

## RAILROADS ABSOLVED OF BLAME FOR COAL SHORTAGE IN NATION

Railroads were cleared of complicity in the coal shortage by O. D. Bullerdick, of Richmond, president of the Sixth District Retail Coal Dealers' association, who addressed a state conference here yesterday.

Bullerdick said the railroads were unable to move the coal because of lack of rolling stock and motive power and that there exists no plot between mine operators and railroads to force prices up.

The consensus of opinion among the 60 dealers present was that retail coal prices will continue to ascend.

Shortage of labor was given as the cause by most of the speakers. Hundreds of miners of foreign birth have been recalled to Europe to follow the flag, they pointed out.

W. S. Garretson, C. J. Hull, W. L. Hatfield, H. C. Bullerdick and John Starr, of Richmond, attended. Dealers were present from Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Connersville, Kokomo, Newcastle and other cities.

### MISS JUNE CAPRICE AT WASHINGTON



### STEGER IS STAR IN STRONG FILM

In "The Stolen Triumph," which will be seen at the Murratt theatre today, Julius Steger, the star, is supported by a splendid galaxy of screen artists. Steger himself takes the part of Edwin Rowley, a penniless playwright.

### Germany Counts on Military

[Continued From Page One.]

chances of a military victory this summer would be nil. Their policy was to encourage the United States to believe that Germany would not renew her submarine policy. Germany desired time to prepare for America. German shipping interests were not ready to scuttle their ships. Germans with relatives in the United States were not prepared to disregard them. The press bureaucrat needed time to create hatred and suspicion. The Navy Department needed time to build more submarines. Crews had to be trained. Preparations had to be made for the "decisive battle in 1917." So Hindenburg delayed. The censorship prevented the correspondents from sending any news to the United States about the growing wrath and bitterness toward President Wilson. When many of the American correspondents realized that Germany intended to break the promises she made in the Sussex note their telegrams were stopped. They were criticized and suspected for trying to send such news.

Last October I saw the first signs of a change in Germany's policy. At that time I spent ten days travelling in the Rhine Valley. I met the industrial leaders. I visited Krupps and other munition, steel and coal centres. In Dusseldorf, the great steel city, the Pittsburgh of Germany, I heard the demands of the financiers and industrial magnates for "war with America."

"What can the United States do?" these men asked. "You have no army. Your country is divided. The German-Americans are too powerful for Wilson. The moment you attack us Mexico will revolt. Before you can train an army and transport it to Europe we can end the war. President Wilson bluffs and our government is afraid; but some day—America will see!"

I telegraphed as much of this comment from Cologne and Dusseldorf as the censors would pass. When I reached Berlin the Foreign Office was excited because the Rhine Valley censors had passed this information. The

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Foreign Office wanted no such news to reach America.

The Chancellor still had one card to play. He thought he could frighten President Wilson into making peace by threatening a submarine warfare. Then internal conditions became so bad he had to do something toward peace to quiet the Socialists and to obtain the support of the wavering Reichstag factions. On December 12 he proposed peace. The army and navy were frantic. They didn't want peace. They wanted submarine war. Hindenburg and the Chancellor knew the Allies would not accept, so they explained to the submarine advocates that if the Allies refused Germany's offer they would begin Falkenhayn's policy of "Damn the neutrals! Win the war!" "Sounding" Americans.

The Foreign Office was instructed the latter part of December to "sound" all Americans in Germany on the possible attitude of President Wilson and Congress in case a ruthless murdering and sinking of people and ships was begun on the high seas. I was called to the Foreign Office, as were all other Americans. Including James W. Gerard, the American Ambassador. The first question I was asked was:

"Do you think the United States will support President Wilson if he breaks diplomatic relations?" Then these questions followed: "What attitude will the German-Americans take?" "Will the United States send troops to Europe?" "Can Wilson count upon the support of Congress?"

To the man who questioned me I replied:

"You will find that if Germany be-

gins a ruthless submarine warfare the

president will be backed by the entire nation in anything he does."

Not all Americans in Germany made such replies. Dr. William Bayard Hale wrote a booklet, which was circulated through Germany by the Foreign Office, showing why Congress would not support Wilson. Other Americans assured the Foreign Office that even Ambassador Gerard was misinformed and that Congress would not support Wilson. The constantly repeated opinion was: "The German-Americans are too strong. The Middle West is for peace at any price."

The Great Myth

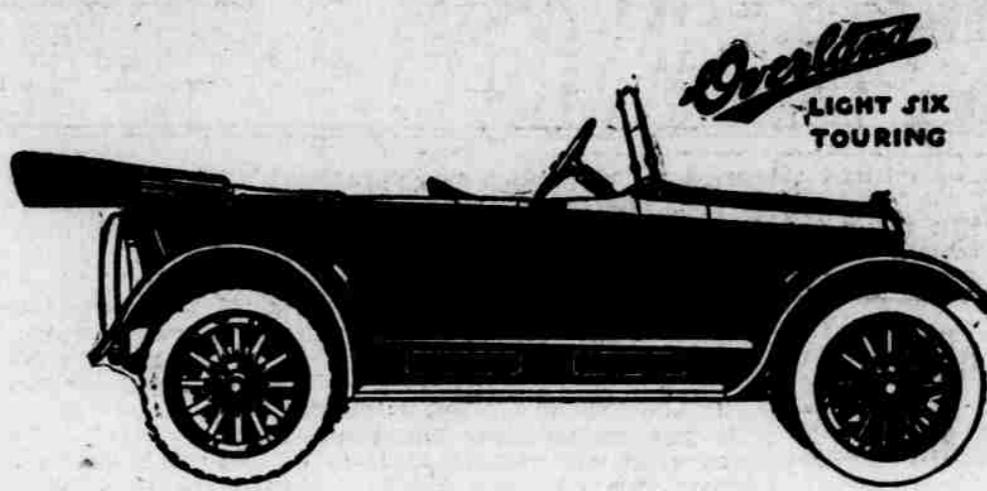
One day Ambassador Gerard was walking. A friend stopped him and said:

"Certain high officials have told me 500,000 German-Americans will revolt if Wilson goes to war."

"Go tell your high official friend," said Gerard, "that there are 501,000 lamposts in the United States and 90,000,000 loyal Americans."

Congress is now in session. Germany has her eyes on Washington. Every member of Congress who stands against the President will be looked upon in Germany as an ally. Germany believes she has millions of friends here. She has been ready to disregard America for two years because she believed the United States was divided. Only a unanimous America will convince Germany that her policy of "Damn the neutrals!" is a fatal one to adopt toward America.

Germany looks forward to a military victory this summer. She counts upon victory before America acts.



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