

# German Intrigue With Mexico Uncovered; War on United States Put Up to Carranza; Japan to Be Asked to Join in the Combine

**President Has Note from Berlin Instructing Ambassador to Mexico to Arrange Details of the Plot.**

**WAR ON UNITED STATES**

**Carranza to Approach Japan as Ally to Aid in Carrying Out the Attack on This Country.**

**REWARD FOR FIRST CHIEF**

**Mexican De Facto President to Help Himself to Part of United States.**

**WHOLE PLOT IS LAID BARE**

Washington, March 1.—Revelation of how Germany, expecting war with the United States as the result of its submarine campaign of ruthlessness, plotted to unite Mexico and Japan with it for an attack on the United States, has stirred the capital to its depths.

Members of congress, many of whom have been hesitating before President Wilson's request for full authority to deal with Germany in the present situation, went to the capitol today reading documentary evidence of the intrigue which proposed to separate Japan from its allies and add the United States to the list of nations which Germany hopes to see conquered in its dream of world domination.

How Germany, confident that unrestricted submarine warfare is the instrument by which it will bring England to its knees, proposed a triple blow, is revealed in a set of instructions from German Foreign Minister Zimmermann to German Minister von Eckhardt in Mexico City, which was transmitted through Count von Bernstorff, late ambassador here.

**Bait Offered Mexico.**

At one sweep, Germany proposed to weaken the entente alliance, by the defection of Japan, strike a crushing blow at England's naval power by cutting off the vital supply of Mexican fuel oil and thoroughly engage the attention of the United States by an invasion, in which Japan was to be invited to join and for which Mexico should be rewarded by reconquering its "lost provinces"—Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

This astounding document—dated Berlin, January 19, 1917, contents of which have for some time been in possession of the United States government, shows plainly that Germany, while making repeated protestations to the United States that it had no intention of resuming its sea campaign of ruthlessness, was making the final arrangements for its execution two weeks before it was announced, and had even gone so far in consideration of the consequences that it proposed to meet them by the attack of Mexico and Japan upon the United States.

**Pictures Germany Supreme.**

Germany pictured to Mexico, by broad intimation, England and the entente allies defeated; Germany and its allies triumphant and in world domination by the instrument of unrestricted warfare.

A copy of Zimmermann's instructions to Von Eckhardt, sent through Von Bernstorff, is in possession of the United States government. It is as follows:

"Berlin, Jan. 19, 1917.—On the 1st of February we intend to begin submarine warfare unrestricted. In spite of this it is our intention to endeavor to keep neutral the United States of America.

"If this attempt is not successful, we propose an alliance on the following basis with Mexico: That we shall make war together and together make peace. We shall give general financial support and it is understood that Mexico is to reconquer territory in New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. The details are left to you for settlement.

"You are instructed to inform the president of Mexico of the above in the greatest confidence, as soon as it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States, and suggest that the president of Mexico, on his own initiative, should communicate with Japan, suggesting adherence at once to this plan; at the same time, offer to mediate between Germany and Japan.

"Please call to the attention of the president of Mexico that the employment of ruthless submarine warfare now promises to compel England to make peace in a few months. (Signed) ZIMMERMANN."

This document has been in the hands of the government since President Wilson broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. It has been kept secret while the president has been asking congress for full authority to deal with Germany and while congress has been hesitating. It was in the president's hands while Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg was declaring that the United States had placed an interpretation on the submarine declaration "never intended by Germany" and that Germany had promoted and honored friendly relations with the United States "as an heirloom from Frederick the Great." Of itself, if there were no other, it is considered a sufficient answer to the German chancellor's claim that the United States "brusquely" broke off relations without giving "authentic" reasons for its action.

**Supplies Missing Link.**

The document supplies the missing link to many separate chains of circumstances which until now have seemed to lead to no definite point. It sheds new light upon the frequently reported but undefined movements of the Mexican government to couple its situation with the friction between the United States and Japan.

It adds another chapter to the celebrated report of Jules Cambon, French ambassador in Berlin before the war, of Germany's world-wide plans for stirring strife on every continent where they might act in the

struggle for world domination which it dreamed was close at hand. It adds a climax to the operations of Count von Bernstorff and the German embassy in this country, which have been colored with passport frauds, charges of dynamite plots and intrigue, the full extent of which never has been published.

It gives new credence to persistent reports of submarine bases on Mexican territory in the Gulf of Mexico; it takes cognizance of a fact long recognized by American army chiefs, that if Japan ever undertook to invade the United States, it probably would be through Mexico, over the border and into the Mississippi valley to split the country in two. It recalls that Count von Bernstorff, when handed his passports, was very reluctant to return to Germany, but expressed a preference for asylum in Cuba. It gives a new explanation to the repeated arrests on the border of men charged by American military authorities with being German intelligence agents.

Last of all, it seems to show now a connection with General Carranza's recent proposal to neutrals that exports of food and munitions to the entente be cut off, and an intimation that he might stop the supply of oil, so vital to the British navy, which is exported from the Tampico fields.

**What Congress Will Do.**

What congress will do, and how members of congress who have openly sympathized with Germany in their opposition to clothing the president with full authority to protect American rights will regard the revelation of Germany's machinations to attack the United States, is the subject tonight of the keenest interest.

Such a proposal as Germany instructed its minister to make to Mexico borders on an act of war, if actually, it is not one.

No doubt it is now that the greatest reports during the last two years of the operations of German agents not alone in Mexico, but all through Central America and the West Indies, are based on fact. There is now no doubt whatever that the proposed alliance with Mexico which is known to high Mexican officials who are distinguished for their anti-Americanism. Among them are Rafael Zubaran, Carranza's minister to Germany, and Luis Cabrera, Carranza's minister of finance.

It is apparent that the proposal had taken definite form when Zubaran returned to Mexico City from Berlin recently. His return from his foreign post was covered by the fact that Carranza had called in many of his diplomats for "conferences." Some time before that, Cabrera, while still at Atlantic City, had suggested in a guarded way to a member of the American section that he regretted that the commission had not succeeded fully in settling the frontier between Mexico and the United States, for he said, he had hoped it might continue its work and make peace for the world.

**Details of "Peace" Plan.**

When pressed for some details of how the commission could restore world peace, Cabrera suggested that the American republics controlled the destiny of the war by controlling a large part of its supplies. Mexico, he intimated, might do its part by cutting off exports of oil. The American commissioners dismissed his ideas as visionary.

Almost coincident with Zubaran's return from Germany, Cabrera returned to Mexico City, open in his expressions of anti-Americanism. Zubaran, before being sent abroad, had represented Carranza here while the Niagara mediation conferences were proceeding and was no less avowedly anti-American than Cabrera.

Meanwhile Baron von Schoen, secretary of the German embassy here, was transferred to the legation in Mexico City. No explanation could be obtained of the reason for his transfer, and such investigation as was possible failed to develop why a secretary of the United States should be sent to the German legation in Mexico City.

**Knew Japanese Minister.**

Baron von Schoen's association with the moves, if any at all, does not appear. The only outward indication that he might have been connected with them is found in the fact that he recently had been detached from the German embassy at Tokio and was well acquainted with the Japanese minister in Mexico City.

Carranza's peace proposal was openly pronounced as evidence of German influence in Mexico, by officials here, who declare it was intended only to embarrass the United States. Then apparently some influences showed their effects on the course of the Mexican government, and on February 25 Cabrera, the minister of finance, issued a statement describing the "amazement" of the Mexican government that the American newspapers should have interpreted Carranza's proposal to cut off exports of munitions as a suggestion that he might cut off shipments of British oil. They were, Cabrera declared, "entirely groundless," and that feature of the situation ended. There was an intimation that Germany's astounding proposal that Japan turn traitor to its allies had been answered by Tokio.

Count von Bernstorff's connection with the plot, further than serving as the channel of communication, is intensified by the fact that the German embassy here was not merely the medium of delivering a message in this instance, but was really a sort of headquarters for all the German missions in Central and South America.

The German naval attaché, Captain Boy-Ed, and the military attaché, Captain von Pagen, whose recall was forced by the State department because of their military activities in this country, also were accredited to Mexico, and between the outbreak of the war and their departure from this country, made at least one visit there.

For months many naval officers here have believed that the mysterious German sea raiders of the South Atlantic must have found a base somewhere on the Mexican coast, and that such a base could not be maintained without the knowledge and the consent of Mexican officials. Last November the British charges at

Mexico City presented to the Carranza foreign office a notification that if it was discovered that Mexican neutrality thus had been violated, the allies would take "drastic measures" to prevent a continuance of that situation.

**Reply of Aguilar.**

In a note almost insolent in tone, Foreign Minister Aguilar replied to the charge, that, in effect, it was the business of the allies to keep German submarines out of western waters, and that if they were not kept out, Mexico would adopt whatever course the circumstances might command.

To German influences also have been attributed in some quarters the vigorous steps taken by the de facto finance minister to force loans from the Banco Nacional and the Bank of London and Mexico, owned by French and British capital. The institutions were closed by the Mexican authorities and some of their officers imprisoned and held for weeks despite repeated protests by France, Great Britain and the United States.

**Germs in Carranza Army.**

Reports of German machine guns and German gunners in the Carranza army also have been persistent, although the relative importance of that to the proposed alliance is not fully established. It was recalled tonight, too, that last November, when the Mexican-American joint commission was making its futile effort to adjust the difficulties between the two countries, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Mexico City, Count Kalam Vokanya, made a trip to the United States on what he described as a "secret mission."

A suggestion interpreted by some officials as an indication that Germany might have made approaches to Mexico at that time was made by Cabrera in an address at Philadelphia on November 10.

**Trails of German Agents.**

"The foes of the United States will certainly assume to be friends of Mexico," said Mr. Cabrera, "and will try to take advantage of any sort of resentment Mexico may have against the United States. Mexico, nevertheless, understands that in case of a conflict between the United States and any other nation outside America, her attitude must be one of continental solidarity."

It has been an open secret that Department of Justice agents in investigations of plots to violate American neutrality by setting on foot armed expeditions in Mexico more than once have uncovered what appeared to be trails of the German secret service.

A few days ago Fred Kaiser, suspected of being a German agent, was arrested at Nogales on charges brought under the neutrality statutes, Department of Justice officials declaring he had attempted to obtain military information on the American side of the border and had cultivated the society of American army officers with an apparent intention of promoting those efforts.

**Stopped by Mexicans.**

Last July, when W. H. Schweitzer, who claimed to be a former German army officer, escaped into Mexico at Nogales after arrest or similar charges, the deputy marshal who tried to follow him was stopped by Mexican authorities.

The full extent of the evidence of Germany's plotting against the United States, gathered by the American secret service, may become known only according to the course of the future relations between the two countries. It is known that much evidence of the operations of the German embassy and persons who were responsible to it never has been permitted to come out, because officials preferred to guard against inflaming the public mind in the tense situation with Germany. The public amazement which a full exposition of the evidence in the hands of the government would cause cannot be overestimated.

**Appeal of Defense Council.**

Only today the Council of National Defense, created by act of congress, issued an appeal to all Americans to show every consideration for aliens in this country.

"We call upon all citizens," said the appeal, "if untoward events should come upon us to present to these aliens, many of whom tomorrow will be Americans, an attitude of neither suspicion, nor aggressiveness. We urge upon all Americans to meet the millions of foreign-born with unchanged manner and with unprejudiced mind."

**Notes from Beatrice And Gage County**

Beatrice, Neb., March 1.—(Special).—Mrs. Mary Frances Wheeler died at the home of her son, Fred R. Wheeler, in this city last evening, aged 83 years. Her husband died in this city about two weeks ago. She is survived by six children.

Twenty-one Holstein dairy cattle arrived here yesterday from points in Ohio and Pennsylvania and were distributed among Gage county farmers. The cattle were purchased at fancy prices and will be used here on dairy farms by Gage county breeders.

John Moller, who resides eight miles south of Beatrice, fell from a load of baled hay yesterday, broke his right arm in two places and knocked out three teeth.

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## SENATE ASKS FOR DATA ON GERMAN CONSPIRACY NOTE

(Continued from Page One.)

would consider any proposition made by an enemy."

As to Mexico, the secretary said: "We have confidence that Mexico would not be a party to any such agreement in view of the friendly relations existing between this government and the de facto government of Mexico."

Secretary Lansing took great care, it will be noted, to exonerate both Japan and Mexico, and said this government had no knowledge that the proposal had been conveyed through Mexico to Japan.

In view of the fact that the plan was not to be presented until "it is certain that there will be an outbreak of war with the United States," it was not certain, Secretary Lansing said, that the matter had been presented officially to General Carranza at all.

**Traced to Mexico City.**

It is known definitely, officials said, that Zimmermann's instructions had reached Count von Bernstorff here in Washington, that he forwarded them to Mexico City and that they reached the German minister there. At this point the trail of official certainty is lost to view.

Secretary Lansing flatly refused to give any indication of how the information came into possession of the United States government, on the ground that it would endanger the lives of those concerned. For obvious reasons, "which he could not amplify," he refused to discuss the source in any way.

**Japan Would Reject It.**

Ambassador Sato of Japan was informed of the possession of the text of Germany's proposal by this government yesterday afternoon when he called at the State department to see Counsellor Polk.

"With regard to the alleged German attempt to induce Japan and Mexico to make war upon the United States, made public in the press this morning, the Japanese embassy, while lacking information as to whether such invitation ever reached Tokio, desires to state most emphatically that any invitation of this sort would under no circumstances be entertained by the Japanese government, which is in entire accord and close relations with the other powers, on account of formal agreements and our common cause and moreover, our good friendship with the United States which is every day growing in sincerity and cordiality."

**Lodge Resolution Referred.**

Senator Stone's request to have the resolution referred to the foreign relations committee without any restrictions as to when it should report was adopted by unanimous consent.

The text of the Lodge resolution is as follows:

"That the president be requested to inform the senate whether the note signed 'Zimmermann' published in the newspapers of the morning of March 1, inviting Mexico to unite with Germany and Japan in war against the United States is authentic and in the possession of the government of the United States and, if authentic, to send to the senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, any further information in the possession of the United States government relative to the activities of the imperial German government in Mexico."

**Discussion in Senate.**

Senator Swanson informed Senator Lodge that the democratic senators had been authorized by the President to state that the account of the Zimmermann note as revealed by the Associated Press was substantially correct.

Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin said he would not object to passage of the Lodge resolution providing it was amended to ask the president to state when the Zimmermann note had come into possession of the United States.

"It is time," said Senator LaFollette, "that we should know how long the president or any branch of the government has had the document in his possession."

**Thinks Senate Should Know.**

Senator Lodge declared that when "a great news gathering association like the Associated Press put forward seriously and solemnly what purports to be a dispatch from the secretary of foreign affairs of Germany, inviting Mexico and Japan to unite to make war on the United States, it was time

congress and the people should be informed of the matter."

While Senator Swanson was assuring Mr. Lodge that he was authorized to state that the announcement by The Associated Press was correct, full confirmation was being given officially at the White House and State department.

Senator Hardwick of Georgia, democrat, objected to immediate consideration of the Lodge resolution, and other senators urged him to withdraw it.

Senator Works, republican, of California, argued that it should be adopted.

"It is exceedingly important," said he, "that we have explicit information whether the president, at the time he asked congress to confer extraordinary powers upon him, knew of these conditions as disclosed in the newspapers. If the president had the information at that time it was due congress and the people of the United States that he should lay before congress all of the circumstances that might affect the action of congress. Congress is dealing with that situation and we should have all the information before taking any steps."

**Not Time for Criticism.**

Senator Reed deplored what he said appeared to be criticism of the president, although Senator Lodge disclaimed any intention to embarrass him.

"I hope that at this moment, which to me appears to be a very solemn one," Senator Reed said, "we will not have any manifestations of dispositions to criticize the president. Let us criticize no one by any kind of inference. This is a time when Americans should close their ranks and face one way and respond to the one sentiment. I hope that will be done."

**Situation Most Grave.**

"I am very deeply impressed with the gravity of the situation," said Senator Thomas, democrat, of Colorado. "We are confronted with a crisis that may be very serious. It is a coincidence that the Associated Press publication comes when the senate is considering the army and navy bills."

"But if this letter from the German foreign minister is authentic, and it is said to be by the senator from Virginia, we should know it and know it now. I hope the resolution of the senate from Massachusetts will be acted upon, and I am sure the president will respond to it. There may be reasons for not giving the information if incompatible with the public interest."

"The fact is the Associated Press has given this entire story to the public with what seems to be a most im-

portant document. It is probably authentic."

Senator Lodge said he cared little regarding the form of his resolution. "Nothing is further away from my mind than to suggest criticism of the president," said he. "We ought to have this information—the people ought to have it—to know whether the document is true or not. If we are to act together we ought to have that fact."

"I have every reason to believe that the inquiry is not distasteful to the president. We must not act on newspaper reports and we ought to have the official information. The president is asking great power. For one, I think we ought to give it to him. And we ought to have this information in that connection."

**Stone Wants Source of Story.**

After carefully reading the resolution Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee, said: "It seems to me that the resolution ought to go to the committee on foreign relations. Here is a newspaper report that the secretary of foreign relations of the German government has sent the German ambassador in Washington a certain letter which appears in the morning papers. We are not informed as to the source. We have no facts upon which to determine our judgment as to the resolution's accuracy."

"There may be information in the hands of the State department of a confidential nature that it might not be thought compatible with public interest to reveal. Then, again, this alleged dispatch may not be authentic. It may not be true."

"There may be something behind all this we do not know about," continued Senator Stone. "It seems to me in the exigencies of this moment it is the part of prudence and sound judgment to proceed deliberately. I think the wisest course would be to send the resolution to the committee and have that committee make the necessary investigation and then report what action in its opinion should be taken. But if that view is not coincided in by the senate then we ought at least to have the resolution broadened so as to call on the president for all information respecting the sources of this statement, said to have been given out officially or semi-officially. I would like to know all about it; now it was obtained and from whom, and I want to know the facts tending to establish its authenticity. We might fall into a situation we do not care to touch. I do not see how we can act until we know the facts. We ought to be as fully advised, not only as to The Associated Press, but as to the State department."

General John L. Webster was introduced by Governor Howard as a man who had done more than any other one man to help build up the state of Nebraska, having been identified with its history in an active way from its early infancy.

### Women's Clubs to Hold Annual Convention Here on March 15

The Second district of the Nebraska Federation of Women's clubs will hold its annual convention in Omaha Thursday, March 15, at Metropolitan club-house. The Omaha Woman's club acts as hostess for the meeting. Mrs. John W. Welch, district president, has charge of the program.

## LAWMAKERS HONOR BIRTH OF NEBRASKA

(Continued on Page Two, Column Seven.)

poverty and of suffering; no state excels us in the intelligence of its people.

**Pioneer Is Passing.**

"For many years we have witnessed the passing of those things typical of pioneer days. The Indian and the plainsman no longer roam afield untrammelled by civilization's conventions. The buffalo, the antelope and deer are also of bygone days. The game birds are decreasing rapidly in numbers and migratory fowl are seeking new lines of flight between the breeding grounds of the north and the winter feeding grounds of the south."

"It is useless to deplore the passing of these things so intimately associated with early Nebraska days. That they should cease to exist in their natural state is inevitable; it is the price of civilization and advancement.

"The men and women, who have contributed to the making of our history, are one by one departing to their bourn or traveler returns. Another brief period of time and Nebraska will celebrate its centennial. A few, perhaps, of those gathered here will live to see that day, but many years before, the responsibility of conducting the affairs of our people in matters of state and through the channels of trade and commerce will have descended upon the shoulders of the children of today, who will be the men and women of tomorrow, and when the years shall have passed and those who assume the burden, look back upon their labors, may they do so with the same degree of satisfaction as can those, whose efforts have contributed to the advancement and progress of our state during the epoch, of which today marks the close."

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