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UNITED STATES READY TO ARM MERCHANTMEN

Germany Also Is Suspected of Causing Cuban and Mexican Troubles. Carranza's Anti-British Attitude Worries President Wilson.

Washington, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—The Navy Department announced that guns had been mobilized at New York navy yard for the purpose of arming auxiliaries and scoutships in the event of an emergency. This measure is said to be merely precautionary.

Officials believe Germany is responsible for Cuban and Mexican troubles. It is believed the Germans are causing disturbances to keep the United States busy.

Carranza's anti-British attitude worries the administration. It is feared the British may land troops at Tampico to protect oil wells unless the United States guarantees protection.

President Wilson is formulating early steps to protect Americans on "peaceful and legitimate errands on the high seas."

It is believed the President plans to recommend that the Government actively assist in the arming of American merchantmen.

Submarines are virtually blockading American ports. Economic embarrassments are accumulating.

President Wilson believes the situation demands immediate action.

Ambassador Gerard sent the state department a confidential message. He said he intended to travel to Paris and Spain en route to the United States. He did not state date of departure. He sails on a Spanish steamer.

Three hundred thousand labor unionists petitioned President Wilson to avoid war. The petitions bore the pictures of Compers and Lincoln.

GERMANY READY TO SEND SUBMARINES TO AMERICAN WATERS AND PANAMA CANAL.

(By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Correspondent)

Berne, Switzerland, Feb. 14.—Germany is prepared to send submarines to American waters, and especially to the Panama Canal in the event of war. They expect to defeat the Allies within six months, regardless of United States' action. They are confident submarines will paralyze the Allies war industries. They are prepared to launch gigantic offensives in the air and on land and to use torpedo boat fleets in addition to submarines.

AMERICAN SCHOONER LYMAN M. LAW IS SUBMARINED.

Washington, Feb. 12.—(United Press)—The state department officially learned that the American schooner Lyman M. Law was submarined in the Mediterranean. The crew of nine Americans is believed saved. The messages did not state whether the submarine warned the captain.

Japan's Morgan Says Japan Would Help U. S.

Dallas, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Y. Nagashima, the Morgan of Japan, said Japan would use military and naval power to help the United States in the event of war with Germany. He declared Japan valued America's friendship on account of commercial relations. He said the United States should declare war. "Japan found war profitable," he said. He is touring the United States, investigating financial conditions.

British Steamer Lambert Is Submarined.

London, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—The British steamer Lambert was submarined. Four are missing. She was a steel screw steamer of twenty-one hundred tons.

GERMANS BELIEVE UNITED STATES IS TEMPTING FATE.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Germans regard the United States as "tempting fate," when it sent steamers into the barred zone. The news that two American freighters were en route to prohibited area manifestly surprised the public. It was gravely remarked that the shipowners evidently view the situation frivolously. Americans are treated cordially here. No demonstrations against them are noted.

THREE BIG LINERS RUN THE GERMAN SUBMARINE BLOCKADE.

New York, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Three big liners ran the blockade of the German submarines. The White Star Adriatic reached Liverpool Monday with forty-four passengers, one American.

The Cunarder Carpathia entered New York Bay this morning.

The Cunarder Germania reached Liverpool. She carried munitions and foodstuffs.

UNION MEN ARE BOUND TO GRAND JURY

CHARGE AGAINST BOTH MEN IS VIOLATION OF QUARANTINE.

ARANT AND KITCHENS' ACTS TO BE INVESTIGATED

District Attorney Was Not Present at Either Case and in Statement Today Said Action Was Instituted Before He Was Consulted—Union Factions Are Bitter Over Question.

Union, Ore., Feb. 14.—(Special to The Observer.)—Superintendent of Schools E. E. Arant at 10 o'clock last night was bound over to the grand jury by Justice of the Peace Durby to answer to a charge of breaking a measles quarantine ordered by the city health board of Union and disregarded by Superintendent Arant as the officer, and with the advice of, the Union school board. Arant's attorney, R. J. Kitchen, also charged with breaking the quarantine, was bound over this morning to the grand jury. Kitchen acted for Arant yesterday and last night in the justice's court. The action of the justice of the peace was taken despite the fact that the district attorney, John S. Hodgins, failed to appear to prosecute Arant and is said to have advised the superintendent that he knew of no law whereby schools could be closed on account of measles, or at least without the consent of the school board.

There are now 50 cases of measles in Union and the controversy is between the health committee and the school board as to who has the authority to close the schools on account of the prevalence of the disease in the locality.

Arant's case was set before the local justice yesterday at 1:30 p. m. The charge was made under the criminal laws of the state of Oregon. The justice proceeded to have an examination of the defendant regardless as to whether the state attorney consented or not.

It was shown in the examination of Superintendent Arant that he had tried to follow out the law in such a case and closed the schools when he was instructed to do so by his superiors. Nevertheless Justice Durby asserted in his decision to have sufficient evidence to bind him over to the grand jury.

Attorney Kitchen argued that inasmuch as the state had not been represented by the proper officials the defendant should be dismissed. Counsel A. J. Terral for the health committee claimed that the local committee of health had power to close the school, without the school board's consent if necessary, and that they were proceeding under the authority of Dr. J. N. Robey, state health officer.

It is said that the cases started will be fought to a final decision in higher courts.

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Woman Christian Endeavor President Is Coming Here

Woman Is One of Few of Her Sex to Hold Such a Position.



MISS LUELLA S. DYER
Washington Christian Endeavor President.

GERMANS ORDER AMERICAN FLAG HAULED DOWN

Berne, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Gustav Herter, an attaché of the American embassy, said that the Germans ordered American Minister Whitlock, of Brussels, to haul down the American flag over the legation and halted Minister Whitlock's attempt to cable Washington. They held all American relief workers prisoners. Herter was jailed at Metz and later expelled.

Union "Athletes" Play Baker Teams

Union, Ore., Feb. 14.—(Special.)—The Union Athletes left on an extended trip through the Panhandle country Tuesday evening. The team plays the Halfway town team tonight, the Halfway high school team tomorrow night and Richland high school team Friday night. These teams have made an excellent showing this season.

The men making the trip are: Forwards, A. Goodroad, H. McCann and F. Wilson; center, A. Harn; guards, W. Cross and F. Maxwell.

Usual "Y" Winners Lose.

Yesterday was somewhat of a hoodoo to some of the athletic teams at the Y. M. C. A. The big surprises were the defeat of the high school basketball team by the O-W, and the defeat of the Comets by the lowly Meteors. A goodly number of basketball fans witnessed this reversal of form on the part of the winning teams and it has been predicted that "it's any team's cup" until the last game has been played. The O-W defeated the high school 21 to 9. The high school was handicapped by not having George McDonald. The Meteors put the crimp on the cup aspirations of the Comets by the close score of 32 to 27.

Y. M. C. A. Valentine Party Given Tonight

Tonight is a big night at the Y. M. C. A. The stage has been set for one of the best social events the association has had for some time, a Valentine party. The committees selected among the teachers of the public schools have been hard at work.

With the decorating committee, "Hearts Are Trumps," and all who attend tonight will see a profusion of them. The "eats" committee will have some good things appropriate for the occasion. The entertainment committee will be there "with bells" and if there are no bulls eyes registered in the archery contest it will be no fault of theirs. The program committee presents the following program which will be given in the gymnasium:

Music, high school orchestra; solo, Charles Harding; music, Hi-Y quartet; solo, Mrs. T. J. Scroggin; piano

NEUTRAL NATIONS SEND PROTEST TO GERMANY

Declare That Present Policy of Submarining Will Lead to Loss of Life And to Unfriendly Relations.

Copenhagen, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Danish, Norwegian and Swedish governments sent central powers an identical note and protesting against "Barrage of certain sea areas."

They declare neutral rights are seriously injured. The Scandinavian note calls the blockade directly contrary to international law.

They denied the belligerents' rights to obstruct peaceful navigation. The note concludes: "Relying on the above considerations, our governments formally protest against the central powers arrangements. Deaths and material damage will ensue."

Bernstorff Sailing Is Delayed.

New York, Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Bernstorff's sailing is delayed on account of slow coaling. He will probably sail at five-thirty o'clock.

German Ambassador Bernstorff and Party Board Ship.

Hoboken, N. J., Feb. 14.—(United Press)—German Ambassador Bernstorff and hundred and seventy-five German consuls and diplomatic officers arrived here. They boarded the steamship Frederick the Eighth.

Secret service officers and one hundred and fifty deputies guarded the party.

A man claiming to be a cousin of Prince Frederick Wilhelm, attempted to hand Bernstorff a letter. He gave the name of Alfred Hopkins. He talked wildly. The letter said: "I am a cousin of Prince Frederick Wilhelm. I seek a chance to explain. For God's sake don't call me to shoulder a gun in case of war. FREDERICK HOHENZOLLERN."

duet, Robert Eakin and Mrs. J. G. King; solo, Miss Leila Deborah Smith; violin solo, Mrs. Cornelia Barker Carse; music, high school orchestra. The piano for the party has been donated by the Wiley B. Allen company.

Joe Rieg May Manage La Grande Motor Show

He Has Successfully Handled Portland Show and Is in Charge at Pendleton.

Joe Rieg, who handled the recent Portland automobile show and who is in charge of the Pendleton exhibition which opens tomorrow, may handle the show planned for next month in La Grande. Members of the La Grande dealers' association which is promoting the coming automobile show here are in correspondence with Rieg and he has promised to come to La Grande within a day or two. If he can not come L. Daniels will probably go to Pendleton Friday to see him. If Rieg's terms are reasonable he will probably be engaged but if his services can not be obtained the local men will handle the proposition on the lines already planned.

Mrs. Innes Is Sentenced.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 14.—(United Press)—Mrs. Ida Mae Innes, wife of Victor Innes, a Portlander, was sentenced three years for larceny in connection with the disappearance and supposed murder of Lois Beatrice O. Nelms.

Library is Asked A Pertinent Question

"What Is the Most Interesting Thing Your Library Is Doing?"

"What is the most interesting thing your library is doing?" This question comes to the La Grande public library from an eastern newspaper which runs a weekly column of library news. No answer was sent from La Grande, but if you wish to see what other cities are doing in the matter of libraries for their citizens, read the column in the paper on file at this library. The items reported vary from descriptions of lectures, clubs for boys and girls, story-telling, aeroplane contests and phonograph concerts to methods of financial retrenchment during municipal hard times.

HOUSE TO SPEED UP FOR REST OF THE SESSION

SENATOR PIERCE INTRODUCES BILL FOR MILLAGE TAX TO PROVIDE MONEY FOR HIGHWAY BUILDING.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 14.—(United Press)—The house adopted a resolution today providing each member select and present one bill for immediate consideration. It is believed the plan will speed up the closing days. The discussion of each bill is limited to twenty minutes. Appropriation measures are exempted. The house passed the parental school bill without opposition. Senator Pierce introduced a concurrent resolution fixing a one mill millage tax in addition to the present quarter mill tax, to provide funds to construct highways. Senator Pierce estimated this tax will supply one million and a half dollars additional revenue annually.

TODAY IS STATE'S BIRTHDAY

The state of Oregon is 58 years old today.

La Grande Boys Win In Annapolis Exams.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14.—(Special to The Observer.)—Ellis V. Williamson of La Grande won first place in the competitive examinations held February 1 for an Annapolis cadetship. He is principal and Clayton N. Ingle, of La Grande, is first alternate. The examinations were held for Congressman Sinnott by the civil service commission.

THE WEATHER

Portland, Ore., Feb. 14.—(United Press)—The United States weather forecast: Fair; northwest winds.