

LEAGUE MEETS ADVISERS BEFORE CASTING DIE FOR OR AGAINST WAR WITH GERMANY

HOUSE "LITTLE MYSTERY MAN," AGAIN CHIEF AID OF PRESIDENT

Washington Little Surprised When Wilson Telegraphed for Close-Mouthed Texas Colonel to Help Meet Present Crisis

Photograph illustrating this article will be found on Editorial Page.

The greatest crisis which has faced this country since the beginning of hostilities in Europe has strikingly emphasized the presence of President Wilson upon the "Little Man of Mystery," the mild, big-eyed, listening, whispering little man, who has played a quiet hand since Wilson became the nation's Chief Executive.

Official Washington had not recovered from its stupefaction at Germany's repudiation of all submarine pledges when President Wilson wired to Colonel Edward M. House to come to the capital at once. Transmission of the German note had only been completed a little while when the "Little Man of Mystery" was speeding from New York to Washington.

The action of the President in summoning Colonel House in an hour of national need was not such a surprise, for Americans have become accustomed to the "directing whisper" of the little colonel from Texas. Ever since Wilson became President they have sensed the influence of Colonel House in the affairs of the Administration, but they cannot understand that influence and are at a loss to determine the motives that lie back of it.

The colonel was tremendously moved when it was intimated in political circles that he was to be summoned to the White House to take part in the cabinet.

"I am not seeking anything for myself," he said, "and I am not seeking for anybody else; I am simply trying to do the best I can for the measure before me. I am not working for any influence that might be obtained or favors that may be granted. I am a plain citizen and determined to remain so."

Other certain well-known political gentlemen have made the same sort of lofty statements when questioned as to their motives, but in this case the statement carried weight, for since the colonel has been hovering around the White House at Washington he has won a reputation for veracity. The colonel seldom speaks, but when he does it has been noticed that he speaks the truth.

When House first slipped without ostentation into the public eye it was generally believed that he was merely a "pair of legs" for the President—a messenger boy. Later, however, his "directing whisper" began to be felt around the world. Then it began to be suspected that he played a strong part in events, that sometimes he suggested ideas and plans that commended themselves to the President.

No one seems to know why House is called Colonel. He certainly does not look like a colonel. Rather, he would be taken for an unobtrusive business man. House certainly would not impress a crowd of his influence is said to be the sort that is exerted over individuals.

He is said to have a way of "clearing things" a way of making light shine through the darkest cloud of doubt. It suggests why he was sent yesterday by the President when the latter was confronted with one of the gravest problems of the nation's history.

WHO THE COLONEL IS Who is this man who yesterday demonstrated almost beyond the peradventure of a doubt that he was the "pivot" of the Administration?

Investigation of the history of Colonel House reveals he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His father was a rich banker and man of affairs in Austin, Tex. He sent his son to a school in Austin to prepare for college, and in the course of time the young man was graduated from Cornell. When Colonel House's father died he inherited a handsome fortune—enough so that he did not have to worry about house rent and the high-cost-of-living problem. A shrewd business man, he added to his patrimony a large land ownership in his native State, and is interested in banking and other enterprises in that section of the country.

POWER IN TEXAS POLITICS In Texas Colonel House has been a power in politics for more than twenty years.

Colonel House has traveled much, and is as much at home in London or Paris or Berlin as he is on the streets of Austin, Tex., or New York.

"ORIGINAL WILSON MAN" Right here we are coming to the Colonel's first real mission into national politics. When the Democrats got control of the House of Representatives in 1910 and the Taft Administration was getting deeper and deeper into the mire of politics, Colonel House made up his mind that there was an excellent chance for the Democrats to elect a President, provided the right man was nominated.

The colonel turned his eyes toward Jersey, where Governor Woodrow Wilson was making Jim Smith, Democratic boss, and other lesser bosses run for cover. He made up his mind that Wilson was the man who could win, and before Wilson knew much about it, the colonel's "directing whisper" was making friends for Wilson in various parts of the country. Later Wilson and House met and discovered that they agreed on almost everything in politics. One of the men whom Wilson feared was Bryan, but House proved the "great fixer" and soon induced the Commoner to do his hair, paint and feathers and go after Wilson. House, it is claimed, was the man who shooed off Colonel Harvey on the ground that Harper's Weekly advocacy was hurting Wilson's chances.

Those who were at the Baltimore convention know that through all of the fighting for the various candidates on the floor of the convention the forty Texas Democrats stood like a stone wall for Wilson on every ballot and fought with the same determination and pluck that the defenders of the Alamo fought their fight.

AS A CABINET MAKER Before the administration was well under way it became plain that when President Wilson wanted an unprejudiced opinion of men or things he sent for Colonel House. When it came to making the Wilson Cabinet House was right on the job. Before the make-up of the Cabinet was announced a copy of it was given to Colonel House, and he went to Florida to see Bryan and to discuss the early signing. The Cabinet was satisfactory to the Nebraska, and it was surely satisfactory to the Texas, for was not one of its members from his State—Postmaster General Burleson—while Secretary of Agriculture Houston had been a university president in the same big State?

Having piloted the Wilson Administration into the White House, Colonel House has been its watchman in the beifry ever since. Taft moved out and Wilson moved in. When the Administration wanted to fill important offices in New England, Colonel House was delegated to look over the field of available men.

VISIT TO WARRING EUROPE When, in 1915, President Wilson wanted to get a close viewpoint of the situation in the war zone, he sent Colonel House over to get that viewpoint and to bring it back to Washington. The colonel, in his usual plain, unobtrusive manner, talked with Anquith, Lloyd George, Kitchener, Poincaré, Delcasse, Viviani, Vojacow, Rathenau, Holweg and many other notables who figure in the world's greatest war. He had two interviews with King George of England. The findings of the little Texas were never made public. He made his report to the President upon his return, and the matter ended right there as far as the world was concerned. The "Little Man of Mystery" is said, however, that he had gone to Europe as the President's bag man.

SAW VANCE MCCORMICK The "silent hand" of the little Colonel was evidenced plainly at the St. Louis convention in the election of the chairman of Democratic National Committee. Two days before the convention Colonel House glided into Harrisburg and told Vance McCormick that he was one of a number of men being considered for chairman of the Democratic National Committee. At St. Louis Colonel House was in constant communication by telephone with the President. Everybody knows that Vance McCormick was made chairman of the committee.

REUNIONED GERMANY CONFIDENT AMERICA WILL NOT DECLARE WAR

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

BERLIN, Feb. 2.—Few Germans believe America will declare war.

If this belief is borne out, then England will be compelled to make peace through Germany's new blockade order.

The united chorus of approval of the limitless sea warfare just announced, this was the opinion generally expressed here today.

That Germany is united as never before was apparent from expressions of representative Germans.

First of all, the Emperor's note of last December united the masses of the people with him. And now, announcement of a submarine blockade has erased all political differences.

The Emperor now has a united nation, with all its forces co-operating.

Representative Germans, who were asked today why Germany announced her policy of limitless submarine warfare with its unknown dangers, made two replies:

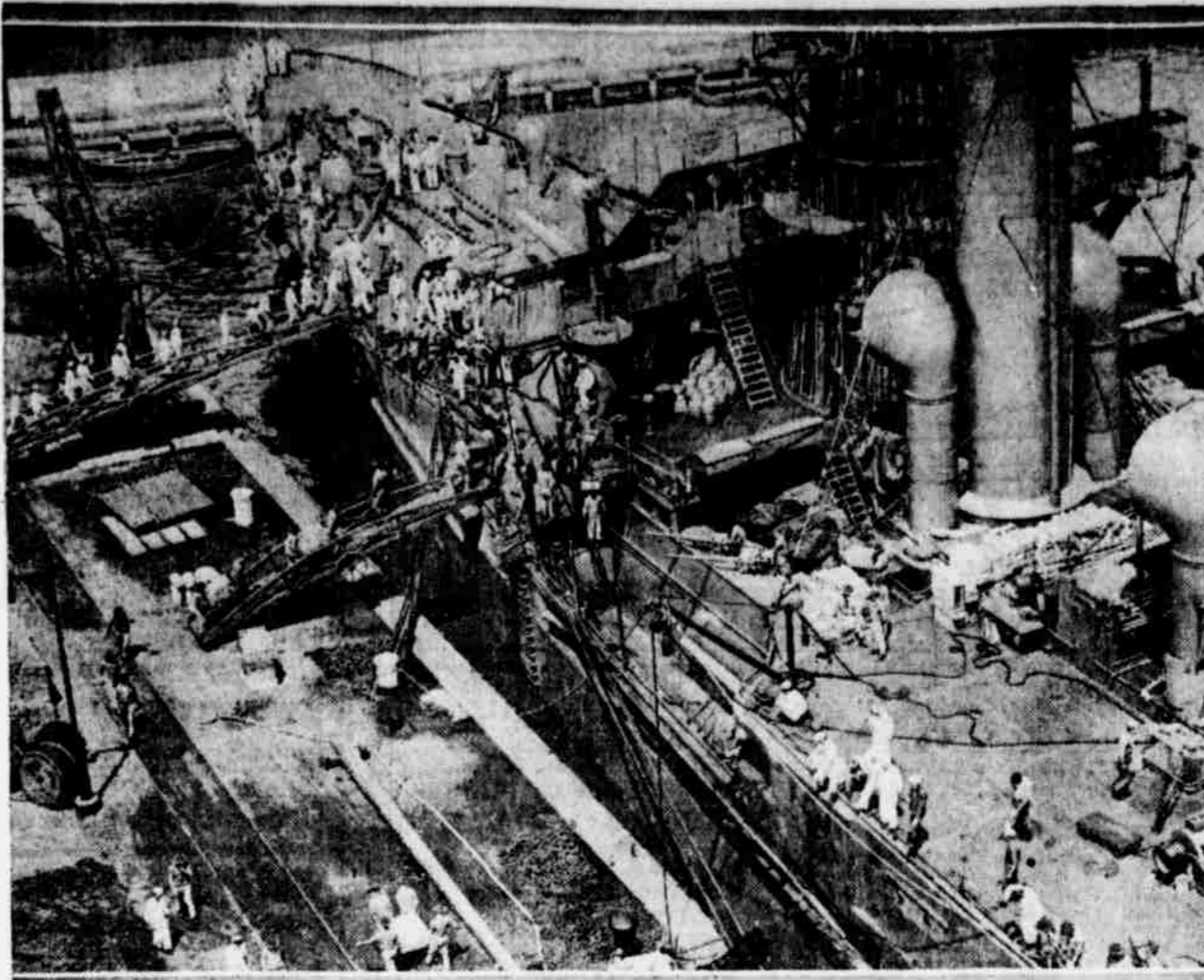
First, they were convinced that the war could be ended sooner. The present move is regarded as a decisive one against allied shipping.

Second, it was explained by numerous Germans how unity was now complete, all forces co-operating, and co-operating convinced that England can be compelled to make peace unless America declares war—which few expect.

Nothing since Grand Admiral von Tirpitz's first announcement of a blockade early in the war has aroused the enthusiasm of the navy as much as the submarine policy upon which Germany has now embarked.

Captain Parsius, the Tageblatt's naval editor, pointed out today that under the new regulations Germany cannot lose her submarines as before when, under strict discipline with the principle of visit and search, they were always subject to attack, while unprepared, by armed allied merchantmen.

ACTIVITY ON BATTLESHIPS AT LEAGUE ISLAND



At times like this when war looms up as a possibility, the Navy Yard is quickly responsive and the work of preparing for an immediate eventuality begins. The photograph shows jacks carrying supplies aboard one of the seafighters.

GERMAN SHIPS LIABLE TO SEIZURE BY UNITED STATES IN EVENT OF WAR

THESE German ships now detained in American ports would be seized by the United States in event of a condition of war between this country and Germany:

Table listing German ships with columns for Name, Gross tons, and At. Includes ships like Vaterland, George Washington, Amerika, Kronprinzessin Cecilie, Kaiser Wilhelm II, President Lincoln, President Grant, Cincinnati, Kronprinz Wilhelm, Pennsylvania, Grosser Kurfurst, Bulgaria, Barbossa, Prinz Irene, Friedrich der Grosse, Hamburg, Rhein, Neckar, Konig Wilhelm II, Bohemia, Kohn, Rhaetia, Prinz Oskar, Wittkind, Ockenfels, Armenia, Arcadia, Adamsturm, Pisa, Willehad, Prinz Joachim, Serapis, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, Allemannia, Harburg, Saxonia, Nassovia, Hohenfelde, Portonia, Maia, Clara Mennig, Neptun, Pommern, C. J. D. Ahlers, Prinz Waldemar, Setos, Holsatia, Lockau, Loong Moon, Staatssekretar Kraetke, Gouverneur Jaeschke, Rudolph Blumberg, Vogesen, Frieda Leonhardt, Odenwald, Dalbek, Steinbek, Liebenfels, Magdeburg, Nicaragua, Kiel, Indra (schooner), Matador (bark), Arnoldus Jinnen, Kurt (bark), Otta (bark), Breslau, Andromeda, Borneo, Darvel, Narudu, Princess Alice, Tsintau, Wiegand, Cebu, Andalusia, Bochum, Camilla Richmers, Carl Diederichsen, Clara Jepsen, Gohlens, Elmstorn, Eastinglen, Johanne, Lyceomoon, Mark, Pongtong, Rajah, Sachsen, Sambia, Suevia, Tubingen, Elsass.

Six More Vessels Sunk by U-Boat

Continued from Page One. As a result of the new submarine war, it is believed that all the Americans in Germany will be allowed to depart, and it is likely that all will go with the American Ambassador.

ROTTERDAM, Feb. 2.—The Holland-America liner Niagu, Amsterdam, which left this port yesterday for New York, has been recalled owing to the submarine situation.

MIRIC All-in-One Hot-Water and Ice Bag

Miric is a wonder; it is better and far superior; will do the work of two bags. Will not harden or decompose. Why two bags?

U. S. HAS WAR'S SINEWS IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Charles S. Calwell Points Out Country Is in Splendid Financial Condition

In event of war the United States would be in a splendid position financially to meet any situation that might arise. This is the opinion of Charles S. Calwell, president of the Corn Exchange National Bank, of Philadelphia. Mr. Calwell points out that the bulk of the gold of the world is in the United States at the present time and that the country not only has money but also supplies.

"There are heaps of gold in the country," said Mr. Calwell. "We can meet any situation that might arise. We could raise two billions in two days in case of emergency."

"Yes, we are in a splendid condition," Mr. Calwell continued. "We have means, money and supplies."

Mr. Calwell was then asked if the award of munition contracts brought about this ideal condition. He replied:

"Of course, the munition contracts played a part in bringing about the conditions, but we must remember the cereals and all kinds of goods that we have been selling. Then there is also the general good condition of the country to consider."

Mr. Calwell's views accord with the opinion of many other prominent bankers in Philadelphia. Charles J. Rhoads, governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, was also optimistic over the financial condition of the United States in case of war.

REDFIELD SEES BOOM IN AFTER-WAR TRADE

Declares America Will Take Initiative in Active Business Reconstruction

WASHINGTON, Feb. 2.—"We see more clearly that we must be called upon both for the funds and for the goods for rehabilitating a devastated Europe," said Secretary of Commerce Redfield this afternoon in a speech before the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in which he predicted peace would bring new prosperity to this country. He said:

"Our part in the coming days of peace is to be one of initiative, of active reconstruction, not one of mere or less feeble resistance to foes strangely grown powerful through terrible disaster."

Co-operation, he declared, was the new gospel of the business world. "Economic laws do not run backward," he said. "Competition cannot be restored by statute law when economic law has decreed its doom. Its good will be retained. Its evil will not come back to plague us. From combination, too, we shall extract the good."

"It is larger than competition. It is more unselfish than combination. It is safer than either. It involves the charging upon business of a public interest. It declares that a business transaction is and must be a mutual affair, and that producer, wholesaler, manufacturer, consumer are not and cannot permanently be at odds one with another, but that a new thought has arisen which makes them in a sense partners, working together, not in antagonism."

PIETRO TOBASCO TO MARRY Man of Seventy-two Thinks It Is Not Too Late

Pietro Tobasco, after living a life for seventy-two years unlike his name, is going to have the spice of life mixed along with some pepper.

Tobasco, who will be presented shortly as the Tobasco Kid, has obtained license to wed Filomena Epposito, who is about sixty-seven. They live at 822 Carpenter street.

Advertisement for Boston Sample Shoe Shop. Features 'LOW PRICE OFFERINGS—EVENING PUMPS AND "CLASSY" NOVELTY BOOTS'. Shows images of various shoes and slippers. Text includes 'Pumps and Slippers Black and White Satin; Gold and Silver Cloth; Gray, White, Brown, Patent Cloth and Two-tone effects, etc.' and 'Two-Tone and Dress Eight-inch Boots Tan Russia Calf, Black Kidskin, Havana Brown, Gun-metal with Gray, Brown, Buck Top, Black Kid with White Top, etc.' Price range from \$2.95 to \$4.95.

Advertisement for 'Beginning a Great Let-Go of Fine Overcoats at Oak Hall'. Features 'THESE figures are real. It is a fact that you can buy a \$30 silk-lined overcoat today for \$15—at Oak Hall! It is a fact that you can buy silk-lined standard model, staple overcoats ranging from \$20 to \$30 for \$15—at Oak Hall!'. Shows images of overcoats. Text includes 'THE men whose business it is to know merchandise in Oak Hall, in going over these 815 overcoats, declared they had never seen finer merchandise so uniformly desirable, so finely tailored and so well worth its regular season-through prices as this great presentation of overcoats which we make now to sell for \$15.' Price range from \$10 to \$18.50.