WILSON WILL ACT WITH FIRMNESS

KNOWS PEOPLE WISH RIGHT ACTION TAKEN IN LUSITANIA MATTER.

115 AMERICANS LOSE LIVES

Government Learns Ill-Fated Liner Was Not Armed and Therefore Not Liable to Attack Under Law.

Washington, May 10. — President Wilson, on whom the eyes of the world are focused at the present moment, is studying in quiet seclusion the aspects of law and fact in connection with the sinking by a German torpedo of the British liner Lusitania, with a loss of 115 American lives.

The great human tragedy, coupled with the responsibilities of the hour, caused the president to deny himself to all callers, even to members of his official family, while he turned over in his mind the course to be pursued by the United States government in one of the most serious crises in its history.

Wilson's First Word.

The only glimpse of the workings of the President’s mind was given when the White House issued its first formal comment on the disaster. The announcement was made that the President realized the country expected him to deal with the situation "with deliberation as well as firmness."

After a conference with the President at the White House, Secretary Tumulty said:

"Of course, the President feels the distress and the gravity of the situation to the utmost and is considering very earnestly, but very calmly, the right course of action to pursue. He knows that the people of the country wish him to act with deliberation as well as with firmness."

Carried No Arms.

One important fact was definitely ascertained by the Washington government from the port authorities at New York, who gave clearance to the Lusitania—that she carried no guns, either mounted or unmounted, in accordance with the caution of the state department and the British government early in the war.
No Excuse Under Law.

These facts, in the opinion of law officers of the state Department of Justice, left the German submarine no excuse under law or reason for an attack without warning on a ship with neutral combatants aboard, including neutral men, women and children.

The position of the United States has been that the presence of enemy warships, unless opposed by a force sufficient to deter them, is violation of the rules of warfare and breach of international law, including the declaration of London, which Germany has upheld, cannot warrant the sinking of a mercantile, or shipping, and that the previous exercise of the right of visit and the removal of noncombatants to a place of safety.

Germany Was Warned.

The foreign office stated in its last note to Germany and at the same time issued a warning that the imperial German government would be held "responsible for the accountability" by the United States for any loss of American vessels or lives.

The suggestion that the warnings by the German embassy in newspaper statements should have been sufficient to deter the Germans from traveling aboard ships flying the British flag was widely commented upon among diplomats.

No Submarine War Notice.

At the State Department, Secretary Bryan revealed that the embassy's warning had never been officially communicated to the State Department, and the announceement by the German admiral in February of its proclamation of a war zone, the American protest and the reply from Germany saying the government takes full responsibility for accidents to neutral ships, as the subject for several weeks had not been officially mentioned between the Berlin and Washington governments.

London, May 10.—A Copenhagen correspondent sends the following: "A private message from Berlin states that the German post office yesterday ordered all colored men to leave the country. The government has been very strict in regard to colored men, and many have been arrested and deported."