

# Wilson to Arm Ships; Calls Extra Session

## THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER  
Unsettled

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Night Service  
to 10 p. m.  
Tyler 1000

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### HOUSE LIKELY TO MAKE START ON NEW CAPITOL

Places Bill on General File Providing Two-Thirds Mill Levy for Construction of New East Wing.

FRIENDS HOPED FOR MOVE Consolidation of Food, Oil and Hotel Commissions Under Way.

RAILROADS GIVEN JOLT

(From a Staff Correspondent.)  
Lincoln, March 9.—(Special).—It looks now as if Nebraska may celebrate its fiftieth anniversary by constructing a new state house, or at least by making a start in that direction, the house today placing on general file the Richmond bill, H. R. No. 1, creating a fund for a new east wing.

The original bill called for a one-million levy which should run for a period of years until \$3,500,000 had been raised. The construction of the new building was to be in the hands of a commission composed of capable citizens who should serve without pay.

It provided for the drawing of plans for an entire new building, but that the east wing should first be constructed.

Provides for Wing.  
The committee amended the bill, cutting down the levy from one mill to 68-100 of a mill to run only for a period of two years. This will raise, so it is estimated, about \$700,000, and will be sufficient for the needs of the wing.

Some disappointment is felt by friends of the capitol building plan that the committee did not see fit to provide for the completion of the building by extending the levy for the required number of years. They claim that the completion of the building will be a foot ball for congressmen to kick around and perhaps the completion of the structure may be delayed for many years.

"If we are to have a new state house," said one member last night, who has opposed the building plan, "I believe that we should build a good

(Continued on Page Two, Column One.)

### Stefansson Spending the Winter in Wales Strait

Dawson, Y. T., March 9.—A north-west police expedition has arrived here from Fort McPherson by dog team with news that Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, discoverer of new land in the Arctic north of Prince Patrick island, is wintering with the gasoline schooner Polar Bear at Prince of Wales strait. This information was brought from Herschel island to Fort McPherson by Captain Lauenze, captain of police at Herschel island, who made the trip of 200 miles from the island to Fort McPherson alone with dogs. Stefansson, who passed last summer exploring his new land, is hopeful that the ice will break early this spring and let him make his way to the north and east, and after accomplishing the northeast passage sail up the St. Lawrence river to Montreal.

### President Will Probably Be Ill in Bed Another Day

Washington, March 9.—President Wilson probably will be confined in bed at least one more day because of the cold from which he has been suffering since Monday. Dr. Cary T. Grayson, his physician said tonight that although his fever has disappeared, he thought it better that the president rest completely for at least another day.

### The Weather

Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.	
Hour.	Temp.
5 a. m.	22
6 a. m.	22
7 a. m.	26
8 a. m.	20
9 a. m.	20
10 a. m.	20
11 a. m.	20
12 m.	20
1 p. m.	20
2 p. m.	20
3 p. m.	20
4 p. m.	20
5 p. m.	20
6 p. m.	20
7 p. m.	20
8 p. m.	20
Comparative Local Record.	
1917. 1916. 1915. 1914.	
Highest yesterday	62 62 31 27
Lowest yesterday	25 20 21 28
Mean temperature	44 48 36 38
Precipitation	.00 .00 .00 .00
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal at Omaha since March 1, and compared with the last two years.	
Normal temperature	32
Excess for the day	12
Total deficiency since March 1	84
Normal precipitation	.84
Deficiency for the day	.84
Total rainfall since March 1	.23
Deficiency since March 1	.61
Excess for cor. period, 1916	.27
Excess for cor. period, 1915	1.22
Reports from Stations at 7 P. M.	
Station and State	Temp. High-Rain.
Chgo., cloudy	44 46 .00
Dayton, cloudy	46 52 .00
Denver, part cloudy	46 50 .00
Des Moines, part cloudy	50 58 .00
Dodge City, part cloudy	58 74 .00
Grand Island, cloudy	50 60 .00
North Platte, cloudy	48 54 .00
Omaha, cloudy	48 62 .00
Pawnee, cloudy	58 62 .00
Scotts Bluff, cloudy	58 62 .00
Salt Lake City, snow	50 44 .00
Santa Fe, clear	58 56 .00
Shelton, snow	58 62 .00
Sioux City, part cloudy	48 50 .00
Valentine, cloudy	46 46 .00

### FRENCH STORM POSTS IN THE CHAMPAGNE

Paris Reports Capture of Positions 1,500 Meters Long and 600 Meters Deep.

GERMAN REPORT DIFFERS Paris, March 9.—German positions on a front of 1,500 meters, varying in depth from 600 to 800 meters, were carried by the attack in the Champagne made yesterday by the French, the war office reports. A German counter offensive was repulsed after violent fighting. Two German attacks in Avocourt wood, on the Verdun front, were repulsed.

The announcement follows: "Supplemental information has been received showing that the attack made yesterday by our troops between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne was a brilliant success. Notwithstanding the snow which rendered the operation difficult, our troops blew up enemy positions on a front of 1,500 meters, varying in depth from 600 to 800 meters. Late in the day the Germans delivered a violent counter offensive on the left of this sector. After a furious combat with hand grenades we repulsed the adversary, who suffered heavy losses. The number of prisoners taken by us was 136, including three officers.

"Attacks by the enemy on one of our trenches at Avocourt wood on the left bank of the Meuse were repulsed. There was intermittent cannonading on the remainder of the front."  
Berlin Official Report.  
Berlin, March 9.—(Wireless to Sayville).—The following announcement on military operations on the Franco-Belgian front was issued today by army headquarters:  
"The artillery activity showed an increase on an extended scale only in the Champagne. Wherever the firing at other points was intensified it was in preparation for minor actions either by ourselves or by the enemy."  
"West of Witschaete our storming detachments entered a French position and returned with thirty-seven prisoners, two machine guns and one mine thrower."  
"In the Somme sector there were repeated clashes between reconnoitering detachments and h. r. fifteen British remained in our hands as prisoners."  
"In the Champagne the French, after drum fire, attacked the positions south of Ripont captured by us on February 15. They succeeded in entering isolated trenches on Height 185 and at Maisons de Champagne. From the latter place they were repulsed. A counter attack recovered for us the trench sections on the dominating Height 185. A farm, situated lower down, was held by the enemy."  
"On the left bank of the Meuse (Verdun region), the French in the evening directed an attack against the southern slope of Hill 304. The attack failed. An enterprise of our own, carried out simultaneously on the Avocourt wood, resulted in the capture of six prisoners and two machine guns without loss to us."

### Fort Omaha Balloon Makes Long Flight And Lands in Iowa

The signal service balloon that was sent up at Fort Omaha at 1:40 o'clock Friday afternoon, shot out into space like an arrow and was soon out of sight. Catching an upper current of air, apparently something like 1,000 feet above the earth, the balloon drifted eastward, and from Morrison, Ia., last night Captain Bower telegraphed back to the fort that he and his companions, Lieutenant Davidson and A. Leo Stevens, chief balloonist instructor, had landed after a most successful flight.  
The balloon reached the earth at 7:30 o'clock and during the five hours and fifty minutes that it was in the air traveled something more than 150 miles. Its course was almost due east. Captain Bower and his associates are expected to return to the fort today and make a report on the flight.

### Radio Apparatus Found on Steamship Appam by Marsahl

Norfolk, Va., March 9.—When United States Marshal Saunders took possession of the liner Appam after the break with Germany, he found installed there a secret wireless apparatus by which all wireless messages sent in this section of the country were read.  
A fine wire was found strung beneath the pipe leading to his whistle on the smokestack of the Appam and extending above it, as do the regular antennae of wireless. The wire led to the interior of the vessel, where dynamos were kept running to make the current for lighting the ship.  
Investigation, it is said, led to the discovery that the wire finally ran to the room occupied by Lieutenant Hans Berg, where the messages were recorded by flash from an electric light bulb.

### Aged Uncle of Secretary Daniels Drops Dead

Baltimore, Md., March 9.—Richard S. Daniels, uncle of Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, dropped dead of heart disease at the Cove Point (Md.) lighthouse yesterday while talking to Captain T. J. Miles of the lighthouse tender Maple. Mr. Daniels was 72 years old. He had been in the lighthouse service for forty years and was maritime observer at Cove Point.

### Wicks' Place Is Raided by Police And Many Arrested

A. L. Wicks' cabaret at 107 South Twelfth street, was raided by the police last night at 2:30, who arrested twelve men and seventeen women. They were booked as inmates of a disorderly house and later released on cash bonds put up by Frank Clark.  
A. O. Williams was charged with being the keeper and for his appearance in court a bond of \$25 was required. The bonds for the men were \$10 each and for the women \$5.  
One of the men found in the Wicks place was Humphrey Lynch, a brother of County Commissioner Lynch.

### SANTIAGO CAPTURED BY CUBAN FORCES

Rebel Stronghold Falls Into Hands of Government and the Rebellion is Virtually Over.

U. S. MARINES ARE LANDED Americans Go Ashore to Protect Foreign Interests in Case of Looting.

FLIGHT IS PRECIPITATE Washington, March 9.—Official dispatches to the Navy department today established that Cuban government forces have regained control of Santiago, the stronghold of the rebel uprising. President Menocal has notified this government that Governor Munoz, in command there, represents him and the recognized Cuban government. American marines have been landed to protect foreign interests.

The repossession of Santiago and the capture of the rebel leader Gomez and his staff is regarded here as marking the collapse of the rebellion. Today's dispatches do not say whether there was a fight, but say the rebels, "realizing they were traitors about to be captured," threw away their arms and fled to the outskirts.  
It appears from the dispatches, which are incomplete, that the Munoz forces took the city by a coup within it and before the Menocal troops, marching on Santiago, had arrived.  
Munoz previously had declared himself loyal to President Menocal and the government and at his request American forces were landed to protect foreign interests in case the departing rebels should attempt to re-enter after having gathered their forces outside.  
American Marines Landed.  
Santiago, Cuba, March 8.—Four hundred men from American warships have landed and taken charge in Santiago. The cane fields and the Union Sugar mill at San Luis, ten miles north of Santiago, are burning. The people of San Luis are greatly alarmed and have built barricades in the streets, expecting an attack from the rebels.  
The American forces were landed from the mine layer San Francisco, the cruiser Olympia, the gunboat Petrel and the gunboat Machias. The Petrel and the Olympia have regained confidence since the landing of the Americans. There has been no fighting here as a result of the arrival of the American guards.  
Heavy fighting is reported in the vicinity of Palma Soriano.  
Gomez Captive in Havana.  
Havana, March 8.—Ex-President Jose Miguel Gomez, head of the liberal revolutionary movement in Cuba, is a prisoner tonight in the presidio, while the members of his staff, among them Colonel Quinones, his chief lieutenant in the field, are behind the walls of Fort Cabanas.

### Villa Ammunition Cache is Captured in Chihuahua State

Chihuahua City, Mexico, March 9.—A large quantity of hidden Villa ammunition was found by the de facto troops, following the battle at Cushturachi, Chihuahua. A prisoner, captured by the Carranza forces during the battle, revealed the hiding place of the ammunition in return for a pardon. The cache contained several thousand rifle cartridges and artillery shells, according to an official report received here.  
Reports from the Guerrero district of western Chihuahua say the Villa forces have become badly disorganized because of the absence of Villa from the field and the sack of leadership in his absence.  
Ammunition has been received here from Mexico City by General Murguia and 20,000 rounds were sent north to supply the de facto troops in the field near Casas Grandes.  
Two thousand government troops from Sonora, including a large number of Yaqui Indians, have reached Casas Grandes, having marched overland from the interior of Sonora.

### Body of Human Being Found Frozen in Ice in River

The body of a human being, so completely wrapped in layers of ice that not a feature was distinguishable and with a rope around its neck, was found floating with the current down the Missouri river late yesterday afternoon. The body was seen by a party of young men walking along the river bank between Douglas and the Union Pacific bridge. They summoned a boatman, who rowed in to mid-stream and dragged the frozen body to the shore.  
It is believed the body had been in the water for weeks. It was impossible to determine whether it was a man or a woman.

### Watch Sunday's Bee Another Fascinating POWELL PUZZLE PICTURE

Worth-having Prizes, too for the ten best answers Exclusive in The Bee

### Sooner Offer Money for The First U-Boat Bagged

Oklahoma City, Okl., March 8.—A joint resolution authorizing Governor Williams to "pay a reward of \$100 to the first American gunner who destroys a German submarine caught in an attempt to sink an American ship, or any ship carrying American passengers," was introduced in the lower house today.

Don't Wait for Opportunity! Unlock the Door Yourself



### MRS. WHEELDON DENIES CONSPIRACY

Accused Suffrage Leader Says She Did Not Plot to Poison Cabinet Members.

### POLICE TRY TO TRAP HER

London, March 9.—The taking of new testimony in the trial of Mrs. Alice Wheeldon, her daughters, and Alfred George Mason, husband of one of the daughters, was resumed today before Justice Low in the Old Bailey, where the prisoners are charged with conspiring to murder Premier Lloyd George and Arthur Henderson, labor member of the war council. The case was delayed yesterday because of the illness of a juror, which necessitated the swearing in of a new jury and the repetition of the testimony submitted up to that time.  
All the evidence given before the previous jury having been repeated this morning, Mrs. Wheeldon continued her testimony in reply to Judge Low, she admitted that she often had expressed the hope that the premier and Mr. Henderson would soon be dead. At the moment of this expression it represented her wishes, she testified.  
On being questioned whether the poison which she testified previously had been obtained to kill dogs would not have been just as available to get rid of Premier Lloyd George and Mr. Henderson, the witness said:  
"I did not desire it to be carried out. I never wished to take anybody's life or to have anybody's blood on my conscience. That is why I objected to the army taking conscientious objectors."  
Mrs. Wheeldon declared that various occurrences which, the crown contends fit in with its case, were all coincidences. She said that the secret agent, Gordon, who had been introduced to her as a fugitive from the police had told her Premier Lloyd George was responsible for Lord Kitchener's death because Mr. Lloyd George was to have gone to Petrograd, but the plan was changed two hours before the time of departure and the escort which had been arranged for him was withdrawn.

### War Up to Wilson Says Zimmermann

London, March 9.—On being asked by a representative of a Budapest newspaper whether war between the United States and Germany was expected the German foreign secretary, Dr. Alfred Zimmermann as quoted in an exchange telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, replied:  
"I do not know. It depends on President Wilson. Since the severance of diplomatic relations we have been without official information from America, but I can say this: We shall prosecute the submarine war with all means at our disposal."  
Dr. Zimmermann said he believed there would be no change in Germany's relations with the neutral nations of Europe during the war.

### Grand Jury Starts To Investigate Axe Crime in Villisca

Red Oak, Ia., March 8.—The grand jury here today began again investigation of the eight axe murders at the Moore home in Villisca, Ia., in 1912. Attorney General H. M. Havener arrived from Des Moines to conduct the investigation.  
J. N. Wilkerson, a Kansas City detective, who was defendant in a \$60,000 libel suit brought by former State Senator F. F. Jones, who alleged Wilkerson circulated rumors connecting him with the murders, offered his services to the attorney general. Mr. Havener declined Wilkerson's assistance "except as a witness before the grand jury."  
The attorney general will be aided by Special Prosecutor Faville of Storm Lake, Ia.  
Edward Mitchell, an attorney from Council Bluffs, who defended Wilkerson successfully in his libel suit, was here, in conference with witnesses who will be examined by the grand jury.  
Six members of the Moore family and two visitors were murdered in 1912 at the Moore home. Former Senator Jones, who was a business rival of Joseph Moore, one of the victims, said he would "never be satisfied until the murderer was found and his (Jones') name cleared of all suspicion."

### Built in Glasgow

The Mendi was a British steamer of 4,230 tons gross, built in Glasgow in 1905 and owned by the British and African Steam Navigation company of Liverpool (the Elder Dempster company). The last entry in shipping records regarding its movements was on December 27 last, when it was reported arriving at Port Natal from Dar-Es-Salaam.  
Berlin, March 9.—(By Wireless to Sayville).—The British merchant steamer Princess Melita was refused permission to enter the harbor at Rotterdam on Tuesday because it was armed," says the Overseas News agency (the official German news bureau.) "It left that evening and returned to Rotterdam the next day after throwing overboard its gun and its ammunition."  
The Newe Rotterdamse Courant says that in the week of February 25 to March 3 only seven ships arrived in Rotterdam harbor, as compared with fifty-seven in the corresponding week last year and 197 in that week of 1914. The Handelsblad says that in that week only five ships arrived at Amsterdam, compared with twenty-six last year.

### Armed Ship is Barred From Rotterdam Port

Washington, March 9.—A pacifist post card headed "American University Bulletin," mailed in large numbers in New York, has been barred from the mails by the Postoffice department under the sections of the criminal code prohibiting anything tending to incite arson, murder, anarchy or assassination and anything bearing an inscription detrimental to the character of anyone. American university officials here complained the card was not issued by the university and they had no knowledge of it.

### HUNDREDS PERISH AS TRANSPORT SUNK

Ten Europeans Among 625 Persons Aboard British Vessel Lost Off Isle of Wight.

### REST AFRICAN LABORERS

London, March 9.—The British transport Mendi, carrying South African native laborers, was sunk after a collision on February 21 and 625 persons lost their lives.  
Ten of the persons lost were Europeans, according to the announcement today to the South African Parliament by General Louis Botha, the premier. The official announcement says:  
"Premier Botha stated to the South African Parliament today that the transport Mendi, carrying the last batch of the South African native laborers' contingent (the rest of whom were landed safely in France), collided with another vessel en route from England to Havre, and sank in twenty-five minutes.  
"Off Isle of Wight.  
"The collision occurred off the Isle of Wight, February 21. The escort's searchlight could not penetrate the fog, but the survivors were rescued by passing vessels. Twelve European officers and 191 natives were saved. Ten Europeans and 615 natives were lost."  
"Difficulty in obtaining authentic information caused the delay in making the announcement public. Premier Botha added that the magistrates and native commissioners had been instructed to inform the chiefs, head men and people so that they might know the truth and not heed idle and mischievous stories, which experience proved might be circulated sedulously."

### Call to Congress

The president's proclamation calling the extra session of congress follows:  
"Whereas, public interests require that the congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the 16th day of April, 1917, to receive such communications as may be made by the executive:  
"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, president of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extraordinary occasion requires the congress of the United States to convene in extra session at the capitol in the city of Washington on the 16th day of April, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons who shall at that time be entitled to act as members thereof are required to take notice.  
"Given under my hand and the seal of the United States of America the 9th day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and forty-first."

### Hundreds of people will be looking through the Room to Rent Column of The Bee on Sunday.

Call Tyler 1000 and have Mr. Addison write an ad for you. Your room will be rented quickly.

### The price is only One Cent Per Word Why pay more?

Executive Also Summons Congress to Meet in Extraordinary Session Sixteenth of April.  
ACTION TAKEN AT ONCE Newspapers and Cable Companies Asked to Suppress Data on Armament.  
CABINET BACKS UP CHIEF Washington, March 9.—President Wilson has decided to arm American merchant ships under his constitutional authority and also has called a special session of congress for April 16. The proclamation for the extra session was issued at the White House this afternoon. The president said he was calling congress because so much necessary legislation was pressing for consideration.  
It was learned definitely that some American merchant vessels sailing for the submarine zone will be armed by the government at once. Preliminary arrangements have been completed and it is expected that vessels will be ready to sail in the near future.  
"Won't Be Made Public.  
The names of the ships which will be armed will not be made public by the government and are not expected to be published in the newspapers.  
The following statement was issued:  
"Secretary Tumulty stated in connection with the president's call for an extra session of congress that the president is convinced that he has the power to arm American merchant ships and is free to exercise it at once. But so much necessary legislation is pressing for consideration that he is convinced that it is for the best interests of the country to have an early session of the sixty-fifth congress, whose support he will also need in all matters collateral to the defense of our merchant marine."  
Signs Proclamation in Bed.  
The president signed the proclamation for the extra session while lying in bed with a cold. He also approved the statement given out at the White House. Order for carrying out the president's decisions to arm ships were immediately sent to the Navy department.  
Mr. Wilson has the backing of the entire cabinet in taking the step. Guns for arming merchantmen have been assembled at navy yards along the Atlantic coast and everything is ready to carry out the policy announced by the president.  
The Navy department has issued an appeal to the American newspapers to refrain from publishing any information whatever of the nature of armament of ships and already has appealed to the cable companies to suppress all information of ships crossing the Atlantic in either direction.  
Because of the passage by the house of the armed neutrality bill and the signing of the manifesto approving such a step by a majority of the senate during its last session the president feels he has congress and the country behind him. As soon as congress convenes additional legislation on the question will be asked for.  
Under the bill passed near the end of the last session the amount of money at the disposal of the government war risk bureau for insuring American ships was increased to \$15,000,000. Under the present rule of the bureau the government does not insure ships carrying arms or ammunition.