

HOUSE DEBATES
LATE INTO NIGHT

So Many Congressmen Want to Be Heard on Measure That Vote Is Delayed.

SLOAN SPEAKS AGAINST IT

(Continued from Page One.)

Other wavering pacifists, he said, would join with him. A broad smile possessed the face of Senator La Follette, who sat in the rear of the chamber. He opposed the resolution in the senate. Mr. Kitchin said he was not sure that the United States put in the same situation that Germany is in with respect to its European enemies might not resort to the same violations of neutrality that Germany has been guilty of. "Are we quite sure," he asked, "if we were in war with Germany and Japan, with our ships helpless, with our commerce swept off the seas, with our food scarce, with our arms and ammunition for our soldiers denied us, that we would not, in our last struggle strike at our enemy with the only weapon we could, even though it be a violation of neutrality?"

Says No Invasion Threatened. "In this case no invasion is threatened," Kitchin continued. "No foot of our territory is in danger. No vital right is contested. The acts of Germany are not directed directly at us. We are asked to make common cause with Great Britain and France to support a cause, right or wrong. Every feeling of humanity combines to keep us out of war."

"When congress has passed such a resolution as is pending and then only will be the duty of the nation to make the voice of the government its voice. Until then each person should have the inherent right to voice and vote his conviction."

Kitchin referred to the British closing of the North Sea and said no lives were lost then as Americans stayed out of that zone. Aimed at Germany's Enemy. "We did not go to war over that," he said. "We knew that the acts of Germany are not aimed at us but are aimed at crippling her enemy. Are we quite sure that the real reason for war is the protection of American lives rather than protection of American property?"

"We did not wage war on Mexico. We were willing to forego our rights with Great Britain and with Mexico rather than plunge into war while the whole world was in conflagration. I approved that course then and now."

Mr. Kitchin closed with an admission that the resolution would pass. There was a scattering of applause and then Representative Rogers of Massachusetts began to speak. He recited a long list of cases in which Germany has invaded the rights of the United States.

The list compiled by the State department showed that in the last two years and two months 22 American lives have been lost as a result of illegal attacks on vessels by German submarines. Representative Flood interrupted the debate to announce to the house the sinking of the unarmed American

Fire Flies When Senator Norris Arouses Ire of His Colleagues

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Washington, April 5.—(Special Telegram.)—Rancor and bitterness ran high in the senate today over the war resolution introduced by Senator Martin of Virginia. Senator Norris and Senator Reed of Missouri had a colloquy that may be historic. Senator Norris asserted, during a speech of probably thirty minutes in length, that "we are about to put the dollar mark on the American flag." The abruptness of the charge brought every senator to attention and the issue was joined. Senator Reed jumping to his feet said: "If this is not giving aid and comfort to the enemies of our country I don't know what would give aid or comfort to a Hapsburg and a Hohenzollern."

He said in substance that the utterance of the senator from Nebraska was treasonable in that it reflected upon the president. This Senator Norris denied most emphatically, insisting that his assertion about putting the dollar mark on the flag in nowise reflected upon the president. Senator Pomerene of Ohio shouted

ship Missourian, without warning, and probably with the loss of American lives. Representative London, New York, socialist, vigorously opposed the resolution. He said the president's plan for conscription, while President McKinley in the war with Spain called only for volunteers, showed that the president realizes the people are against the war with Germany. He said that war is indefensible.

Representative Sherwood of Ohio, said he was opposed to the resolution in the form which permits sending troops abroad. Former Speaker Cannon, supporting the war resolution, said this was no time for partisan discussion; that the United States is not ready for war now, but must prepare at once.

Remarking that he had heard it suggested that the president be impeached for arming American ships, Mr. Cannon said: "We would not make much headway there." He defended the loyalty of American citizens of German birth. Amid enthusiastic applause, the former speaker announced his intention of voting for war.

Representative Dill said he would vote against the resolution. Its passage a foregone conclusion, the debate was prolonged only by the plan of the administration floor leaders to give every opponent his opportunity to speak. Passage of the war resolution before adjournment tonight was assured and then, with the president's signature to the resolution, already passed by the senate, a state of war between the United States and Germany will be a formally accomplished fact.

Far in the rear of the hall sat Representative Cooper of Wisconsin, ranking republican member of the foreign affairs committee, who was expected to lead the opposition. Less than a dozen members, it was predicted, would vote against the war resolution. Galleries were only half filled when

at Norris: "How many Americans must the German government murder before you will be ready to fight?" Norris, visibly affected by the situation, for the galleries were crowded and a half dozen senators nervously waiting for a chance to break in, replied to Pomerene's interrogation: "If the German government had singled out American citizens, I should have fought at the first one Germany did not do that. In Mexico there have been more than 300 persons hunted down and willfully murdered."

Pomerene remarked that the senate could distinguish between the acts of a responsible government and those of a mob not responsible to any government. Senator Norris then took up the subject of mines and submarines, incidentally paying his compliments to the inhumanity of Great Britain for sowing mines that sunk American ships and killed American citizens.

The interchange between Norris and Reed did not exceed fifteen minutes, but the senate was aroused and the galleries responsive. Some such event may be expected in the house tomorrow when the Flood resolution declaring war is taken up.

debate began and less than half of the members were present when the session opened. Under the unanimous consent rule by which the resolution was being considered, Representative Flood could move the previous question at any time after one hour and, if sustained, bring the measure to a vote. He was disposed, however, to give members every opportunity to speak throughout the day. The debate began without any limitation.

Flood Opens Debate. "War is being made upon our country and its people," Representative Flood said in opening. "Our ships are being sunk. Our non-combatant citizens, including men, women and children, are being murdered; our merchantmen are denied the freedom of the seas. There is no choice as to our course. We are compelled by the acts of the German government to enter into this most colossal war."

"We should take our stand beside the allied nations, who have been fighting humanity's battles for two and one-half years, determined that our power shall be so employed that complete victory shall crown their efforts and that Prussian militarism shall be crushed and the world shall be delivered from the threat and danger of the Hohenzollern dynasty."

Siegel Favors Resolution. Representative Siegel of New York, republican, favoring the resolution, said he could not disregard the fact that, "though we cry peace, Germany answers by warring against us."

"During this week," he said, "intimations have come to me that political expediency required me to cast my vote against this resolution and I am glad to announce that I am now formally accomplished fact."

that contrary action on my part would mean a general effort from now on to end my congressional career. I would be unworthy of American citizenship were I to be deterred from acting by such warnings. I say to my colleagues who are now hesitating that the people will know whether they are for this great land of freedom and religious liberty or whether they are going to be guided simply by the selfish question whether they will obtain more votes in 1918 by standing on the side of our foe. Let us give evidence to the world that we are united."

Hint for Pacifists. Representative Harrison of Mississippi, democrat, assailed pro-German sympathizers and pacifists. "I would suggest to them," he said, "that they now employ their talents and eloquence, not in attempting to cause dissension among the American people, but in addressing Kaiser Wilhelm, Bethmann-Hollweg, the Reichstag and the author of that remarkable sample of diplomatic 'kultur,' the Zimmermann note."

Cooper Leads Opposition. First expressions of opposition to the resolution came from Representatives Cooper and Stafford of Wisconsin and Representative Britten of Illinois while Mr. Flood was recounting Germany's violations of American rights.

"Wouldn't the English mines in the North Sea destroy American lives?" Representative Cooper asked. "To date England never has sunk one of our ships or destroyed an American life," Mr. Flood said. Loud applause greeted the reply. He said sixteen members had asked for time in which to speak against the resolution.

Representative Cooper launched into a defense of pacifists generally and himself in particular. "I have been called a pacifist," he said. "I voted for all these preparedness bills. This campaign of slander has no regard for the truth."

Cooper also defended his vote for the McLemore resolution. "I was right then," he said, "and so were the 144 other members who voted for it. It should have been passed. Canada does not permit its women to travel on armed ships and neither should we. Every pacifist in the country knows that I am not a pacifist in the sense in which that word is used. Does it mean because I do not want to go to war with a nation 4,000 miles away, because England and Germany have violated our

rights, that I am not an American?" Mr. Cooper declared that the German government never had promised unqualifiedly to abandon its submarine warfare. Representative Flood made loud demands to be heard, but Cooper would not yield.

Mr. Cooper closed with the declaration that while all would stand united when war comes, he would not be one to vote to plunge the country into war.

Britten Has Amendment. Representative Britten, Illinois, republican, declared he was not a pacifist in any sense, but was opposed to the resolution. Some democrats, he said, had told him they were opposed to the resolution, but would vote for it. Representative Harrison of Mississippi and Representative Heflin of Alabama, democrats, called for names of such democrats and Britten replied by declaring 75 per cent of the democratic members were really personally not in favor of it and that 90 per cent of the people of the country were against going to war.

Britten had read an amendment he said he would later offer, providing that no part of the military forces of the United States should be ordered to do land duty in Europe until so directed by congress. This aroused applause from a small number on both the republican and democratic sides.

Interest in the debate waned and by 1:30 o'clock less than seventy-five members were on the floor.

Belgiums Forced To Dig Trenches For German Army

Berne (Via Paris), April 5.—An article in French and Swiss papers questioning the reports that Belgian deportations have stopped has led Americans here to assert their belief that the reports are probably untrue. They say that in addition to deporting Belgians to Germany the Germans have placed many thousands not far from the front in northern France, where they are employed in building the roads and railroads and digging rear line trenches. Belgians to the number of 60,000 or 70,000 are said to be working within range of the big guns of the allies, but in general to have escaped injury, as the French are using their big caliber weapons as little as possible in order to save the towns of their fellow countrymen.

The American ambassador, William G. Sharp, was in the diplomatic gallery. The deputies turned toward him and the demonstration was continued. The ambassador stood up and bowed and the cheering was redoubled.

Premier Ribot continued his address, but almost every phrase was interrupted by applause. Mr. Sharp was again obliged to rise and acknowledge an ovation when the premier said: "The United States wishes neither conquest for compensation."

French Deputies Cheer The American Ambassador

Paris, April 5.—Extraordinary scenes of enthusiasm for the United States were witnessed today in both houses of Parliament. Not since the historic session of August 4, 1914, has there been a parallel.

Alexandre Ribot, the venerable premier, arose immediately after the chamber came to order and began an address in solemn and impressive tones to the silent assemblage which filled every part of the house. The deputies listened with unbroken attention until the first mention of the United States. At first there was a decorous clapping of hands and then the whole house spontaneously arose, cheering for the United States and President Wilson.

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THOMPSON BELDEN & CO. The Fashion Center for Women Established 1886

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