

SINKING OF LINER STIRS WASHINGTON

**MOST SERIOUS SITUATION SINCE
WAR BEGAN FACES U. S. IS
VIEW EXPRESSED.**

WILSON MAKES NO COMMENT

**Warning That Germany Would be
Held to "Strict Accountability"
For Loss of American Lives.
Focuses Attention.**

Washington, May 10.—Destruction of the British liner Lusitania with the loss of many lives shocked officials of the United States government and spread profound grief in the national capital.

Although it was not known how many, if any, of those lost were Americans, the view was general that the most serious situation confronted the American government since the outbreak of the war in Europe.

The warning of the United States that Germany would be held to a "strict accountability" for the loss of "American lives," irrespective of whether they were aboard belligerent or neutral vessels when attacked, focused attention on the White House, where President Wilson, until late in the night, read the dispatches with grave interest.

The president made no comment. Officials said facts and circumstances would have to be obtained by careful investigation during the next few days before any announcements could be made by the American government.

The feeling was widespread that if any American lives had been lost the United States, in view of its strong warning to Germany, would be confronted with the necessity of taking steps to safeguard the lives of its citizens on the high seas.

Disaster Marks Climax.

The sinking of the Lusitania marks the climax of a series of incidents since the announcement of the German war zone decree, concerning which the American government has been silent. It is now predicted that even though it developed that no American lives were lost on the Lusitania, general representations will be made by the United States covering all the cases involved—the death of Leon C. Thresher, an American citizen, when

the British steamer Falaba was sunk, the dropping of bombs on the American steamer Cushing, and the attack on the steamer Gulflight, which was wrecked with a loss of three American lives.

The report that the Lusitania was torpedoed without warning created a profound sensation; for it was the first case in which this threatened procedure has been carried out with Americans on board a belligerent vessel.

Germany's Repeated Threats.

Aside from the diplomatic questions in the case, which were widely discussed in Washington the sinking of the liner brought to light an interesting story of repeated threats and warnings which have reached high officials for several days past of a plan by the German admiralty to sink the Lusitania for the psychological effect it would have on Great Britain and the terror it might spread among ocean travelers generally.

Information gathered among officials of the government tended to confirm the belief that plans for the destruction of the Lusitania were made several weeks ago. First, the German embassy was instructed to advertise in the leading newspapers of the United States, warning passengers against traveling on belligerent ships.

Russian Forces Still Intact.

Berlin, via wireless, May 10.—The official statements of both the Vienna and Berlin war office agree that the Russian offensive in the Carpathian region has been completely smashed. The German war office claims that the Dukla pass approaches are now all held by the Austro-German forces and that their troops are now well across the Wisloka at several points.

Vienna announces that Tarnow was captured at 10 o'clock Thursday and that the resistance of the Russians along the Donajec has been broken. The Russians are declared to be withdrawing very rapidly, but their forces are still intact and they are making a strong resistance. In the Beskid region, however, the Russians are being assaulted on their flank by the Germans from Jaslo and Dukla.

German aviators have bombarded Grodno, causing much damage.

Frohman on Lusitania.

New York, May 10.—Uncertainty as to the fate of Charles Frohman, probably the most widely known theatrical man in the world, who was a passenger on the Lusitania, is the absorbing topic among thousands in the theatrical district. Mr. Frohman had gone to Europe with Charles Klein and Justus Miles Forman, playwrights. Mr. Frohman's offices in the Empire theater building were besieged until a late hour for possible news of him and when told that there was none, the inquirers turned sadly away.