

X
European situation

February 24, 1917.

Mr. L. L. Ferrall,
Grand Canyon, Arizona.

My dear Mr. Ferrall:

I am in receipt of your letter of February 13, in regard to the bill to establish the Grand Canyon National Park. I called this measure up in the Committee on the Public Lands Wednesday, but the Committee decided not to report it at this session of Congress because it is impossible to pass any new legislation between now and the 4th of March. Senator Ashurst, however, has succeeded in obtaining a favorable report from the Senate Committee on Public Lands, of which I enclose a copy. I find that there is practically no opposition in Congress to the establishment of a National Park at the Grand Canyon, so that it will be easy to obtain consideration for a similar bill which I shall introduce in the next Congress.

In my opinion there are not ten Congressmen who favor an immediate declaration of war against Germany. Many of the members, however, are giving serious consideration to a declaration of armed neutrality. It is proposed that Congress shall declare that the people of this country have a right to sell the non-contraband products of our fields, mines, and factories, in the markets of the world, unless an effective blockade is maintained in accordance with international law, and that all unlawful attacks upon American ships carrying such products will be re

sisted by force of arms. Such a declaration will apply equally to all of the belligerents, so that if any one of the warring nations is not seeking a fight with the United States it can easily be avoided by letting our merchantmen alone.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

