

# SINKING OF LUSITANIA EXCITES LONDON MOBS TO HEIGHTS OF FRENZY

several shops were wrecked. The mayor of the city issued an appeal to the populace to be on their good behavior, reminding them that compensation for all destruction must be met out of the public purse.

## Anger Breaks Bounds.

London, May 12.—The London Daily News comments editorially under the heading "The Bursting Storm," as follows on the fierce outburst of anti-German feeling which has broken out all over the country and the empire:

One of the first results of the sinking of the Lusitania is making itself felt throughout the British Empire in an outburst of wrath against the German name quite unparalleled in the history of the war, putting aside almost wholly the fictitious agitation engineered in the very early days of the conflict. This country has on the whole maintained a very high level of temper and dignity in its treatment of alien enemies within its gates. Neither the dark days of the advance on Paris or the long, weary winter trench war seriously shook it. Even the horrors committed in Belgium steeled the resolution without inflaming the passions of the average Englishman. We have had no songs or hate and no merely scurrilous denunciation from any source that counted.

## Furious Anger Raised.

It is a fact of which we may reasonably be proud, that the cool brutality of this latest of German crimes has raised furious anger which will not soon subside. The feeling is as natural and inevitable as it is universal. The boycott of German butchers in Smithfield market, riots in British Columbia and Birkenhead, the threatened strike on the Rand if German workmen are not discharged, and the suspension of German-born stockholders and clerks on the exchange, are all waves in the same era.

The government are responsible for the safety of Germans in this country and they must take all the necessary measures to insure that violence against German aliens does nothing to Britain's discredit, does nothing to delay victory or expose Britons in Germany to reprisals. But the real significance of these outbursts is in their bearing on the future rather than on the immediate present. Whether Germany has gained anything at all by the sinking of the Lusitania is doubtful. It is not doubted that she has lost something which she will find very difficult to regain. It will be hard work for Germany for many long years after the war is over.

## Want Germans Interned.

The government is again to be questioned in the house of commons regarding its treatment of German aliens in this country. The newspaper campaign for the internment of all Germans of military age has been renewed with greater vehemence than before. The reports of a German plan to set London afire is used to buttress a statement that the freedom of 20,000 German men in the metropolis constitutes a serious menace.

Individual feeling is running high. A West London magistrate before whom a case of assault upon a German was brought, said the government would have to take some measures to put Germans in safety, "because I am afraid that if German outrages continue these people's lives and property will not be safe."

## Will Intern Alien Enemies

In consequence of the riots and of the demands for the segregation of all alien enemies, the government has under contemplation more comprehensive measures for the internment of such persons. Details of this plan will be divulged tomorrow.

Lord Charles Hersford and William Joynson-Hicks presented separate petitions in the House of Commons today, asking that the house decree the internment of all male alien enemies of military age, and the removal of other alien enemies to places thirty-five miles or more from the coast. The petitions bore about 500,000 signatures.

Premier Asquith stated in the House of Commons today that the cabinet was quite alive to the fact that the "progressive violations of the rules of civilized warfare and humanity by the enemy, culminating in the sinking of the Lusitania" and the feelings that thus were aroused, made it necessary to look beyond merely military considerations. The government, therefore, was considering the practicability of segregation on a more comprehensive scale. The premier added he hoped to make a more definite statement tomorrow.

"It would be difficult to find a parallel for the showing of righteous indignation aroused in all classes in this country," the premier said. "One result of this, unhappily, is that innocent and unoffending persons are in danger of being made to pay the penalty for the crime of others. From the military point of view, the steps already taken in the matter of internment have otherwise proved adequate for the purposes in view—namely, to provide for the safety of the country and to prevent illicit communication between alien enemies here and their governments abroad. Everything hitherto done in the way of internment had been done on the responsibility of the war office, the admiralty and the police. Registration and supervision is fully enforced in the case of all alien enemies not interned."

## ENGLISH VIEW OF WILSON'S SPEECH

London, May 12.—Most of the morning papers fall to comment editorially on President Wilson's Philadelphia speech. The Standard, however, praises the address and says the president "has shown during these trying weeks of German insults a moral courage of the highest order." The Express offers the opinion that the speech was too idealistic and adds:

"We understand, of course, that to turn the other cheek requires exalted courage, but it is unfortunate such a courage is absolutely certain to lead to more suffering. Germany has taken the world back to the fourteenth century; President Wilson is to draw us before our time into the twenty-second. Nobody in this country, however, has any desire that the United States be involved in this war unless impelled by its own pride."

London, May 12.—Anti-German riots that were resumed this morning grew in violence this afternoon, pitched battles being fought between mobs and police. Many have been injured and scores arrested. The special constables were organized for duty and German airships should be shot down. London was called out as soon to protect former subjects of Germany. It is reported that a special meeting of the cabinet was called and will convene late to-day to consider the situation. For thousands troops were ordered to various sections of the city. Martial law seems imminent.

The German residents of the east India dock district concentrated at two houses to-day and continued those for a while. These were stormed by mobs, but the Germans succeeded in beating off the assailants. When the police arrived on the scene they called upon the Germans to surrender promising protection, but the Germans refused. Believing that if the Germans were allowed to remain in the houses rioting would continue, police reinforcements were called to get them out.

A dozen arrests were made by the police after the rioting in the east end, but the disorder continued. The police were reinforced by six hundred special constables and troops were held in readiness for action. Many Russian Jews flocked to the police stations asking protection because they had been mistaken for Germans.

Turbulent scenes occurred at the Smithfield market. Every

German there was hunted out and driven from the locality, being chased by English salesmen as far as Holborn. Several of the fugitives were stoned and seriously injured. One man turned on his pursuers and drew a revolver. When the crowd wavered he dashed into a subway station and escaped.

German shops were sacked and vans carrying meats to them were overturned and set on fire.

A number of German establishments were raided and their goods scattered over the streets. The Germans themselves were forced to get into hiding. The police in some cases were defied by the angry crowds, and some officers were injured during their endeavours to protect the Teutons. The furniture and fittings of German houses and stores were hurled through windows into the streets. When the property was caught they were severely mauled. In some cases their clothes were torn from their backs.

One German was thrown into a horse trough with a reminder that his competitors had been spending their time drowning women and children. He was only saved from a similar fate by the intervention of the police.

There were several instances of German butchers trying to escape in their carts. They went racing down the streets at a mad gallop, but in most cases they ultimately were run down and their vehicles smashed.

A number of Russian Jews were flocking this morning to the police stations in the west end and pleading for protection, explaining that they were being taken for Germans.

Reports are reaching the police that private houses belonging to wealthy Germans in the fashionable west end are liable to be burned. Troops are in readiness to assist the police if necessary. Large placards in the windows of almost all business houses and markets bear the words: "No business transacted with Germans."

## Feeling High in Johannesburg.

London, May 12.—A Reuter despatch from Johannesburg says: "Anti-Germany feeling is running high as the result of the Lusitania tragedy. Extraordinary scenes are being enacted in front of the town hall, where crowds of citizens wait patiently for an opportunity to sign petitions to the mayor, requesting him to call a mass meeting to vote protests against Germany's action. A large German flag is spread on the ground where the petitioners stand while writing their names. Another American flag was burned in front of the town hall. Placards have been displayed urging a boycott of Germany, and a stock exchange committee has adopted a resolution asking members of Teutonic birth to avoid the exchange during the war. The mayor has consented to comply with the request that he call a mass meeting."

## Serious Anti-German Riots.

London, May 12.—The east end of London last night was the scene of serious anti-German riots, arising from the indignation over the sinking of the Lusitania, and the air raid on Southend early yesterday morning.

Mob attacks on German shops occurred in the Poplar, Limehouse, Stepney, Walthamstow, Bethnal Green, Camden town and other districts. Windows were smashed, shutters and doors were torn down and premises wrecked, and in some instances the inmates of the houses were maltreated.

Large bodies of police were called out to suppress the disturbances and eventually order was restored, but there is apprehension that the trouble will be renewed to-morrow in an aggravated form, as the feeling is rapidly rising and is being fostered by the demands of the press and many public men, that drastic measures be taken against alien enemy subjects.

Never since the war began has such a wave of anti-German feeling surged through the country as at the present time. It is due entirely to the sinking of the Lusitania. Workmen in the industrial districts are refusing to labor alongside men of German birth, whether they are naturalized or not. In many towns the premises occupied by Germans have been stormed and damaged or destroyed, and even the exchanges in London and provincial towns, which hitherto had permitted persons with German blood in their veins to retain their membership, are taking the drastic steps of barring the doors to them, regardless of all consideration.

## Demand Internment of All.

There have been riots in Liverpool, Manchester, Salford and Birkenhead. In Liverpool the Germans have been interned and those who are naturalized subjects of Great Britain have been advised to go to interior towns or seek internment. Many of them have decided upon the latter course.

A demand is being made by the newspapers that all the 35,000 Germans still at large should be similarly treated. Deputations from the stock exchange, the Baltic exchange, Lloyds and the corn exchange, following a meeting on the steps of the Royal exchange, marched to the house of commons and presented a petition to the attorney-general, which called attention to "the grave danger that exists in allowing alien enemies to remain at large in the country."

Before the adjournment of the house of commons last evening H. J. Tennant, under-secretary for war, said the matter would be considered by the cabinet to-morrow and a statement made to the house Thursday.

Birkenhead, May 12.—Anti-German riots were renewed here last night.

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