

Today's Theatrical Offerings

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City Edition

GERMANS AID SUB-BOAT PLEDGES AMERICAN BRIGHT TO BRINK OF WAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Germany has declared unrestricted submarine warfare to crush the allies. A starvation blockade of England, on lines which the world never has seen, was a warning to the world today in notes to American Ambassador Gerard in Berlin and to the state department here by Count von Bernstorff.

Thus begins the long-feared campaign of ruthlessness, planned by von Hindenburg, it is said, on a magnitude never even contemplated by von Tirpitz. Again the United States faces severance of diplomatic relations with Germany with all its eventual possibilities. President Wilson's repeated warnings of a "world-a-fire" and Secretary Lansing's "verge of war" statement are being recalled in the capital tonight with feelings of apprehension.

Germany's action is the super-crisis of all those that have stirred the American government in two and a half years of world war. Peace and means of preserving peace have gone glimmering. President Wilson, incredulous at first when the unofficial text of Germany's warning was brought to him, at once called for the official document which had just been presented to Secretary Lansing by the German ambassador. Mr. Lansing absolutely refused to comment. President Wilson began immediately a careful study of the document.

New York Harbor Closed To Shipping; Not A Vessel Is Permitted To Leave

German Note Asks For Moral Assistance of U. S.

The official text of the ultimatum to the German government is the United States declaring a public enemy attitude and offering the moral assistance of the United States in this step. The text follows:
Washington, January 31, 1917.
Your excellency was good enough to transmit to the imperial government a copy of the message which the president of the United States of America addressed to the senate on the first instant. The imperial government has given it the most careful consideration which the president's statements deserve. Inasmuch as they are by a deep sentiment of responsibility, it is highly gratifying to the imperial government to ascertain that the main tendencies of the imperial statement correspond largely to the views and principles professed by Germany. These principles especially humane and governmental and equity of rights for all belligerents, whereby war will be conducted in the interests of humanity and peace, should now define their freedom. The German people also recognize all alliances which serve to have the resources of a nation cooperate in all efforts to prevent future wars. The freedom of the sea, being a preliminary condition of the free existence of nations, and the peaceful intercourse between them as well as the open door for the commerce of all nations, has always formed part of the leading principles of Germany's political program. All the more the imperial government regrets that the attitude of her enemies, who are so ardently opposed to peace, makes it impossible for the world at present to bring about the realization of these aims.
WOULD NOT DESTROY ALLIES
Germany and her allies were ready to enter now into a discussion of peace and set down as a basis the development of nations, honor and the security of their peoples.
This aim, as has been repeatedly stated in the note of December 11, 1916, was not directed towards the destruction or annihilation of their enemies and was, according to their conviction, perfectly compatible with the rights of the other nations. As to Belgium, for which such warm feelings especially by the United States, the chancellor had declared only a few weeks previous that his commission had never formed part of Germany's intention. The treaty was signed with Belgium was to provide for such conditions in that country, with which Germany desires to maintain friendly neighborly relations, that Belgium should not be used again by Germany's enemies for the purpose of launching continuous hostile incursions. Such precautionary measures are all the more necessary, as Germany's enemies have repeatedly stated not only in numerous addresses by their officials, but also in the minutes of the international conference in Paris, that it is their intention not to treat Ger-

U. S. Warships Guard Port; Police Squads on Wharves; Block German Coup Is Aim

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—The port of New York was sealed tonight by order of Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port. Vessels of the description, including tugboats, were turned back at quarantine, by the torpedo boat stationed there to maintain neutrality of the United States.
The purpose of Mr. Malone's order, announced a mystery upon which he declined to throw any light. He has full authority to act upon his own initiative in case of emergency, as he is held responsible for enforcing neutrality.
While there was no apparent basis for the belief that such drastic action resulted from information that one or more of the great German liners intended to sail from New York, it is significant that a military cutter, for so-called light on the Hamburg-American line, which was the ship of police of Hoboken and representatives of the steamship company.
Twenty-four steamships, some of them the largest in the world, owned by German interests are tied up at pier on the New Jersey side of the Hudson river, while three Austrian vessels are detained at Brooklyn pier. All of them have been under constant surveillance of United States agents to prevent any violation of neutrality. A neutrality vessel was organized more than a year ago.

BERLIN READY FOR BREAK WITH U. S.

The president has the task of deciding what shall be the course of the United States. Three immediate steps appear among the possibilities. The United States might solemnly warn Germany against a violation of her pledges; it might be decided that the German warning is sufficient notice of an intention to disregard those pledges and a sufficient warrant for breaking off diplomatic relations; it might be decided to await the results of the blockade and determine the course of the United States as the actual operations develop.
On almost every side Germany's drastic action is interpreted as an open confession of the effectiveness of the British blockade.
German officials in the United States estimate the food supply on the British Isles will last a month.
Want War Ended in Month
Admittedly, the plan is to carry starvation to the doors of England with swift, staggering strokes, as a fulfillment of Germany's announced determination to end the war quickly. She counts on the operations of an unbound number of submarines to deliver blows to bring England to her knees within sixty days. One German official here predicted today the war would be over in a month.
Conveyed to the world as her answer to the refusal of the entente allies to talk peace, Germany's latest warning says:
"From February 1, 1917, within barred zones around Great Britain, France, Italy and in the eastern Mediterranean all sea traffic forthwith will be opposed."
It virtually is a renewal and an extension of the elaborated submarine blockade of the British Isles proclaimed on February 4, 1915, and which became effective February 18, 1915. Under it ships were sunk without warning until Germany abandoned the practice and gave her assurance, in the Sussex case, to abide by international law. The Lusitania, Falaba, and scores of other ships were sunk under the decree.

Action Aggravates Delicate Situation
American citizens and American ships are warned from entering the war zones, although certain precautionary measures are suggested for distinguishing American steamers not carrying contraband, according to the German list. These conditions in almost the same form were rejected when proposed by Germany early in the negotiations over the Lusitania. At that time Germany proposed to guarantee immunity from attack to certain specified passenger ships, sailing on prescribed courses, with agreed distinguishing marks and carrying no contraband. President Wilson rejected the proposal promptly on the ground that the United States was contending only for its rights.
The new German proclamation brushes aside all the perplexing collateral issues which have surrounded the submarine controversy and brings it back to the point where it was left at the conclusion of the Sussex case.

Today's announcement, reviving the refusal of Germany's enemies to discuss her peace proposals and referring to the starvation blockade, says:
"The new situation has sprung up which forces Germany also to new decisions."

"The new decision is exactly the one forecast when the Sussex negotiations were closed."

Last German Note Was Threat
In the note conveying her pledges to assist submarine activities within international law, Germany included a threat of resumption if the United States did not succeed in lifting the British restriction on commerce to Germany and the European neutrals and the United States in reply expressly warned Germany that her pledges must be absolutely unconditional.
"Neutrals," said Germany in the Sussex note, "cannot expect that Germany, forced to fight for her existence, should for the sake of neutral interests, restrict the use of an important weapon if her enemy is permitted to continue to apply to all methods of warfare violating the rules of international law. Should the steps taken by the United States not attain the object to have the laws of humanity followed by all belligerent nations, the German government then would be facing a new situation in which it must reverse to itself complete liberty of decision."
To any such reservations the United States declared in no uncertain terms.

Wilson Flatly Refused Terms
"The United States feels it necessary to state," said President Wilson's reply, "that it takes for granted that the imperial German government does not intend to imply that the maintenance of its newly announced policy is in any way contingent upon the course or result of diplomatic negotiations between the government of the United States and any other belligerent government, notwithstanding the fact that certain passages in the imperial government's note might appear to be susceptible of that construction."
In completing the declaration that there must be no misunderstanding that rights of American citizens must not be made subject to the conflict of some other government, the note concluded by saying:
"Responsibility in such matters is single, not joint; absolute, not relative."

The development today came as a staggering surprise. For weeks inspired, authoritative and almost semi-official statements have been coming from Berlin indicating an absolute decision not to resume unrestricted submarine warfare. The complete agreement of the emperor, (CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO.)

BRITAIN KNOW OF GERMAN RESOLVE AND IS PREPARED TO CONVOY TRADE VESSELS

(By Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Great Britain used an "obscure channel" to tip off the U. S. that she was prepared to meet Germany's challenge for submarine warfare. The U. S. was authoritatively alerted by shipping circles here tonight. The source of the news was not disclosed, but it is known that the U. S. was alerted by the British government, which has known for some time that the German government was contemplating such a move. The British government has been warning the U. S. that it was not to be taken by surprise. The British government has been warning the U. S. that it was not to be taken by surprise. The British government has been warning the U. S. that it was not to be taken by surprise.