral nations to escape capture; that such privilege is recognized by the other powers; that customs of war require hostile warships to ascertain definitely the nationality of merchant vessels before taking possession of them and finally that if German submarines sink neutral vessels without having taken precautions to ascertain their nationality, such acts will be acts of piracy, for which Germany will be held responsible.

The following is the text of the reply of Great Britain to the American note, as handed to Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador: "The memorandum communicated on the 17th of February calls attention in courteous and friendly terms to the action of the captain of the British steamship Lusitania in raising the flag of the United States of America when approaching British waters and says that the government of the United States would feel anxiety in considering the possibility of any general use of the flag of the United States by British vessels traversing those waters, since the effect of such a policy might be to bring about a menace to the lives and vessels of United States citizens. It was understood that the German government announced their intention of sinking British merchant vessels at sight by torpedoes, without giving any opportunity to make any provision for the saving of lives of non-combatant crews and passengers. It was in view of this that the Lusitania raised the United States flag on her inward voyage.

Americans Requested It. "On her subsequent outward voyage a request was made by United States passengers, which were embarking on board, that the United States flag should be hoisted, presumably, to insure their safety. Meanwhile, the memorandum from your excellency had been received. His majesty's government did not give any advice to the company as to how to meet this request and it understood that the Lusitania left Liverpool under the British flag.

"It seems unnecessary to say more as regards the Lusitania in particular. "In regard to the use of foreign flags by merchant vessels, the British merchant shipping act provides that it is clear that the use of the British flag by foreign merchant vessels is permitted in time of war for the purpose of escaping capture. It is believed in the case of other states there is similar recognition of the same practice with respect to their flag and that none of them has forbidden it.

"It would, therefore, be unreasonable to expect his majesty's government to pass legislation forbidding the use of foreign flags by British merchant vessels to avoid capture by the enemy, now that the German government have announced their intention to sink merchant vessels at sight with their non-combatant crews, cargoes and papers, a proceeding hitherto regarded by the opinion of the world as piracy. It is felt that the United States government could not fairly ask the British government to order merchant vessels to forego a means always hitherto permitted of escaping not only capture but the much worse fate of sinking and destruction.

ELECTION INQUIRY IS SURE TO BE ORDERED

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—In spite of efforts of Senator John Sharp Williams to block it, Senator Norris' resolution for investigation of campaign expenditures in Pennsylvania and Illinois, will be favorably reported from committee. Senator Bristow today assured Senator Norris he would support it and this makes the committee stand 3 to 2 in favor of the inquiry. The inquiry is aimed at Penrose and Sullivan. It was rumored last night Bristow would not support the resolution, but Senator Norris and he conferred today and he said he was not only for the inquiry in Pennsylvania and Illinois but in other states as well. Senator Norris expects efforts will be made to block the resolution in the Senate.

Cabinet Considers Replies to Germany and England With Regard to Properly Respecting "Old Glory."

FIRM STAND IS EXPECTED

Two Norwegian Ships Sunk By German Mines and Torpedoes—Kaiser Stands By His Blockade Attitude.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BLOCKADE DISPUTE

UNITED STATES.—The American cabinet today is considering the notes of Germany and England. It is expected that a reply will be sent to Germany insisting that all ships flying the United States flag be fully identified before being attacked. The government is willing to allow the *Wilhelmina* case to be adjudicated in a prize court to lay foundation for future proceedings of similar character. Further representations will be made concerning the use of the stars and stripes by belligerents.

GERMANY.—The Kaiser's government is firm in its stand with reference to enforcing the British blockade edict. The neutral steamer, the Norwegian ship *Belgica*, has already been torpedoed and the Norwegian ship *Bjarka*, has been sunk by a mine.

ENGLAND.—Great Britain maintains the right of merchant vessels of belligerents to fly neutral flags to escape capture and insists that if German submarines sink neutral vessels by mistake such act will constitute piracy for which the German government alone can be held responsible by neutrals thus affected.

London, Feb. 20.—The steamship *Cambank*, from Cardiff, was torpedoed today off Alwch by a German submarine without warning. The third engineer and two firemen of the *Cambank* were killed and another member of the crew was drowned while getting into a boat. The remainder of the crew was saved. The *Cambank* had just taken aboard a pilot for Liverpool.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—It is expected that the American government will soon reply to the British and German notes relative to the use of the American flag and the proper identification of neutral ships in the war zone about the British Isles.

It is believed that the government will make further representations to England concerning the danger to neutrals through the use of their national emblems and will insist that German submarines fully identify vessels flying the American flag before attacking them. Germany has insisted this will be impossible because of the danger submarines would encounter at the hands of armed merchantmen of the enemy, though they might be concealing their identity under the stars and stripes.

Official texts of Germany's reply to the American note on the naval war zone and Great Britain's reply to the American notes on the use of the American flag and the *Wilhelmina* case all arrived today at the state department. The German reply, delivered by the Berlin foreign office three days ago to Ambassador Gerard, had been delayed in transit and it was at once converted from the diplomatic code and sent to the White House to be laid before the president, who, however, had already been informed of its contents by Mr. Gerard and the unofficial text published two days ago.

With the official text at hand, however, the president and his advisers will begin formal consideration of Germany's reply to the warning of the United States against destruction of American ships or lives in the naval war zone about the British Isles. Generally, the tone of the German note has been regarded as friendly.

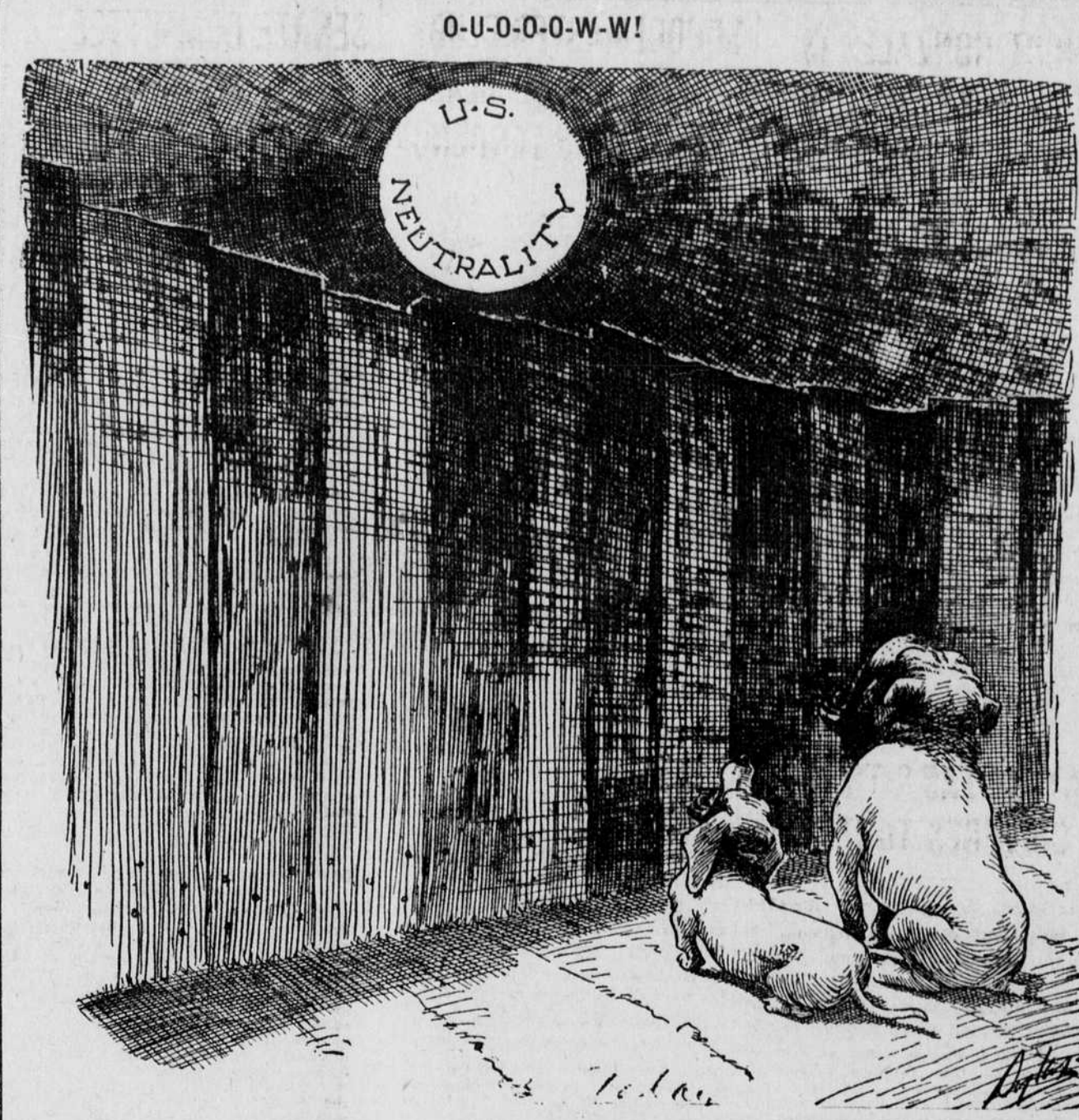
Great Britain's reply to the representations on the use of the American flag bears upon the American view of the right of a neutral to ship food to the belligerents. In expecting Germany to identify American ships before attacking them by submarines, the United States is anxious there shall be no general use of the American flag by foreign vessels.

The state department is willing to let the *Wilhelmina* case be adjudicated by a prize court, and thus lay the legal foundation for other proceedings of a like character. Count Bernstorff, the German ambassador, conferred at the state department with Secretary Bryan and Councillor Lansing. While neither the ambassador nor the American officials indicated the exact subject of their talk the ambassador said he desired to emphasize the view of his government that Germany was not to blame for the present situation around the British Isles, causing difficulty to neutral shipping. He reiterated his contention that Great Britain was responsible. It was said the ambassador presented no new communications.

with general use of the flag by British merchantmen and the British reply explicitly states that the admiralty had not advised any general use of the flag and had not suggested its use by the *Lusitania*.

The British reply on the *Wilhelmina* case probably will stop further exchanges until a prize court has acted. The American note was based upon the right of a neutral to ship food to the civil population of a belligerent. The British reply does not deny that, but by making the point that all German males are practically part of the German army has complicated the situation and promises protracted negotiations.

As to the rejoinder the American government might make to the German reply on the war zone, some officials expect the state department will content itself with the warning in the original note to Germany, giving notice she will be held responsible for injury to an American ship or American lives.



ALLIED FLEET BOMBARDING FORTS OF CONSTANTINOPLE

British Battleships and Cruisers, Supported by Strong French Squadron and Aided by Aeroplanes, Battering Dardanelles—Forts on European Side Silenced, Is Claim.

Athens, (via London), Feb. 22.—It is reported here that the Anglo-French fleet destroyed Turkish forts on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles during the bombardment this morning. The forts on the European side subsequently were attacked and are still firing. A powder magazine on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles exploded during the bombardment of the allied fleets. The forts replied in a lively manner to the fire of the warships, but without success.

London, Feb. 20.—In an attempt to force the Dardanelles, the gate to Constantinople, French and British warships began a bombardment of the Turkish fortifications yesterday, which is being continued today. An allied fleet has been at the entrance of the Dardanelles for several months and reports from time to time indicated that damage was done to some of the Turkish forts. An official statement issued in London today, says that aeroplanes are co-operating with the warships in the attacks, which had "considerable effect." The present movement evidently is the most formidable which has been made in the effort to force a way through the Dardanelles, beyond which lies Constantinople.

The text of the official announcement issued this afternoon by the British admiralty says: "Yesterday morning at 8 o'clock a British fleet of battleships and battle cruisers, accompanied by flotillas and aided by a strong French squadron, the whole under the command of Vice Admiral Carden, began an attack upon the forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles. "The forts of Cape Helles and Kum Kale were bombarded with a deliberate, long range fire. Considerable effect was produced on two of the forts. Two others were frequently hit, but being open earthworks it was difficult to estimate the damage. The forts being outranged, were unable to reply to our fire. At 2:45 o'clock in the afternoon a portion of the battle ship force was ordered to close in and engage the forts at closer range with their secondary armament.

"The forts on both sides of the entrance then opened fire and were engaged at moderate ranges by the *Vengeance*, *Cornwallis*, *Triumph*, *Suffren* and *Bouvet*, supported by the *Inflexible* and the *Agamemnon* at long range. "The forts on the European side were apparently silenced. One fort on the Asiatic side was still firing when the operations were suspended, owing to the falling light. No ships of the allied fleet were hit. "The action was renewed this morning after an aerial reconnaissance by British aeroplanes. The ship, *Ark Royal*, is in attendance with a number of seaplanes and aeroplanes of the naval wing.

RESERVE BANK NOTES BEING COUNTERFEITED

Washington, Feb. 20.—The first counterfeit of a federal reserve note has appeared. It is a \$5 note of the Dallas Federal Reserve bank, printed from poorly executed etched plates, the secret service says, on two pieces of paper, with silk threads between. The note is a quarter of an inch shorter than the genuine note and, Chief Flynn says, is such a poor piece of work that it should be readily detected.

DISABLED LINER IS LASHED BY HIGH GALE

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 20.—The coast guard cutter, *Onondaga*, which left here yesterday to assist the United Fruit steamer, *Santa Marta*, disabled with freight and passengers off Hatteras, reported today she had been stopped by a gale 45 miles from the distressed ship and was waiting for the storm to subside before proceeding. Other coast guard ships in the vicinity are working toward the liner. She has been reported in imminent danger.

MEXICAN REPUBLIC NEAR BANKRUPTCY

Weighted Down By a Debt of \$1,060,650,000 Only Stable Government Can Save Her From Ruin.

Washington, Feb. 20.—All the native Roman Catholic clergy in Mexico City are being held for \$500,000 ransom, official advice from diplomatic sources in the Mexican capital received here today say, and the only priests exempted are those of foreign nationality, who have been ordered to leave the country.

Mexico City, Feb. 22.—Four years of revolutionary turmoil have wrought disastrously upon Mexico's economic fabric and reduced her financial affairs to such a low ebb that unless immediate remedial measures are adopted the republic cannot be saved from bankruptcy. Her national debt today stands at \$1,060,650,000. The commencement of 1915 sees Mexico's finances in a state which is conservatively may be described as deplorable. Nevertheless, competent judges hold to the opinion that it is not too late to avert bankruptcy. This opinion hinges largely upon the prompt creation of conditions which do not now exist in Mexico. Her financial salvation is predicated upon the combining and harmonious working of elements calculated to make for radical improvement in the internal affairs of the republic—political, commercial and financial.

Causes of Nation's War.

Continuance of revolution, with the inevitable paralysis of all productive faculties which revolution brings, persistence in expenditures upon a lavish scale for the pay and maintenance of men in the field; ill-considered and adventurous financing; lax administration of her available revenue, and inordinate increase of expenditures consonant with the discouraging shrinkage in national income, must spell ruin for the country.

There is no alternative, save that offered by the speedy inauguration in the ministry of finance of sound, conservative, financial measures, coupled with the establishment and continuance of a stable central government; restoration of law and order; expert administration in the collection and disbursement of revenues; scientific and equitable levying of taxes; a resumption of profitable activity in mining, agriculture, railway traffic, foreign commerce and general trade; and the return to their wonted avocations of at least three-quarters of the 250,000 soldiers that are now warring and wasting in various parts of the republic.

These things done without delay should provide Mexico with a fair chance of once more getting her financial feet under her. Besides her comparatively insignificant national debt in 1911, Mexico had in her treasury, in cash, as a reserve, 65,000,000 pesos, of which 45,000,000 were in gold.

Today her treasury is empty. She is living from hand to mouth and is not paying her debts. Every peso that can be raked and scraped is being thrown into the insatiable maw of the revolution.

Mexico's armies constitute the greatest millstone of the many with which the new year finds the national neck burdened. Conservative estimates place the number of men now under arms in the republic—counting all factions, big and little—at 250,000. Directly, or indirectly, in cash or kind, these men are drawing in pay from the country an average of at least 2 pesos a day each, officers and privates. This represents their pay alone, with no allowance for the cost of the food they eat, the clothes they wear, the arms they bear, the ammunition they expend or what is wasted or spoiled. Today the pay of her armies amounts to nearly as much again as her total expenses came to three years ago. Meanwhile her revenues have dwindled by two-thirds at least. What is the answer?

CHANGING THE DIET OF THE CHINESE

Washington, D. C., Special.—Americans who have been influenced by the orient to the extent of taking their tea clear, without milk or sugar, will be astonished to learn that the orient is now bent on teaching the Chinese to use milk with their decoction of tea leaves—and condensed milk at that. An enterprising condensed milk company is pushing the campaign and expects to be successful. This concern has already introduced condensed milk, ice cream to the Chinese and they like it so well that many of the restaurants keep it always on hand. Practically no fresh milk is to be had in China, although the natives seem familiar enough with the virtues of both the fresh and condensed milk. Perhaps after all the orientals have taken their tea clear because there was no milk to put in it and not because they thought the addition of milk ruined the beverage.

Canned salmon is another western staple that has made a decided impression on the far east. The home life report entitled "Canned Goods Trade in the Far East," special agents' series, No. 92, written by Commercial Agent J. Alexis Shriver and published by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. The report contains many interesting facts about the home life of the Chinese, Japanese, Malays, etc., and many valuable suggestions for canners who are considering the feasibility of selling goods on the other side of the Pacific. Copies may be had for 10 cents each from the superintendent of documents, government printing office, Washington.

GOVERNOR TO BE REAL AGRICULTURAL FRESHMAN

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Two weeks ago William T. Haines, of Waterville was governor of Maine. Now William T. Haines, is a freshman in the agricultural department of the University of Maine. Before his fellow citizens called upon Haines, of Waterville, to be their governor he was a labor farmer. This is to say, he had studied and prepared for the law, had found it not to his liking, and had gone back to the soil for a living.

Mr. Haines had spent many years preparing for his legal career. He had spent more at all preparing to be an agriculturist. He merely made the shift over night, as one might arbitrarily shift from an habitual bacon breakfast to one of soft boiled eggs. But after he had made the shift Mr. Haines discovered that there were many things about farming which he did not altogether comprehend. He even doubted the infallible wisdom of the old line cultivators of the soil who surrounded him. He desired to learn. If a dozen years could be spared for preparing to be a farmer, a few months could be profitably spent in agricultural training.

Such, at least, is the opinion of Haines, of Waterville. "Having completed a successful term as governor of Maine he sets out to atone for his deficiencies. There is much that is admirable in the example of the governor-freshman.

Coast Defense Guns Inferior.

From the World's Work. In the United States there is not in existence today a single heavy field mortar of the type playing such a conspicuous part in the armaments of European powers. We have not even adopted a type for such a mortar, although the ordnance department has had the subject under consideration for years. The policy has been rather like that followed in the case of the 16-inch coast defense gun, which was completed in the late '90s, test fired in 1902, and in 1903, and in 1912. It was not provided with a carriage, without even a design for a carriage, until 1912.

And yet it is in coast artillery that we are seeing the most serious operations on either side of the Atlantic. There is not so little preparation of any kind—but even this force has behind it a small and entirely adequate reserve of coast defense guns. The regular force itself has been considerably reduced by transfer of organization to the Philippines, Hawaii and Panama. In coast defense there is much that is admirable in the example of the governor-freshman.

What Ship Subsidy Means.

From the New York World. For 50 years American capital has steadfastly refused to operate ships under the American flag. In the midst of a great world war we are without a merchant marine. The World can see no way of dealing with this situation except by government action. It is not a matter of difference between us is that the Sun thinks the government should subsidize private effort, and we think that if public money must be used to establish the beginnings of a merchant marine, the government should own and operate the ships itself.

We regard a subsidy as more pernicious and demoralizing than government ownership and operation. It is a more sinister form of socialism, because it spells loiter, waste and scandal, and it is entered in irresponsibility. It debauches political parties, it corrupts political campaigns and it demoralizes government. It is a cancer in the body of the nation. We believe in private ownership whenever we can get it. We believe in public ownership only when private ownership is inadequate. But we never believe in private ownership subsidized by government money. This is the worst evil of all, and that is why The World supports this bill as against the sordid ship subsidy scheme.

Desert Invocation.

Descend, Great Spirit, now thou see'st our dire distress! The desert sun does not burn down more pitiless than the white man's rancor toward our wasted race. Their leaguings lie like foul smoke before thy face. Descend! Descend! —Francis B. Huntington in Century.

WAR OPENED EYES OF ENGLISH WOMANHOOD

From the London Telegraph. One result of the war that was certainly not foreseen six months ago is the realization by women of their own shortcomings as soon as really practical work was called for. So many had taken up "causes" of one sort or another; had attended all the meetings they could crowd into the week; had belonged to committees, and had been fustily preoccupied in a score of directions, that it seemed to them that such a sewing party, that such a talk of life. To numbers the awakening of those first weeks in August was a bitter disappointment. That it was more useful to be able to knit a pair of socks than to formulate a bylaw for an unnecessary society, or to put out shirts for a sewing party, than to make a speech on some grievance, created a new and surprising scale of proportions.