

VESSELS, IF ARMED, CALLED WARSHIPS

Germany and Austria Give No- tice of Policy Toward Mer- chantmen of Allies.

Washington—Germany and Austria, through their embassies, have notified the United States of their intention to treat armed merchantmen as warships after March 1. That date was fixed to give the entente allies time to signify their intention toward the recent note of the United States proposing the disarmament of all merchantmen.

The United States recently proposed to all the belligerents that the development of submarine warfare had made it desirable for all to agree that merchant ships should be absolutely unarmed—dismounting even the small caliber guns which they have heretofore been permitted to carry.

With the arrival of the notice, the American government faced one of the most serious and intricate diplomatic questions since the war started. Indications are that Secretary of State Lansing will admit the soundness of the Teutons' contention that arming merchantmen make the usual visit and search impossible before attack by submarines.

Already the allies—Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy—have filed objections to the change of policy proposed by the United States.

Federal Militia Plan is Presented.

The proposals of the National Guard association for federalization of the state troops were before the military committee of congress in the form of a bill drafted by representatives of the association at the request of the senate committee.

The maximum number of troops provided for by the bill is 500 for each congressional district or a total peace strength of approximately 290,000, an increase of 70,000 over the present strength of the national guard. They would form a separate branch of the regular army in time of war when called into the federal service. The act would take effect July 1, 1916.

The bill provides also for organization of a junior guard, composed of boys between 12 and 18, available for active service only after every other class of militia had been called out.

An enlistment contract would be required under which the soldier would bind himself to serve the federal government "within or without the continental limits of the United States," for a period of two years or until discharged, should the guard be called out at any time during his three-year enlistment period.

Garrison Quits Wilson Cabinet.

Garrison resigned from the cabinet because President Wilson declined to insist without compromise upon the adoption of the continental army plan by congress. The resignation was tendered and accepted, and with Mr. Garrison, the assistant secretary of war, Henry C. Breckinridge, left the service of the government.

The reasons for Secretary Garrison's resignation and its acceptance by the president are disclosed in lengthy correspondence made public between them. The correspondence revealed that while the secretary left the cabinet principally because the president would not "irrevocably support" the continental army plan, his opposition to the administration's program for setting a definite time for Filipino independence, as outlined in Senator Clarke's amendment to the Philippine bill, was an important factor.

Brandeis Inquiry to Continue.

In the senate this week the inquiry into the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis, to the supreme court will be resumed by the judiciary sub-committee Tuesday, with Mr. Brandeis' connection with the United Shoe Machinery company the particular subject for investigation.

There will be a democratic house caucus this week to authorize Majority Leader Kitchin, as chairman of the house ways and means committee, to press the bill he will introduce, probably at once, to repeal the free sugar clause of the Underwood tariff bill. But for the repeal, the free sugar clause would entail an estimated annual revenue loss of \$40,000,000, beginning May 1 next. Mr. Kitchin does not expect to bring up the repeal measure in the house until about February 24.

Homesteads Free Until Title Won.

The commissioner of the general land office, Clay Tallman, of Nevada, concurs in the opinion recently expressed by Will R. King, of Oregon, chief counsel of the reclamation service, that the states cannot tax permanent improvements on public land entries until final proof is made by the entryman. The opinion of Mr. King aroused general interest among western men in congress, and while the opinion is in no sense binding, being merely the belief of the individual, it has led to much comment.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Important Occurrences of Past Week Briefly Compiled for Our Readers.

There are now 295 jitneys in operation in Portland.

McMinnville Christian Scientists plan erecting a church.

Clatsop county plans to expend over a quarter of a million dollars this year on roads and bridges.

Myrtle Point has ordered a sewer survey of the entire city and proposes to install it during 1916.

James H. Dunlap was run over and instantly killed by a westbound freight between Stanfield and Echo.

Twenty-five per cent of the 8,000, 000 fish at the Bonneville hatchery were destroyed by the late storm.

The Dallas commercial club will soon take up the project of obtaining a Y. M. C. A. building for Dallas.

Ben Hendricksen, 5 years old, killed his sister, 3 years old, while they were playing with a revolver at Pendleton.

The Tribune building and the C. H. Voegtly warehouse were destroyed by fire at Burns. The loss is about \$14, 000.

Governor Withycombe and State Treasurer Tom Kay spent Sunday in Roseburg inspecting the Soldiers' Home.

The total enrollment at the Oregon Agricultural college is 1760, according to figures given out at the registrar's office.

The steel bridge which spans the John Day river at Cottonwood on the Wasco-Condon road was destroyed by an ice jam.

Governor Withycombe has granted paroles to 16 men serving penitentiary sentences, on recommendation of the parole board.

About 200 Willamette valley grangers met in Portland Monday to attend a conference on hogs at the Portland Union stockyards.

Nearly \$12,000 was spent during 1915 by the United States Indian service on the Umatilla Indian reservation, exclusive of the school.

The report of the chief of police shows that all hobo records were broken in Corvallis last month, when 253 workless men were taken in.

Organization of an irrigation district to embrace the Grimes Flat district, north of Prineville, has carried. The district will contain 37,000 acres.

It is estimated that the damage done to Hood River orchards this winter as the result of the heavy snows, will aggregate approximately \$500,000.

The Rogue River Canning company shipped two carloads of canned goods from Medford to Dodge City, Kan., the farthest east it has yet sent its product.

The 35 road supervisors of Linn county will meet with the county court March 4 for the purpose of discussing road work for the coming year.

Mrs. Myrtle Jones and mother, Mrs. Anna Wilcox, were shot and killed by William Doyle in Langella valley near Klamath Falls in a dispute over a lease.

Only 27 quarts of liquor were shipped into Umatilla county during the first month of prohibition according to returns made by the express companies.

The appropriation for continuing work at the mouth of the Columbia river has been cut by the house river and harbor committee from \$2,104,000 to \$1,260,000.

County judges who have been chosen at any general election since November, 1912, will hold office for six years. Attorney General Brown has declared.

The supreme court has upheld the state loan shark law, which provides that loan companies receiving more than 10 per cent interest must secure state licenses.

Tunnel No. 4 on the Willamette Pacific railroad at Alder Ridge, one of the last of the nine tunnels on the line between Eugene and Marshfield, is nearing completion.

Jackson county's first poultry show, just concluded at Medford, has been such a success that a movement has already been started to hold the next state show in that city.

The contract for the construction of the \$600,000 Suttles lake irrigation project was awarded last week at Grandview to Henry J. Kaiser company, of Vancouver, B. C.

According to figures just compiled, the present county court of Klamath county has reduced the indebtedness of the county a total of \$124,677.63 during the year just closed.

All fruits sold in the Roseburg markets hereafter will be standardized, according to an agreement between the directors of the Umpqua Valley Fruit union and merchants.

The county court at Culver passed favorably on the petition of land owners for an irrigation district and the matter will be voted upon at an election to be held March 29. Approximately 100,000 acres will be affected.

Roseburg will hold its annual Strawberry Carnival this year, according to an agreement reached by the business men of that city. The carnival will be held May 19 and 20.

Formal notice that Oregon is entitled to ten delegates to the democratic convention, which meets at St. Louis, Mo., June 14 next, has been received by Secretary of State Olcott.

The city of Eugene has taken over the distributing system of the Oregon Power company, establishing a municipal light and power monopoly in the city, with the exception of power for street cars.

Stukel mountain, about 25 miles east of Klamath Falls, has been chosen as the range for the 18 head of young elk soon to be liberated in Klamath county by the state fish and game commission.

The state fair board has rescinded an order appropriating \$1000 for the state federation of women's clubs and the Oregon mothers' congress and \$150 for the latter alone was appropriated instead.

Horsemen in Klamath and Lake counties are anticipating large sales of saddle horses soon, when agents of the Italian government are expected to come into this section to secure cavalry mounts.

The engineering department of the Oregon Agricultural college has arranged for a five weeks' graduate course in highway engineering to be given in future years during the winter short courses.

Governor Withycombe and State Treasurer Kay, representing the state highway commission, have promised the \$8000 required by the federal government for the survey of the Crater lake highway this year.

The Oswego, Dallas & Roseburg railroad, which will extend from Carnes, on the main line of the Southern Pacific, to the quarries of the Portland Cement company, will be ready for operation by May 1.

Permanent organization of a county wide association to assist the county court in promoting good roads has been effected in Union county. George T. Cochran is president and F. B. Currey secretary of the association.

The temporary board of directors of the Oregon Co-operative Dairy exchange, chosen at the recent meeting of co-operative creamery men in Portland, met Monday to discuss a number of changes in the plan of the association.

The Oregon Hop Growers' association has passed a resolution favoring the manufacture of beer having two and one-half per cent of alcohol and providing for a tax of one and one-half cents per bottle, the proceeds to be used in building good roads.

Further evidence of the fact that the lumber business is improving is shown in the announcement that the Hammond lumber company of Astoria will increase the wages of its employes, averaging from 8 to 11 per cent. This will affect about 300 workmen.

Secretary of State Olcott has announced that the 5 per cent received by the state from the sale of timber in forest reserves totaled \$4597.12 for the year and that he had distributed it among the counties. The money goes into the highway and bridge funds.

Statistics prepared by State Forester Elliott show that through the systematic patrol of timber lands and the prompt suppression of forest fires, the loss of timber by fire in the state has been reduced from \$1,640,997, in 1910, to an average of \$19,324 for the last five years.

The first organized step toward the drainage of Long Tom and Coyote bottoms, west and northwest of Eugene, covering territory of more than 50,000 acres of land, was taken at a big mass meeting in Eugene, in which engineers, state officials and college professors took part.

The Eastern Oregon Livestock company, recently formed by the Swift packing interests, has added to its immense holdings in eastern Oregon by the purchase of what is known as Umatilla farm near Stanfield. The property went to the livestock company for \$230,000.

The secretary of agriculture has reported favorably to the senate public lands committee on the Chamberlain bill to permit the exchange of Oregon school and indemnity lands within the national forests for an equal area in national forest lands in compact form for the establishment of a state forest.

The extension division of the University of Oregon says schoolteachers are absent-minded. During 1915 the state reading circle tests were taken by 3578 teachers. One hundred and forty-six of these failed to inclose with their examination papers either name or address. In addition, many gave names, but no addresses.

Two were drowned and six others narrowly escaped drowning when a Salem-Portland canoeing party of the Portland Rowing club struck the whirling rapids and eddies off Rock Island in the Willamette river five miles south of Oregon City. The drowned were Charles Kirkpatrick, 22 years of age, and Harry Gammie, 33 years of age, both of Portland.

Stop! Look! Listen!

This is an advertising paraphrase on that old railroad sign: Stop--Look--Listen.

The railroad sign stands for "safety first."

So does the paraphrase--safety first in spending your hard earned money.

STOP when you pick up your newspaper -- today -- for example and LOOK through the advertising pages.

THINK. Do they offer something better than you are accustomed to use?

Do they offer lower prices?

Do they tell you of advantages you are not enjoying?

Think! Investigate! Reason it out for yourself.

But use the advertising for the preliminary guide.

The Argus.