

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.