La Grande Evening Observer

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AUSTRIA IS URGING POPE BENEDICT TO MOVE FOR PEACE

For Diplomatic Reasons It Is Announced Vatican Is Not Proceeding At Present—Copenhagen Also Reports That Germany Is Making Peace Overtures To United States.

STATE DEPARTMENT DENIES KNOWLEDGE

It Is Intimated At Washington That United States Is Not In the Mood To Consider a Separate Peace—Unofficial Conference At the Hague Is Rumored—Bulgaria Is Also Reported To Be Negotiating With the Allies for Peace.

Rome, April 12.—(United Press)—Austria is pressing Pope Benedict to move for peace, according to an authentic report in Vatican circles. Corriere Dalle Serra declared the Pope is refusing to proceed "for diplomatic reasons."

BULGARIA REPORTED SUEING FOR PEACE

London, April 12.—(United Press)— An exchange telegraph dispatch asserts Bulgarian delegates in Switzerland are seeking a separate peace with representatives of the entente.

STATE DEPARTMENT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—The state department denied any knowledge of peace overtures and said it had no reason to believe any offer wes en route. It added the government is not ready for overtures and left the inference the administration is against a separate peace.

COPENHAGEN REPORTS NEW PEACE MOVE

Copenhagen, April 12.—(United Press)—Apparently positive reports that the German foreign office is making peace overtures to the United States have been received.

Further details are unavailable.

It is understood Secretary Lansing has already received the overture.

It is reported that an unofficial conference at the Hague was proposed.

MEETINGS ARE HELD WITH ALLIES' AGENTS

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)— Separate meetings of the French and British war commissioners with the American government heads here last night were officially announced.

Attempt To Blow Up Dam Frustrated

El Paso, April 12.—(United Press)—An attempt to dynamite the Elephant Butte Dam, a million dollar project, was frustrated. It is reported that troops arrested Germans and Austrians involved.

BIG WOODEN FLEET WILL BE BUILT SOON

Plans For 3000 Vessels Approved—Many Are To Be Built On the Pacific Coast

BY ROBERT J. BENDER

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—Plans for three thousand wooden vessels to be built in the next three years have been completed and approved by the President.

The boats will be used to transport food supplies to the Allies.

The government shipping board called a hundred and fifty thousand lumbermen and wood-workers to begin work immediately.

Each ship will be manned by a trained gun crew, equipped with anti-submarine guns and wireless.

Commencing November 1, three ships will daily be put into service. Seventy per cent of the ships will be built on the Pacific coast.

Vessels will be taken through the canal loaded with lumber.

Ask for Arrest of Oxman, of Durkee

San Francisco, April 12.—(United Press)—Attorneys for Thomas J. Mooney, convicted for the San Francico preparedness parade bomb murders said today they would ask for a warrant against F. C. Oxman, an Estern Oregon cattleman, charging him with attempting to influence a witness into giving untrue testimony.

Oxman's testimony is considered largely responsible for Mooney's conviction.

Testified What He Saw.

Baker, April 12.—(United Press)—"I only testified to what I saw," was Oxman's comment today. He lives at Durkee.

EXPLOSION IN ARSENAL, 1 KILLED

Philadelphia, April 12.—(United Press)—One was killed and one injured in an explosion in Frankfort arsenal. It was "purely accidental," according to Major Pelot, the arsenal officer.

Conclusive evidence was found said to show the careless removal of a timer from a shell fuse caused the accident.

THE PLEDGE TO THE FLAG.

"I pledge allegiance to my flag, and to the Republic for for which it stands—one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

HONOR GUARD MEETS AT THE "Y" TONIGHT

Dr. Holt Will Give Lecture —Miss Kirtley Reports 99 Have Signed the Pledge

The regular lecture night for the La Grande Girls' Honor Guard will be held this evening in the lobby at the Y. M. C. A. Dr. Holt will deliver the last of his series of lectures. All members are requested to bring their note books.

Miss Naomi Kirtley, the leader of the Guard, reports that ninety-nine have signed the pledge of membership and a number have reported that they will be present at the meeting tonight to sign the pledge, it is expected that the membership will easily pass the hundred mark. At the meeting tonight after the lecture, the membership will be divided into squads with a leader for each squad; the leader will be responsible to report the attendance of each member at the lectures.

At the meeting held recently the following officers were elected for the La Grande Chapter:

Chief Leader—Miss Naomi Kirtley.
Vice Leader—Miss Nora Arbuckle.
Secretary—Miss Jean Smith.
Treasurer—Miss Wilma Oesterling.

FLAG RAISING POSTPONED ONE WEEK

Late Arrival of Pole Causes Date of Celebration To Be Set For April 22

At a meeting of the O.-W. R. & N. shopmen last night it was decided on account of the lateness of the arrival of the big flag pole, to postpone the O.-W. shopmen's flag raising from April 15 at 2 p. m. to April 22 at 2 p. m.

All of the organizations that have accepted invitations to participate in the ceremony are urged to make their arrangements to take part in the ceremony on April 22. All of the arrangements will be carried out on that day. The only reason for postponing was that it was impossible to have the flag pole up by this Sunday.

Omen Of War.

Whittier ,Calif, April 12.—(United Press)—It is recalled here today that Louis Fordenanxa on February 1 declared that when a coal black pigeon perched on his barn it would be an omen of war He says it came and foretold the war in 1914 and again when Italy plunged in in 1915. He says the bird has again appeared recently.

NO EVIDENCE OF PLOT IS DISCOVERED

State Fire Marshal Makes Statement — Federal Agents Working On Clues

Philadelphia, April 12.—(United Press)—"No evidence of a plot," was the statement of C. Chal Port, state fire marshal, who is making a careful study of the Eddystone munitions plant disaster.

"An accidental flareup," of black powder in the "shaking chamber" caused the explosion, according to Mr. Port.

Despite Port's statement the Federal agents are working today on plot clues. Nearly sixty unidentified dead are still in the morgue and will be buried today.

A prominent La Grande girl is wearing an engagement ring.

BULGARIA IS SAID TO HAVE BROKEN TOO

Severance of Diplomatic Relations Is Reported But Not Officially Confirmed As Yet

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—Bulgaria is reported to have broken off diplomatic relations with the United States. This action is a surprise here in official and diplomatic circles.

The state department denied any knowledge of the rupture.

The Bulgarian legation states no news has reached them from their home government for some time.

Coast Artillery Called.

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—Five regiments of California Coast Artillery have been called to the colors.

GERMANY IS PREPARING FOR GREATEST BATTLE OF THE WAR

Gathering Her Reserves, She Will Hurl Her Full Forces Against the Allies on the Western Front in an Effort to Check Their Steady Advance.

GENERAL MAURICE SO DECLARES

British Drive Their Lines Forward Over Rough Country and in Wintry Weather — Two Wedges Are Thrust Forward Against Which Germans Make Counter Attacks—Artillery Pounds Away.

London, April 12.—(United Press)—The greatest battle of the war is coming soon.

Germany is gathering her reserves, preparing to hurl her full forces on the western front, according to General Maurice, director of military operations, in an interview today.

Stumbling over slippery hummocks, sticky mudholes, in the most wintry weather for fifty years, the British rammed their line further forward against the Germans.

The British thrust forward two formidable wedges, at Monchylepreux, and Bullacourt, bringing enormous pressure against the sides of the wedges, and attempting to force the Germans from the intervening ground.

Against these wedges, the Germans made constant counter-attacks.

The British artillery is continuing its awful, steady pounding.

General Haig's men are literally blasting their way forward.

Stockmen Will Go To Enterprise Show

A great many Union County stockmen will attend the Enterprise stock show Saturday.

The Enterprise horse men have made great preparations to make their exhibit a very interesting event and have extended a special invitation to the horse and cattle men of Union county to attend.

Among those who are planning to go are Paul H. Spillman, J. E. Reynolds, Andrew Blokland, W. H. Ledbetter, Duncan McDonald, Frank McKennon, Albert Hunter, Floyd McKennon and many others.

BILL ENTERED FOR ROOSEVELT VOLUNTEERS

Congress Will Be Asked To Authorize Organization of Army of 100,000 Under Pres.

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—Representative Emerson, of Ohio, will introduce a bill asking the President to authorize the organization of the "Roosevelt volunteers" of one hundred thousand men.

This army would be subject to the War Department, under the President's control.

FRENCH PREPARE FOR SPRING DRIVE

Paris, April 12.—(United Press)—New activity is reported on the French front, indicating the French are preparing a great spring drive.

CONGRESS IS DIVIDED ON WAR BILL

Majority Leader Kitchin Finds Much Anti-Drafting Sentiment Now Exists

Washington, April 12.—(United Press)—Threat of a serious fight over the general army bill grew in Congress today.

Majority Leader Kitchin found the anti-draft sentiment very strong.

Friends of the secretive conscription system are dwindling.

Many believe the President will force it through.

The House is expected to pass tomorrow the seven billion dollar bond issue. Hours of speaking are expected.

THE WEATHER

Portland, April 12.—(United Press)—The U. S. weather forecast: "Fair and cooler."

ANTI-GERMAN OUTBREAKS IN BRAZIL

Public Insists On War With Germany — Austrian Break Is Expected Today

Rio de Janeiro, April 12.—(United Press)—Serious anti-German outbreaks at San Paulo marked public insistance for war with Germany.

The Austrian break is expected today.

German Prisoner Escapes.

London, April 12.—(United Press)—If a white-washed man, bearing the number 4713, bobs up on the shores of the U. S. that will be George von Streng. He is an escaped German prisoner from the Isle of Man, who adopted white-wash as a disguise and took to the waters of the Atlantic.

J. W. Baxter of Union is a business visitor in the city today.

Mrs. M. L. Bideler of Union is spending a few days in the city.

Dale Scibird is in town today having some dental work done.