

United States and the European War.

In proclaiming neutrality of the United States on August 3, President Wilson called attention to the existence of war between Austria-Hungary and Serbia, between Germany and Russia and between Germany and France. He warned all persons against commission of the following acts prohibited by the law approved on March 4, 1909:

1. Accepting and exercising a commission to serve either of the said belligerents by land or by sea against the other belligerent.
2. Enlisting or entering into the service of either of the said belligerents as a soldier, or as a marine, or seaman on board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer.
3. Hiring or retaining another person to enlist or enter himself in the service of either of the said belligerents as a soldier, or as a marine, or seaman on board of any vessel of war, letter of marque, or privateer.
4. Hiring another person to go beyond the limits or jurisdiction of the United States with intent to be enlisted as aforesaid.
5. Hiring another person to go beyond the limits of the United States with intent to be entered into service as aforesaid.
6. Retaining another person to go beyond the limits of the United States with intent to be enlisted as aforesaid.
7. Retaining another person to go beyond the limits of the United States with intent to be entered into service as aforesaid. (But the said act is not to be construed to extend to a citizen or subject of either belligerent who, being transiently within the United States, shall, on board of any vessel of war which, at the time of its arrival within the United States, was fitted and equipped as such vessel of war, enlist or enter himself or hire or retain another subject or citizen of the same belligerent, who is transiently within the United States, to enlist or enter himself to serve such belligerent on board such vessel of war, if the United States shall then be at peace with such belligerent.
8. Fitting out and arming, or attempting to fit out and arm, or procuring to be fitted out and armed, or knowingly being concerned in the furnishing, fitting out, or arming of any ship or vessel with intent that such ship or vessel shall be employed in the service of either of the said belligerents.
9. Issuing or delivering a commission within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States for any ship or vessel to the intent that she may be employed as aforesaid.
10. Increasing or augmenting or procuring to be increased or augmented, or knowingly being concerned in increasing or augmenting the force of any ship of war, cruiser, or other armed vessel, which at the time of her arrival within the United States was a ship of war, cruiser or armed vessel in the service of either of the said belligerents, or belonging to the subjects of either, by adding to the number of guns of such vessels or by changing those on board of her for guns of a larger caliber, or by the addition thereto of any equipment solely applicable to war.
11. Beginning or setting on foot or providing or

preparing the means for any military expedition or enterprise to be carried on from the territory or jurisdiction of the United States against the territories or dominions of either of the said belligerents.

The proclamation further declares as contrary to neutrality the use for aid to hostile operations of waters within the jurisdiction of the United States by public ships or privateers. American citizens, as well as all others within the jurisdiction of the United States, are warned against organizing military forces in aid of a belligerent, and citizens receive the additional notice that they can obtain no protection from the government in the event of getting into trouble through a violation of neutrality. [See current volume, page 753.]

A further move to enforce neutrality was an order of the President, issued on August 5, forbidding wireless stations within the jurisdiction of the United States from sending or receiving messages of an unneutral nature. Censors were placed at the stations at Sayville, Long Island and at Tuckerton, New Jersey, both owned by Germans. On August 8 a protest was sent to the President by the German-American Chamber of Commerce of New York. The protest declares that while the German wireless stations are under censorship the "English and French cables are in clear operation and not under any censorship whatever." It further charges that news of movements of German ships is being cabled to England and France and that the cables are used to disseminate false and exaggerated rumors in this country.

On August 5 President Wilson sent a note offering mediation through American representatives in Europe to all of the warring powers. The note is based on article 3 of the Hague convention which says:

"Independently of this recourse, the contracting powers deem it expedient and desirable that one or more powers, strangers to the dispute, should, on their own initiative and as far as circumstances allow, offer their good offices or mediation to the states at variance.

"Powers strangers to the dispute have the right to offer good offices or mediation even during the course of hostilities.

"The exercise of his right can never be regarded by either of the parties in dispute as an unfriendly act."

Acceptance of the offer will not interfere with hostile preparations or movements until an agreement to that effect has been made. It is not expected that any of the powers will accept the offer until a decisive battle has been fought.

Mexico and the United States.

Peace is still in abeyance in Mexico between the Constitutionalist and the Federal governments.

The reported surrender of Mazatlan was a mistake. An attack on the city was made by the Constitutionalists on August 5. Hard fighting ensued which was still going on on August 8. The Constitutionalists had by that time captured all of the outer defenses. Two minor engagements took place on August 9 near the American lines at Vera Cruz in both of which the Federals had the advantage. The capture by the Constitutionalists was announced on August 9 of Toluca, capital of the State of Mexico, and Pachuca, capital of Hidalgo. [See current volume, page 754.]



Efforts by the United States government to bring about peace resulted in dispatch of a telegram to Carbajal on August 8 by his representative at Washington, Jose Castellot. The telegram urged surrender to Carranza, provided amnesty and guarantees of safety be given. Otherwise, Castellot said, armed resistance would be inevitable. Carranza replied to urging by the State Department, that he grant the terms asked in the following message to Consul Silliman at Saltillo:

Excess will not be permitted, and the conduct of the new government will be determined by what it deems for the best interest of all those concerned, and this conduct will be in strict harmony with the laws of war and the usages of civilized nations under similar circumstances.



Mr. Charles A. Douglas, representative in Washington of General Carranza, made public on August 2, a report of conditions in northern Mexico made to him by Herbert J. Browne of New York, an economic expert. Mr. Browne reported as follows:

At Tampico the large business operations were slowly resuming. The city was clean and orderly. I did not see a single drunken or boisterous Mexican. The market place was filled with a profusion of food supplies, potatoes alone being scarce. Prices were high in Constitutional money, but moderate in American money. Retail business was brisk. I did not see a single beggar in Tampico.

Gov. Caballero I watched in his office and was struck with his grasp of business detail, and the rapidity with which he despatched business. The whole state and municipal machinery moved with little friction and an absence of red tape.

Train service to Monterey was poor. The rolling stock is in bad shape from the ravages of a fierce military campaign. Along the route I was struck with the absence of signs of serious distress among the common people such as I witnessed in Cuba just prior to the Spanish war. Every one had enough to eat. There was no gathering of half-starved and emaciated beggars.

Throughout all upper Mexico the peons have been practically free from paying rent to their former oppressive landlords for the past year and are enjoying consequent individual prosperity. Not being handicapped by a highly specialized industrial sys-

tem, they flow back to the land at the first opportunity.

Monterey, a much larger city than Tampico, was equally as orderly. Big business there was none. The large banks were closed; business of all kinds was slack, but the town was as clean as Washington. Again, the markets showed a profusion of food.

It is the day of the peon. The wealthy have suffered. Splendid mansions have been seized by the authorities. Their owners have fled across the border as was the case in France in 1789-93. You remember the French revolution changed France from a country of 130,000 landlords to one of 4,000,000 peasant proprietors in a day.

Now I can see the spring, the new life, the energy with which these peons, newly awakened to the possession of land and to economical and political freedom are meeting the situation, are fighting with the same irresistible impulse which swept the French peasant over every army in Europe.

These people all understand that the agrarian question is the main one, and the peons understand that they are to have the land and pay no more rent. Also they wish this condition to be brought about fairly.

Monterey to Saltillo is through a wonderful but narrow wheat field irrigated in a primitive but effective way. The wheat had just been cut and it is the first crop that these peons have ever gathered of which the landlord did not get at least two-thirds. Now he gets nothing, and the load of debt which has been handed down in each family for two generations has been wiped out by the strong hand of the revolution.

Saltillo looks all Indian. It is the temporary capital. I didn't see a beggar or hungry-looking person there. Carranza was distributing \$5 bills to every woman; if she were old she got \$10.

In all these places I got out and mixed with the common people. They are naturally polite and friendly. I met with invariable courtesy.

In Saltillo they have set up an actual working administration, with all the departments in operation. Very sensibly, however, the various state governments are most active and thoroughly organized. There is constant communication, consultation and advice going on between the two.

I heard Mr. Carranza say that the first important act of his administration would be a quick survey of all Mexico as a preliminary to the imposition of a land tax such as Madero had proposed; that will force the idle land into use.

Mr. Picard, a prominent merchant of Chihuahua, told me that old Louis Terraza owned over half the city of Chihuahua, and yet had paid less taxes than he (Picard) paid on the goods in his store.

In brief, the war has slid over northern Mexico and hardly left a scar, and the peons have ceased to pay rent.



Death of Mrs. Wilson.

Mrs. Ellen Axsen Wilson, wife of the President, died at the White House on August 6 of Bright's disease with complications. Funeral services were held at Washington on August 10 and the burial on August 11 at Rome, Georgia.