

THIRTY-SEVENTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1914

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Today's News
Printed Today

DOES JAPAN INTEND TO FURNISH TROOPS FOR EUROPEAN WAR?

Plan to Organize Two New Army Corps Causes Suspicion and Opposition

PARLIAMENT SPLIT, MAY BE DISSOLVED

Budget Now Shows Deficit of \$13,000,000 -- Japan in Bad Shape Financially

Tokio, Dec. 19.—Suspicious that the Okuma cabinet plans to send Japanese troops to Europe, the anti-administration party in parliament here was developing a powerful opposition today to the government's plan for the creation of two new army corps.

To the cabinet's naval program no objection was raised but its request for a \$350,000 loan was an initial installment of \$7,000,000 appropriation in the interests of military expansion was subjected to the fiercest attacks.

Not only, it was argued, was there no excuse for sacrificing Japanese lives in the European conflict, but the \$7,000,000 asked for would be a drop in the bucket in such a campaign and Japan is in no financial condition, asserted the plan's opponents, to bear any further drain.

Incidentally, it was pointed out that the budget already shows a \$12,000,000 deficit, which cabinet members have explained, however, will be offset by economies in various government departments and the postponement of various contemplated public works.

The administration has never by the way, admitted that it plans sending soldiers to the continent, though it has repeatedly been reported that negotiations to that end were in progress.

To Return Kiao Chau.

Premier Okuma was said to be so determined on getting the money he seeks for military purposes that he will dissolve the lower house of parliament if it is refused.

Much trouble was also predicted over the Japanese troops' recent conquest in China for the Germans.

The cabinet has announced its intention of returning Kiao Chau to the Chinese and handing over to the British such of the Tientsin-Nankin railroad as lies within the former German sphere of influence. Its opponents don't object to the surrender of Kiao Chau but want Japan to keep the railroad.

Diplomatic information from Pekin indicates that the Chinese are not anxious to resume possession of Kiao Chau until a settlement concerning it has been reached between Japan and Germany. The latter country told the Chinese they would be held responsible for the territory's loss to the Kaiser because they permitted the mikado to violate their neutrality to take it. Accordingly, it is feared at Pekin that Japan may demand compensation and that Germany may insist on indemnification too. Further complications are threatening to develop from the effect the British are making for a Chinese concession to build a railroad from Chincha, Manchuria, to Tzortza, Mongolia. Such a line would seriously handicap the Japanese-owned south Manchurian system.

THEIR PLEASURE OTHERS HAPPINESS

The annual banquet of the Meyers store, which has been looked forward to with much pleasure and anticipation by those interested, has been postponed, due to a plan outlined and followed by the sales force.

At a meeting of the employees this week, a plan was formulated whereby the amount used to finance the annual banquet given by the management be expended to aid and bring Christmas cheer to many worthy families and children who are in need of help.

The entire force has united in turning their pleasure of a few hours over to those who would otherwise have a cheerless Christmastide.

The management heartily endorsed the plan when it was presented and they immediately turned over a generous amount to a committee chosen from among the employees, and it will be used in providing warm clothing, foodstuffs and things to make the children happy.

It is a worthy cause. The employees and management are to be commended on their stand in such a splendid movement, and it is to be hoped that others will follow the example and try to make this a joyous Christmas for every one.

IN HANDS OF JURY.

New York, Dec. 19.—The case of William Cleary, on trial at New York city for the murder of Eugene Newman, his son-in-law, was given to the jury at 3 o'clock this afternoon. A quick verdict was expected.

EXPERTS EXAMINE ALL COUNTY BOOKS

Report They Have Found \$13,372.62 Shortages—Reports Uncensored

Making sweeping charges of incompetency, negligence, laxity, carelessness and inefficiency in the methods of keeping the records and accounts of some of the counties in the state, and claiming that discrepancies or "apparent shortages" have been discovered in the accounts of four treasurers, one sheriff, one county judge and the former secretary of the state board of barbers examiners aggregating a total of \$13,372.62. State Insurance Commissioner Ferguson this morning gave out a portion of the final report of the department of accountancy upon the result of the work of the corps of experts in the audit of the books and accounts of the 34 counties under the supervision of Chief Accountant John Y. Richardson.

"We cannot blame them much for kicking when the true conditions of the records and financial affairs of their county officials are made public," said Commissioner Ferguson, in giving out the report this morning and commenting upon the published reports of a fight being made on the accountancy department by the county judges, commissioners and other county officials, "supplemented by other persons who are interested in county contracts," said Mr. Ferguson, and continued:

"A scrutiny of the report of the accountants from recent examinations made will easily show why this fight is being made. The state tax is low and conservative as compared to county taxes. Great extravagance and negligence is manifested in the majority of the counties of the state."

The alleged "apparent shortages" claimed to have been found by the expert accountants are enumerated as follows:

Treasurer of Wheeler county \$7,358.20

Treasurer of Baker county... 1,223.09

Treasurer of Marion county... 116.06

County Judge of Walla Walla county... 2,867.25

Sheriff of Douglas county... 251.42

Treasurer of Josephine county 96.16

Total county... \$11,914.18

Secretary barbers' board... 1,458.44

Total... \$13,372.62

The work of the experts covered the fiscal year ending September 30, 1914. Since the examinations were made, the report states, "we are advised that the treasurer of Wheeler county has paid \$7,000 of his shortage and a settlement has been made with the former secretary of the barbers' board, and the former judge of Walla Walla county is now in the penitentiary."

In looking up the alleged shortage in the accounts of Treasurer J. G. Moore, of Marion county, as reported by the experts, of which Mr. Moore claims that he had no knowledge whatsoever, it was found that in balancing up the cash on hand in the treasury and in banks that they failed to balance by \$116.08 on September 30, 1914, but they go on to say that the "balance in the till" was not verified by us on this date." In commenting upon this item in the report of the findings for Marion county, the examining experts said:

"On this exhibit (the book balance with funds in the bank and in the till) funds entitled to the above balance of \$387,843.30 will be found. This exhibit also shows that the cash on hand and in the bank amounts to only \$387,727.12, leaving a shortage on September 30, 1914, of \$116.08. The cash in the till was not verified by us on this date."

Later on in the report the treasury department the experts state that, "owing to the method of handling the cash, it is not improbable that errors might be made at any time," which indicates that the "apparent shortage" shown in the report might have been made in crediting certain funds received to the wrong account.

Mr. Moore, when asked about the matter this morning, stated that he was not aware that the experts had found any discrepancies in his records which were not to his credit and the last he knew of their work was that they had found him over \$1,000 to the good and he showed them where to find their mistakes in making up the cash on his books. He makes a trial balance to the county clerk and to the insurance department of the state at the end of every month and, if there was any shortage in his accounts, it would surely show up in these balances, he explains. The experts rendered a bill of \$1,529 for their services in this county, which the county court held up upon the advice of Insurance Commissioner Ferguson on the ground that it should have gone through his department for audit before presentation to the county for payment.

That portion of the report completed and made public this morning treats of the conditions as they were found in the records of the officers of Baker, Clackamas, Benton, Crook and Gilliam counties, in which the most flagrant discrepancies and irregularities that are reported upon are the alleged carelessness and negligent manner in which the records are kept, or rather failed to be kept, and the lax and careless methods of transacting the business and disbursing the funds by the county courts

FRENCH CLAIMING STILL MORE GAINS; RHEIMS BOMBARDED

Allies Today Occupied Ground East of Arras for the First Time

PRINCE WILHELM REPORTED WOUNDED

Claim to Have Made a Mile Yardage in Game at La Basse Today

Paris, Dec. 19.—The Germans were bombarding Rheims again today.

It was contended here that they were doing so solely in revenge for a French attack in which Prince Auguste Wilhelm, one of the kaiser's sons, was wounded recently.

This attack followed a report by an aviator who had been spying on the Germans' forces that preparations seemed to be in progress for some important ceremony, that bands were playing and that troops were in readiness for a review. His account gave rise to the conjecture that the prince, who was known to be at the front, intended to inspect the Teutonic forces, so in response to the aviator's suggestion concerning the range, a shell was fired which struck an automobile described here as occupied by an "important personage."

The aviator's version was that this individual was the prince and he reported that the latter was wounded on the field of battle.

That night the Germans resumed the bombardment and have continued it ever since, despite the fact, according to the French, that there are no longer any troops in Rheims.

Moving from northeast of Arras, the French and British forces held positions today which represented the most important gains they have made since the battle of the Aisne.

It was the first time in two months that they have occupied ground east of Arras.

Fighting was reported on the outskirts of St. Laurent and Blangy, indicating an advance by the allies of two and a half miles.

Important progress was reported also in the Armentieres region.

Gained a Mile.

Paris, Dec. 19.—A gain of another mile by the allies south of LaBasse and advances in the Dixmude and Ypres regions were announced this afternoon by the war office's daily statement posted here.

HALE TO REMAIN IN CHARGE OF SCHOOL

According to a resolution adopted by the state board of control this morning there will be no change in the administration at the industrial school for boys, at least for the present and Superintendent Will S. Hale will continue to hold his office as head of that institution indefinitely.

Some time ago the board states that a result of an investigation the board arrived at the conclusion that a change in the management of the reform school was necessary and it was insistently rumored that Charles A. Murphy, present engineer of the Eastern Oregon branch insane asylum, was slated for the job as majority of the board was said to be in his favor.

Since arriving at the former conclusion, the board says in substance in to-day's resolution, another investigation has been made with the result that the former conditions have been improved to such extent that there no longer exists any need of a change of administration and the board has decided to permit Mr. Hale to remain as superintendent indefinitely.

WAS 104 YEARS OLD.

Believed to have been the oldest person in the northwest, Mrs. Sarah Todd is dead here today at the age of 101.

Mrs. Todd came to Walla Walla from Eugene, Oregon, nine months ago and entered the Northwest Christian home.

Considering her age, Mrs. Todd was remarkably active and alert.

She was an inveterate tobacco user, smoking a pipe continually.

and other officials of the respective counties. As to the alleged carelessness and negligent manner in which the records are kept, or rather failed to be kept, and the lax and careless methods of transacting the business and disbursing the funds by the county courts

WRECKED AT THE WHARF.

Ventura, Cal., Dec. 19.—While making a landing here today, the Pacific Coast Steamship company's steamer Coos Bay collided with its wharf and piled up in shallow water amid the ruins of the pier. Her skipper declared that the ship will be a total loss. No one, it was believed, was injured in the crash.

The accident occurred while the Coos Bay was being drawn to her berth. Her stern cable parted causing the ship to crash into the wharf, crushing her amids and permitting the water to rush into her hold.

The greater part of the outer end of the wharf was torn away. Piles and caissons were snapped and mingled with the wreckage of the ship, which quickly settled.

DEFIES EMPEROR AND OFFERS TO RESIGN

KILLED OLD MAN IN FAMILY'S PRESENCE

Thugs Deliberately Murder William Fassett and Rob the Body

San Francisco, Dec. 19.—The first tangible evidence which may identify the slayers of William Fassett here last night in the home of George F. Neal was found today by Detective Kracke in the park "panhandle." In following the route taken by the three fleeing thugs, Detective Kracke found a hat, a glove and a piece of cord identical with that with which one of their victims, Mrs. S. S. Neal, was bound to a chair.

The hat, a brown fedora, bore the initials "U. P. W." It was purchased at the Bertillon store in Oakland. The glove bore no special marks of identification, but as the cord was stuffed into it, the police think it belonged to one of the three burglars.

For 30 years Fassett had lived with the Neal family and his murder was witnessed by Neal and his wife, by Neal's mother, Mrs. S. S. Neal, and by two grand children, June Plunkett, 16, and Neal Plunkett, 12.

The three burglars gained entrance to the Neal home while the family was attending a moving picture show nearby. Mrs. S. S. Neal was the first to reach home. She was seized and bound to a chair, and a towel placed around her mouth as a gag. At hour later the other members of the family returned home, and Fassett was shot down after he had entered the room where Mrs. Neal sat tied to the chair. The burglars secured \$10.50 from Mrs. S. S. Neal, and then took away Fassett's pocketbook after they had shot him down. The murder and robbery occurred at 8 o'clock last night.

SCHOOLS GET MONEY FROM THE RESERVES

Secretary of State Elliott this morning completed the apportionment of the state's share of the receipts for the sale of timber, grazing privileges, etc., in the national forest reserves in the state for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, amounting to \$61,600.50, among the several counties of the state for the benefit of the school and road funds of such counties. The apportionment is made upon the basis of the forest reserve acreage in the several counties in which the forest reserves exist in proportion to which the revenue bears to the total amount to be apportioned, and the rate of apportionment per acre in each county is .00395/967.

The total area of Marion county is 764,100 acres, the forest reserve area is 217,584 acres, and Marion county's share of the forest reserve fund is \$860.32. The total forest reserve area of the state is 15,580,934 acres and the greater bulk of the forest reserve fund goes to those counties which have the largest acreage of forest reserves within their borders. Grant county receiving the largest amount, \$6,140.46, east of the Cascade mountains, and Lane county, which receives \$6,199.52, the largest of any county west of the Cascades.

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LOOKING BETTER FOR HUBBARD

Just why adjacent towns should have been allowed to usurp the benefits derived from being a good shipping point, does not appear on the surface, but Hubbard is coming into her own as a shipping point. Previous to June 1 of this year comparatively few cars via the Hubbard yards, but since that date, through the efforts of J. M. Mishler, up to December 11 there were 1,582 cars shipped from here, representing a money value of \$22,000. In addition to these some sheep and cattle have also been shipped. Hubbard has been entitled to this business all along because the stuff has been raised in this immediate vicinity. Just a matter of having an eye to Hubbard's interests, that's all. The above shipments were made to Portland institution.

After making the investigation, the board found that Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier, had gone so far as to declare in parliament that the Hungarian troops would be recalled on the expiration of their contract of 77,000 pounds of sugar for the several state institutions, because Mr. Fletcher represented a California concern and was merely an Oregon agent for the purpose of putting in the bid. Charles L. Dick, local manager for the Mason-Ehrman Co., of Portland, protested the award of the sugar contract to Mr. Fletcher and asked that the board favor the Portland institution.

Thus, by throwing strong detachments across the Carpathian range, from Galicia into Hungary, the czar did, indeed, manage to save the Russians' Slav protege from what promised for a time to be complete destruction.

To accomplish this the Russians probably penetrated far into Hungary, Cosseck raiders are reported to have ridden within 60 miles of Budapest. It is doubtful if they really approached so near to the Hungarian capital, but that the government there was growing alarmed concerning the safety of the city is evident.

An attempt is now being made in Vienna to throw the blame for the Austrians' Servian defeat upon General Potiorek, who had charge of operations in that field. It is said that the expressed ability to spare three army corps for use against the Russians, and consequently had responded for the disaster he himself met with.

It is impossible to say what pressure was brought to bear on Potiorek to induce him to release half his forces, but the Hungarian situation, as it is now becoming known, suggests that he had no choice in the matter.

Explains Kaiser's Move.

This is one of the mysteries which hung over Hungary's revolutionary temper during the year.

The same thing accounts, in some measure, for the Germans' success in Poland. Servia's cry to Petrograd for help undoubtedly was answered at the expense of Warsaw's defense. To send troops across the Carpathians, the czar had to weaken his forces in central Poland.