

THE CITY'S STREETS AGLOW WITH FLAGS

Citizens Hasten to Put Out the Stars and Stripes After the President's Proclamation.

CROWDS RUSH TO ARMORIES

But No Disorder Marks the Gather- ings, and the Increased Police Guards Have Little to Do.

New York received the President's war proclamation with great calmness yesterday. Save at meetings where there were bands or orators to call forth demonstrations there was an absence of excitement that aroused comment among the throngs that paraded the streets. In the opinion of many, the declaration of a state of war had come so gradually that the final step did not arouse the emotions that would have been excited by a sudden international crisis.

Extra policemen appeared on the streets in all congested districts, but they found little to do. The crowds were greater than usual in mid-afternoon, but every one seemed to be looking for excitement rather than furnishing it. Though the city has been besprinkled plentifully with flags in the last weeks, a veritable flood of bunting broke forth yesterday. It was noticeable particularly along Fifth Avenue and Broadway, and in the financial district.

Nowhere in the city was there any manifestation of anti-German spirit, and not even a trace of rioting occurred anywhere during the day. That every one with a moment's leisure was in search of unwonted sights was shown by the fact that seemingly every one who could leave his usual paths walked by an armory, or to points along the waterfront where the naval militia was being assembled, the Navy Yard in Brooklyn or the Battery pier of the Governors Island ferry boats. In hotels and clubs, as elsewhere, the declaration of a state of war, while it met with almost unanimous approval, was taken for granted to such an extent that little excited comment was heard.

Practically all churches which had services yesterday paid especial attention to the momentous occasion, offering prayers for the guidance of the President and the righteous success of American arms, and over nearly every religious edifice floated the Stars and Stripes.

Before "Tosca's" last act ended the Metropolitan's longest double opera day last evening, Geraldine Farrar stepped out in front of the curtains, still wearing her court costume of the torture scene, and carrying in her right hand an American flag, while with the left she beckoned the audience to rise. Mme. Farrar sang "The Star-Spangled Banner," one complete stanza, and retired. Most of the big audience sat down, but a few who remained standing applauded till the rest took it up, and the singer, reappearing, led the entire crowd in the song. A woman in the parquet holding on longer than the star to the high topnote.

Of all the streets of the city Fifth Avenue, perhaps, flew the most flags. Hardly a business house or a residence along this thoroughfare, from Washington Square to the northern limits of Central Park, failed to show a flag, and some showed two and three. Two of the churches which joined in the display were the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas, at Forty-eighth Street and Fifth Avenue, and Temple Emanu-El, at Forty-third Street. St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas's Church were not decorated, but it was explained they would be soon.

The homes of Collis P. Huntington, William K. Vanderbilt, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Hermann Oelrichs, William B. Osgood Field, and others displayed flags, as did also thousands of less well known houses along the side streets in the Fifth Avenue district.

An anti-war meeting staged by the Queens County Socialist Party at the Labor Lyceum, Myrtle and Cypress Avenues, Ridgewood, L. I., last night was raided by the police under Inspector Dillon and Captain West, who held that a gathering of the kind at this time bordered on treason. A vigorous protest was raised by the propagandists, but they were brushed aside with little consideration.

There are about 1,000 members of the party in that district, and about 300 of them turned up for the meeting, ready to protest, they said, against war. A representative of the Emergency Peace Federation, which fought the passage of a war resolution by Congress, was scheduled to speak at the meeting. Another speaker was to have been S. E. Beardsley of the Rand School.

A different attitude was adopted toward two radical soap-box orators who held forth at length to crowds in Madison Avenue, just outside the park, yesterday afternoon, begging their hearers not to enlist in the United States Army. One of them, boasting of being an American, declared he had seen service with the Quartermaster's Department in the Philippines, and told stories designed to discourage recruiting.

Several policemen stood near by, swinging their clubs nervously, and "registering" expressions of anxiety to go into action. But to a reporter who questioned them about the right of the speakers to decry enlistment, they explained that as long as the speakers did not become abusive they knew of no law under which they could interfere. The American ex-soldier was stopped once when he became too strong in his denunciations, but he was allowed to proceed so long as he refrained from vituperation. The other speaker ended with one of the usual appeals for a "fellow-worker" in jail somewhere, and handed out copies of The Call, a Socialist newspaper, and other journals in return for contributions.

WAR SPEEDS WIRE SERVICE.

Telegraph and Telephone Companies Under Government's Orders.

The telegraph and telephone companies are now under Government orders, and the declaration of war has had the effect not only of giving Government business the right of way, but also of speeding it up. This, however, will not put an embargo on private business, for the present at least.

There has been some talk of limiting or discontinuing the installation of new telephone lines, but it was said at the office of the New York Telephone Company yesterday that, from present indications, there would be no great delay in handling new business. The danger of an embargo arises because the company has practically exhausted its materials and manufacturers have been unable to replenish the supply.

Company officials would not discuss the work being done for the Government, but probably it is linking up more closely the War and Navy Departments and the various stations of defense in the country.

An officer of the Western Union said it was handling all business "comfortably," and said that even a great increase in business, private as well as governmental, would not clog the wires.