

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