

WILSON WILL ACT WITH FIRMNESS

KNOWS PEOPLE WISH RIGHT ACTION TAKEN IN LUSITANIA MATTER.

115 AMERICANS LOSE LIVES

Government Learns Ill-Fated Liner Was Not Armed and Therefore Not Liable to Attack Under Law.

Washington, May 10. — President Wilson, on whom the eyes of the world are focused at the present moment, is studying in quiet seclusion the aspects of law and fact in connection with the sinking by a German torpedo of the British liner Lusitania, with a loss of 115 American lives.

The great human tragedy, coupled with the responsibilities of the hour, caused the president to deny himself to all callers, even to members of his official family, while he turned over in his mind the course to be pursued by the United States government in one of the most serious crises in its history.

Wilson's First Word.

The only glimpse of the workings of the President's mind was given when the White House issued its first formal comment on the disaster. The announcement was made that the President realized the country expected him to deal with the situation "with deliberation as well as firmness."

After a conference with the President at the White House, Secretary Tumulty said:

"Of course, the President feels the distress and the gravity of the situation to the utmost and is considering very earnestly, but very calmly, the right course of action to pursue. He knows that the people of the country wish and expect him to act with deliberation as well as with firmness."

Carried No Arms.

One important fact was definitely ascertained by the Washington government from the port authorities at New York, who gave clearance to the Lusitania—that she carried no guns, either mounted or unmounted, in accordance with the caution of the state department and the British government early in the war.

officials, of the claim that the German submarine had a right to attack the Lusitania because she was an auxiliary or a converted cruiser. Officials of the Cunard line are understood to have stated that the Lusitania was not convoyed.

No Excuse Under Law.

These facts, in the opinion of law officers of the American government, left the German submarine no excuse under law or reason for an attack without warning on a ship with hundreds of noncombatants aboard, including neutral men, women and children.

The position of the United States has been that the presence of contraband—even arms and ammunition—according to the rules of international law, including the declaration of London, which Germany has upheld, cannot warrant the sinking of a merchantman without the previous exercise of the right of visit and search and the removal of noncombatants to a place of safety.

Germany Was Warned.

The government stated this in its last note to Germany and at the same time issued a warning that the imperial German government would be held "to a strict accountability" by the United States for any loss of American vessels or lives.

The suggestion that the warnings by the German embassy in newspaper advertisements should have been sufficient to deter Americans from traveling aboard ships flying the British flag was widely commented upon among diplomats.

No Official Notice.

At the State department, Secretary Bryan revealed that the embassy's warning had never been officially communicated to the State department, and that since the announcement by the German admiralty in February of its proclamation of a war zone, the American protest and the reply from Germany saying the government would disclaim responsibility for accidents to neutrals, the subject for several weeks had not been officially mentioned between the Berlin and Washington governments.

Italian Troops to Front.

London, May 10.—A Copenhagen correspondent sends the following: "A private message from Berlin states that Italy yesterday called to the colors all infantry classes from 1876. Many trains loaded with troops are proceeding to the front."

Washington, May 10.—Finance ministers and leading bankers of Central and South American countries met here as guests of the United States government in order to confer with American officials and financiers on the means to be taken for breaking down the barriers which hamper the development of trade between North and South American countries met Pan-American financial congress ever held and Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, President Wilson and other sponsors hope that great good will result from it. The delegates are being entertained at the expense of the United States, congress having appropriated \$50,000 for the purpose.