

### GERMANS ABANDON LINES TO BRITISH

#### Make Greatest Retirement in Two Years to Occupy New Positions.

London.—Under cover of a heavy fog, which shielded their operations from British observers, the Germans on Saturday carried out the greatest retirement they have made on the western front in the last two years and the British have taken possession of Pys. Serre, Miraumont and Petit Miraumont, including the famous Butte de Warlencourt, which has been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting of the war and in places is deep with the bones of dead men. The German retirement, it is estimated, approaches a depth of three miles at some points.

The British soon will be in a position, possibly, to force the evacuation of Bapaume, which has been the key to the German position since the beginning of the battle of the Somme. It is evident now that the Germans, taking advantage of the heavy frost and hard ground, moved a great many of their guns well to the rear, leaving others forward to keep up a show of resistance. This they had been vainly doing for three or four days. The foggy, misty weather was ideal for the beginning of the German retirement, as it completely hid the purpose of the movement from the prying eyes of the airplanes.

**Berlin Is Firm With Brazil.**  
Rio Janeiro.—Brazil's declaration to Germany that she does not recognize the submarine blockade and leaves with Germany the responsibility for all acts from which Brazilian merchantmen may suffer in violation of international law has elicited from Germany a statement that the blockade will not be abandoned.

### WILSON ASKS FOR ARMED NEUTRALITY

#### President Has Made Plans to Protect American Ships From Attack.

Washington.—President Wilson addressed a joint session of congress at 1 p. m. Monday, and asked for authority to establish a state of "armed neutrality." He has made full and detailed plans for protecting American ships desiring to enter the German war zone.

The president asked congress to empower him to use the armed forces of the United States to protect American rights on the high seas.

In addition to giving authority to establish a state of armed neutrality, congress is expected to place in the president's hands authority to get additional money if needed.

To ask for authority to use the forces of the United States to protect American rights is not in any sense to ask for a declaration of war, nor is it an act of war. It is to prepare the United States for what may be warlike acts by any other nation.

**President Still Desires Peace.**  
The president pointed out that while he desires peace, there is something greater than peace, the protection of the sovereign rights of America, and that the untrammelled right of American ships to sail the seas unmolested by any foreign nation must be upheld.

Mr. Wilson's decision to go before congress was partly caused by the fact that Germany's campaign is keeping American ships tied up in American ports. Such a condition, the president said, is unbearable.

Arming American merchantmen or conveying them through the war zone are two methods of protecting American commerce being considered. Exactly what steps will be taken has not been revealed.

**Senate Resolution Authorizes Force.**  
A resolution authorizing the president to use the armed forces of the United States was introduced in the senate by Senator Fall, republican.

Senator Fall's resolution was offered by unanimous consent Saturday after a bitter two-hour debate on the international situation in which republicans disclaimed any desire to withhold support from the president in handling the situation.

The authority to be extended by the resolution is along the general line of that which President Wilson requested in his address Monday. Senator Fall's action took administration senators completely by surprise, as it was not known that the president would go before congress Monday.

### CONGRESS UNLIKELY TO COMPLETE WORK

Washington.—With the appropriation filibuster in the senate against revenue legislation broken, after one of the most tempestuous sessions of recent years, the sixty-fourth congress entered on the last week of its official existence still facing extraordinary legislative congestion.

Republican leaders who had threatened to defeat the emergency revenue bill by dilatory tactics agreed to a final vote on the measure when confronted with the democratic determination to hold the senate in continuous session.

That nearly all pending legislation so long urged by the president must fall at this session now is practically conceded by everyone. If the revenue, army and navy, sundry civil and minor appropriation measures still pending get through, that is all that the most sanguine democrats expect.

### HOSPITAL PATIENTS REBEL

**Insane Murderer Comes to Aid of Asylum Attendants.**

Salem, Or.—Joe Castranova, insane murderer from Multnomah county, was the leading spirit in breaking up an organized insurrection at the criminal insane ward of the Oregon state hospital, and probably saved the lives of D. B. Fitch and F. M. Lane, attendants.

Dr. H. A. Sturdevant, former Portland dentist, joined with John H. Thompson, former Milwaukie, Or., blacksmith, in organizing the conspiracy to disable the guards, steal their keys and make a break for liberty.

A number of the patients were bruised and cut up in the fight, but the three most seriously injured are Castranova, who aided the attendants, and Attendants Fitch and Lane.

**Liner Laconia Is Sunk.**  
Queenstown.—The Cunard line steamship Laconia, 18,099 tons gross, which sailed from New York February 18 for Liverpool, has been sunk. The Laconia carried 100 passengers, among whom were 10 or more Americans. The survivors of the Laconia are said to number 270.

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### OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week  
Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

Pendleton is to have a community style show Thursday and Friday.

A series of teachers' institutes is to be held in the different cities and towns of Lane county.

An enormous influx of eastern people onto Oregon farms with the coming of spring is predicted.

The Silver Falls Lumber company will start its newly constructed big mill at Silverton on March 12.

Arrangements are being completed for the establishment of a tannery and glove factory at Klamath Falls.

Out of 220 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission during the week, not one was fatal.

The district convention of the Knights of Pythias of Union and Walla counties was held in Wallowa.

An epidemic of measles has swept Gateway and almost every family either has had or is having this disease.

The Coos and Curry Fair association has designated September 12 to 15 inclusive for the dates of the annual fair.

The new coast guard station at the mouth of the Siuslaw river, about three miles from Florence, will be completed May 1.

Attendance at the meeting of the Western Oregon Christian Endeavor union at Salem last week totaled between 900 and 1000.

The Lane county Pomona grange, at a meeting at Santa Clara, passed resolutions opposing the proposed \$6,000,000 road bond issue.

Katherine M. Doan, supervisor and parole officer at the state industrial school for girls, has submitted her resignation to the state board of control.

To decide upon the purchase of a new \$45,000 site for the central school of Klamath Falls, the school board has called for a special election March 7.

Money from the rural credits fund will be available for lending purposes to the farmers of the state by the middle of March or the first part of April.

Portland has another shipbuilding plant, the Coast Shipbuilding company, a \$400,000 concern, which will engage in the building of wooden ships.

Circulation of petitions asking for a recall election against County Judge J. B. Messick and County Commissioner J. P. Ritter, has been started in Baker county.

### SPUDS SELL HIGH

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