

Diplomatic Relations with Germany Severed; Count J. H. Von Bernstorff Given His Passports

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES ACT TO CONGRESS AND THE WORLD

TWO YEARS OF CRISES CULMINATE WITH ACT THAT MAY MEAN WAR

All German Consuls in Country Expected to Withdraw
GERARD IS ORDERED HOME
Every Agency in Motion to Protect Country Against Acts of German Sympathizers
TO CHECK CONSPIRACIES
May Convooy American Ships Through Submarine Blockade—Breaking of Relations Came Saturday With a Crash.

President Calmly Tells Congress America Can't Longer Remain Friendly With Kaiser



President Woodrow Wilson

PRESIDENT WILSON GREETED WITH WILDEST ENTHUSIASM

Joint Session of Congress Hears His Address Then Rises to Its Feet and Cheers With the Spirit of True Americanism—Not Since 1898 Has There Been Staged at the National Capital a Scene So Stirring.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3.—President Wilson has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and warned the kaiser that ruthless sacrifice of American lives and rights means war. Similar action is waiting for Austria when she notifies this government that she joins in the campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare. The President made formal announcement of his action to the country and to the world today at a joint session of Congress. Passports have been handed to Count von Bernstorff; Ambassador Gerard with all his staff and all American consuls have been ordered out of Germany. All German consuls in the United States are expected to withdraw, which will complete the severance of relations; American diplomatic interests in Berlin have been turned over to Spain; German diplomatic interests in the United States have been taken over by Switzerland. Foreign diplomatic interests which the United States had in charge in Germany have been turned over to various neutrals. Two years of diplomatic negotiations, marked with frequent crises, and attended with the loss of more than 200 American lives on the high seas, have culminated with an act which in all the history of the world always has led to war. Every agency of the American government has been set in motion to protect the country against acts of German sympathizers. These moves are of necessity being kept secret. With the notice of severance of relations the United States sent to Berlin a demand for the immediate release of 64 Americans taken from ships captured by German raiders in the south Atlantic.

At the request of the President, Congress immediately after hearing his address began work on new laws framed by the department of justice to check conspiracies and plots against the United States which cannot now be reached under existing statutes. The question of conveying American merchant ships through the submarine blockade has been taken up and is being considered as one of the next moves by this government. Neutral governments have been notified of the action of the United States, and have openly been invited to follow its action if the new submarine campaign violates their rights. The breaking of relations came

CHARLOTTE BLOCK IS SWEEPED BY FIRE; LOSS IS GIVEN AT \$100,000

Fire Started at Corner Fourth and Tryon Streets

JOHNSTON BUILDING LOST
Commercial Building, Charlotte's Skyscraper, Damaged By Fire and Water

LADIES HAVE CLOSE CALL
Mrs. Fred Oliver and Miss Aida Oliver Caught in Burning Building But Rescued—Firms Damaged and the Losses.

(Special to Daily News)
Charlotte, Feb. 3.—Fire in two hours tonight reduced a large portion of one of the prominent business blocks of this city to ashes, starting at 10 o'clock on the second floor of the large building at the corner of South Tryon and Fourth streets, and remaining uncontrolled until the entire building and its contents were destroyed. At midnight the flames died down but the surrounding remains were still under the hose of the firemen. The loss was estimated as upward of \$100,000.
The ground floor of the building was occupied by the Tate-Brown Clothing company, which had the corner store room; the "Brown Block" is a popular eating place conducted by Mrs. Fred Oliver and the Hearty drug store. The second floor was used by the King's Business college. The building was three-story. It was believed that the fire started from a stove in the business office. The building's worth was variously estimated at \$50,000 to \$150,000. It was an old structure. The heirs of the late F. Johnston owned the portion occupied by Tate-Brown and the Robert Johns were the owners of the remainder of the building. One of these latter is Mr. J. R. Bobbman, who is on the Mecklenburg with the national guard. S. J. Alexander is executor of the Johnston estate and had the power of attorney for Mr. Bobbman. It is reported tonight that he had visited the building late in the afternoon, going through it with the electric meter in connection with inspection with interests of water pipes in mind. There had been no apparent fire danger then.
The Tate-Brown company's stock was not estimated. An expert appraiser nor anyone with accurate knowledge of the stock, but it figured at about \$25,000 to \$30,000. Mrs. Oliver's loss was placed at upward of \$2,000, as she had only comparatively recently moved into the building with her family. The loss of R. R. Beatty, in drug store equipment and supplies, was placed at approximately \$25,000. The business building was well equipped with desks and other valuable furniture, and the loss was said to be \$5,000 or more. The damage to the building was estimated at \$100,000. The loss of the building was estimated at \$100,000. The loss of the building was estimated at \$100,000.

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME NOW, SAYS BERNSTORFF HIS VOICE IS HUSKY

German Ambassador Declares His Life Work Has Failed; He Is Out of Politics

(By International News Service)
Washington, Feb. 3.—Count J. H. von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, heartbroken that his years of unremitting toil to preserve friendly relations between the United States and Germany had collapsed in failure, tonight prepared to leave the country. He told friends that nothing in his long and eventful career had so much affected him as this. "I don't care what happens to me now; I am out of politics forever; my life work has failed," the ambassador said, with a show of emotion only after he had been handed his passports by a state department representative.
Tears welled in his eyes as the ambassador handed to the newspaper men in the red room of the embassy following the state department emissary's visit. His voice was husky and his eyes were red with tears. He spoke at times, showing unmistakable evidence of regret that he must depart from the scene of his many triumphs in the past.
Ambassador von Bernstorff received his passports at 1:50 o'clock this afternoon from the hands of Assistant Secretary Lester Woolsey, of the state department. With the passport which provided for the recall not only of the ambassador but also of his family, the ambassador was given a duplicate of the speech the President delivered before Congress.
Before the passports were delivered, the ambassador and other officials of the embassy knew that a break was imminent. When he received definite word that diplomatic relations had been broken, he informed Countess Bernstorff of the news. The embassy officials and employees were immediately notified of the diplomatic break. All connected with the embassy were apprehensive that a bigger crisis was soon coming.

TEARS FILLED HIS EYES

(By International News Service)
Washington, Feb. 3.—Diplomatic relations between the United States and the imperial German government were completely severed today, as a result of the German declaration of renewed and relentless submarine warfare.

Count Von Bernstorff Handed His Passports

(By Associated Press)
Washington, Feb. 3.—The note handed to Count von Bernstorff with his severed diplomatic relations, conforms closely in substance to President Wilson's address to Congress this afternoon.

CLLOUD OF GLOOM HAS SETTLED OVER CAPITAL AS RESULT OF BREAK

United States Placed on Practical War Footing
FLURRY OF EXCITEMENT
Sinking of Housatonic Again Startles Washington, But President Patiently Waits
WAS AN AMERICAN BOAT

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BREAK IS POPULAR IN GREENSBORO; CITIZENS THOUGHT IT INEVITABLE

Canvass Fails to Discover One Who Disagrees

PARTY LINES WIPED OUT
Republicans as Firmly Convinced as Democrats that President Had No Choice.

DISAGREE AS TO RESULT
Some Believe that Business Will Be Energized, Others Look For Depression—Many Think War Is Bound to Come

An hour spent yesterday afternoon in a canvass of the male citizenship of Greensboro failed to discover a single person who did not approve the course of the President in the severance of the diplomatic relationship with Germany. Some thought it should have been done long ago, but the great majority considered that the chief executive of the republic had done all that a lover of peace and international order could do and at the right moment had declined to sever from an honorable position. This conviction of opinion was that of Republicans and Democrats, as the interviewers of both parties were known.

The men of Greensboro seemed to be disagreed on the question of whether the step would lead to war, but the majority believed that the situation there was also a difference of opinion as to the influence of the action of the country. Some believed that the situation there would be a great relief while others regard the crisis as a probable cause of commercial depression. Were the President to meet with other large dealers in cotton here, as much as in opinion, it was understood, that the business conditions in a great way. Therefore nothing informative as to what the people think of the action of the President was obtained. It is probable that this general opinion could be gleaned from the interviews. Mr. McNamee had a conversation with a prominent citizen about the action of the President. He called attention to the fact that the first effect of the declaration of war on the market was a rise of nearly 100 points.

E. P. Wharton, banker, financier and president of the North Carolina branch of the Y. M. C. A., said that he did not believe that the action of the President was a mistake. He said that he believed that the action of the President was a mistake. He said that he believed that the action of the President was a mistake.

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The local navy yard very virtually was placed on a war basis today. The two German cruisers, Kronprinz Wilhelm and Prinz Eitel Friedrich, were seized by order of the navy department, and their crews imprisoned in an isolated boat destroyed armed guns were placed at the yard entrance, while maintenance men were assigned to patrol the land side limits of the government preserve.

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