



BRITONS NOW USE HEAVY HOWITZERS

'Eyewitness' Says German Gun Surpassed.

HOUSES ARE BLOWN UP BODILY

Monster Shells Enable Capture of Strong Positions.

CONSUMPTIVE AMONG DEAD

Man in Kaiser's Ranks Certified Tubercular. Others of Poor Physique—English Officer Aided by Enemy Who Is Fired On.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The British army in France is now using heavy howitzers, which, according to a report from the official "eyewitness" with the expeditionary forces, have gained ascendancy over the heavy German guns.

These howitzers, he says, were used in successful attacks on the German positions in the brick fields south of La Bassee Canal a week ago tonight.

Detonations Heard 20 Miles

"Our heavy howitzers took part in this bombardment, their fire being directed on the railway triangle," the "eyewitness" says. The boom of these pieces and the detonation of their shells were audible 20 miles away, above the roar of the other artillery, while to those close at hand the shrieking of the great projectiles through the air was most impressive, as were the volumes of smoke and debris thrown up.

Noise Covers Assault

"The assault was launched against a strong position, or 'keep,' among the stacks of bricks held by the Germans. Our storming columns rushed the work from three sides at once and captured it with little loss, for, as prisoners afterward said, the noise of the bursting shells was so great and the clouds of dust in which the defenders were surrounded were so thick that they did not observe our men advancing until too late.

Strategem Loses Novelty

"We captured 19 unwounded prisoners, in addition to many wounded, a trench mortar and machine guns. The Germans left 79 dead on the ground, while our casualties were insignificant.

Artillery Fire Gains Accuracy

"A great feature of the recent fighting has been the accuracy of our artillery fire. On one occasion our guns accomplished the feat of blowing the Germans out of trenches they were occupying on an embankment, although it was only 49 yards from that which we were holding.

TYPHUS FOUND IN AUSTRIA

Spread of Smallpox in Vienna Is Also Reported.

RUSSIANS POORLY ARMED

Berlin Correspondent Finds Many Recruits in Training.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Writing to a Berlin newspaper from Russia, a correspondent says:

"In most of the more important Russian cities recruits in considerable numbers are being drilled. These men are in part excellent material, but the weapons with which they are supplied leave much to be desired.

Russia to Borrow in London

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Russian Government will issue 10,000,000 (\$50,000,000) of treasury bills in London, with the consent of the British government. The bills will be offered on February 23, at a fixed price of 95 and will be payable in one year.

BRITONS ATTACK IN 34 AIRCRAFT

BELGIAN TOWNS HELD BY GERMAN ARE RAIDED.

Aerial Warfare Waged of Largest Scale in History—Grahame-White Falls Into Sea, Is Rescued.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—Aerial warfare was waged today on the largest scale in its history and under adverse circumstances from the standpoint of the weather. Bombs were dropped on Ostend, Bruges and other places.

Thirty-four aeroplanes and seaplanes of the British navy participated. The raid was made to prevent the development of submarine bases and establishments which might further endanger British warships and merchantmen.

Considerable damage is said to have been done to German gun positions, railway lines and railway stations. The Ostend station is reported to have been set on fire and that at Blankenberghe to have been badly damaged. German mine-sweeping vessels at Zebrugge also came in for a hail of bombs.

At various points the aeroplanes were received by the Germans with firing from anti-aerial guns and rifles.

The machine driven by Flight Commander Claude Grahame-White, among the most intrepid of the British fliers, fell into the sea while returning to its base after the raid was over and the aviator had a narrow escape from drowning. Fortunately for him a French cruiser was near by and picked him up and then towed his aeroplane into port.

WOMEN CAN'T BE JURORS

House Indefinitely Postpones Huston Bill on Fair Sex Service.

STATE CAPITOL, Salem, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Oregon women are not to be permitted to serve on juries. Neither will they be compelled to serve.

The House today indefinitely postponed the Huston bill, which would make it possible—but not compulsory—for women to serve on trial juries.

The Senate a week ago defeated a bill to make it compulsory—but not optional—for women to serve.

In the House the plea was made that if women were to serve on juries at all they should be compelled to serve if summoned and not be given the option of claiming exemption on account of their sex, as the bill provided.

In the Senate the plea was made that women should not be compelled to do jury duty, but that it should be made optional with them.

TACKLS LAY JITNEYS LOW

Trail Through University District in Seattle Works Havoc to Cars.

SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—Following the distribution of a thousand or more tacks along the East Lake carline last night, the tacks of Jitney buses were punctured in succession in the University district.

The danger zone, it was found after several hundred dollars' worth of damage had been done, extended along East Lake avenue and East Fortieth from Lakeview Drive North to Fourteenth avenue Northeast and East Forty-fifth street.

The police were busy in the University region for several hours. The city street department was finally called and worked some time before the avenue was cleared of tacks.

BLOW FROM CABLE FATAL

Man Meets Death at Sutton Creek When Engine Is Moved.

TILLAMOOK, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—J. A. Roberts died early this morning from injuries inflicted while working for the Coast Driving & Boom Company, at Sutton Creek. A large donkey engine was being moved and Roberts, who was standing nearby, was struck by the steel cable as it jerked back. He was hurled 39 feet against a log and his head was injured. He was unconscious when picked up and was brought to this city. He died several hours later.

RUSSIANS POORLY ARMED

Berlin Correspondent Finds Many Recruits in Training.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—Writing to a Berlin newspaper from Russia, a correspondent says:

"In most of the more important Russian cities recruits in considerable numbers are being drilled. These men are in part excellent material, but the weapons with which they are supplied leave much to be desired.

Russia to Borrow in London

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Russian Government will issue 10,000,000 (\$50,000,000) of treasury bills in London, with the consent of the British government. The bills will be offered on February 23, at a fixed price of 95 and will be payable in one year.

NEUTRAL ENVOYS APPROVE PROTEST

British and German Ambassadors Silent.

CAPITAL DEEPLY CONCERNED

Differences in Two Notes Cause Discussion.

SERIOUS TONE IS NOTED

Necessity for Strong Warning to Germany Emphasized—Use of Neutral Flag Regarded Chiefly as Being "Unneighborly."

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Reading of the official texts of the two notes from the United States to Germany and Great Britain developed today an intense interest among officials and diplomats in the question of what would be the nature of the replies from the two belligerent governments.

That Great Britain would give assurances of no intention to sanction the general use of neutral flags by British merchant ships was the belief of many officials. The widest sort of speculation, based on a variety of conceptions of Germany's plans in waging a submarine war on merchant ships, was heard as to the probable response of the Berlin Foreign Office.

Serious Tone Impels Attention

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, declined to discuss the note to Germany, as he had received no advice from Berlin concerning it, and the British embassy also was silent.

What excited most attention in Congress and among diplomats, however, was the serious tone of the notes, even though qualified by the polite terms of diplomatic usage. The determination of the United States Government to have the American flag used only by ships entitled to fly it and the warning that Germany would be held to a "strict accountability" if American lives or vessels were lost in the attacks on merchant vessels in the new sea zones of war were practically the sole topic of discussion in executive and Congressional circles, as well as among the Ambassadors and representatives of belligerent and neutral nations.

Neutral Diplomats Approve

While there were no authorized expressions, it was evident that the neutral diplomats in general gave both notes their approval because of the identity of interest of their governments and of the United States in the circumstances.

The opposition of a neutral government to the practice suggested by the Lusitania incident or the threatened attacks on merchant vessels was considered as likely to have a beneficial effect and there were suggestions that

(Continued on Page 5.)

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

THE WEATHER.—Maximum temperature, 48.2 degrees; minimum, 37.0 degrees. TODAY'S FAIR; winds mostly westerly.

WAR.—New heavy howitzers used by Britons surpass German guns, says "eyewitness." Page 1. Allied airmen raid Belgian towns held by Germans. Page 1. Sir Roger Casement charges British government offered reward for his capture of French capture hill in Voorges after sharp battle in violent snowstorm. Page 2.

LEGISLATURE.—New game bill gives governor appointive power and provides for use of money. Page 4. New bill aims to reduce petition peddling to minimum. Page 4. House votes in opposition to Senate on section of new waterpower convention delegates. Page 5.

FOREIGN.—Japan demands upper hand in all Chinese concessions. Page 2. Notes of United States to Germany and Great Britain approved by neutral diplomats. Page 1. Drys win double victory in Iowa Senate. Page 3. Robbers torture and murder aged banker and his wife. Page 3.

SPORTS.—Jefferson High shuts out Portland Academy soccer team in exciting game. Page 10. Hap Hogan has eyes on Baltimore boy who he would place on first. Page 10.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST.—Hood River growers elect delegates to Tacoma meeting without any dissent. Page 3. Jackson County Progressives pledge to unite with Republicans to accomplish Democratic defeat. Page 3. Albany loses \$100,000 in fire. Page 3.

COMMERCIAL AND MARINE.—Local wheat prices follow Chicago lead. Page 15. Batsford, first of high-priced cargo steamers, arrives for grain. Page 15.

PORTLAND AND VICINITY.—Gathering at German house honors memory of Abraham Lincoln. Page 12. City cleanup programme is thorough success. Page 12. Plans are raised on new Meier & Frank building. Page 12. After heated controversy city labor bill passes to third reading. Page 8. Army highwaymen rob postal Substation "A" and make getaway. Page 3. M. Sells, founder of Portland home, dies at Frankfurt, Germany. Page 7.

LESS "UPLIFT" IS WANTED

Ex-Ambassador Wilson Says Mexico Needs Practical Assistance.

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 12.—Henry Lane Wilson, ex-Ambassador to Mexico, speaking here tonight before the Columbus Club, said: "There will be no hope for Mexico until either the present Administration reverses its policy in entirety or until a new Administration, committed to less uplift, but more genuine practical advice and assistance in the way of intelligent evolution, comes into power."

Mr. Wilson said it was not his purpose "to question the intentions or patriotism of the President, but the performance of the Administration."

ASHLAND CHANGES LINE

City Election Places Part of Territory Under County Sway.

ASHLAND, Or., Feb. 12.—(Special.)—At a special city election held today the proposition to amend the charter, providing for changing the northwesterly boundaries of the municipality to conform to Pacific Highway requirements, was carried by a vote of 521 to 28. This result places the territory in question under jurisdiction of the county, instead of the city.

Holdup Men "Lean Business"

"Stick up your hands, old fellow," one of the men told him, he says. "Put 'em up quick, we mean business."

Ott says he considered it an attempt at humor and walked on without replying. The other robber walked down East Alder street to meet him. The three came together at the rear door of the substitution.

"Throw up your hands, you old—" shouted one of the men, and each

(Continued on Page 9.)

HIGHWAYMEN ROB POSTAL SUBSTATION

Armed Duo Handcuffed Superintendent Of Superintendent Ott.

\$700 IN LOOT IS TAKEN

Police Think Robbers Made Getaway in Auto.

OFFICIAL FEARED DEATH

At Point of Guns Is Demand Made for Federal Cash and Stamps. Previous Robbery Recalled When \$2100 Was Stolen.

Handcuffing A. G. Ott, superintendent of Postoffice substitution "A," at Union avenue and East Alder street, to a heavy mailrack after he had unlocked the safe at the point of a revolver, two armed highwaymen looted the office at 6:20 o'clock last night, and escaped with \$100 in money and \$600 in stamps.

Mr. Ott dragged the mailrack across to a telephone and notified the police as soon as the men left.

The other employee of the substitution, J. E. Fairchild, had gone home, and Mr. Ott had just locked up for the night when the men closed in on him in the street. At first he believed that the affair was a joke and paid no attention to their demands. It was only after they thrust their guns to his body and threatened to shoot that he unlocked the outside door and admitted them to the office.

Much Currency Is Taken

The loot consisted of \$100 and \$200 in currency, besides a number of blank money order blanks, and the \$600 worth of stamps, which were of all denominations, but mostly the 1 and 2-cent values. As no postoffice seal was taken, Federal authorities believe that the money order blanks will be of no use to the robbers.

Mr. Ott says that one of the men had transacted business in the substitution frequently, although he has no recollection of his name. The police believe that the robbery was the work of experienced highwaymen, and that the robbers escaped in an automobile after the crime.

The station closes at 6:15 P. M. Mr. Ott had locked the station when he saw one of the men coming across the street.

POLAND MAY HAVE KING

Petrograd Hears Germany and Austria Concede Independence.

PETROGRAD, via London, Feb. 12.—News has reached here from apparently authentic sources that Germany and Austria have declared the independence of Poland, to become operative February 14, when it is planned to hold a convention at Cracow, Galicia, for the purpose of choosing a king. It is said that Archduke Karl Stephen, of Austria, is a likely candidate for the throne.

The convention members are to be elected by ballot by the population in such parts of Poland and Galicia as are in the possession of Germans and Austrians, it is said. Germany has yielded German Silesia to the proposed kingdom.

Pending the progress of the convention the temporary government is headed by Ignatz Daschinsky, Socialist member of the Austrian Reichstag.

SWEDISH EXPLOSIVES LOST

Ammunition Factory Near Stockholm Is Blown Up.

STOCKHOLM, via London, Feb. 12.—An ammunition factory north of Stockholm was the scene last night of an explosion which resulted in the death of five persons and the destruction of considerable supplies of ammunition. The cause of the explosion is comparatively little effect on the supplies of the army and navy.

Regular steamship service in and out of Stockholm is to be opened shortly. Ice breakers will be used to keep the harbor entrance clear.

BRITISH STEAMER STRUCK

Vessel Towed Sinking to Scarborough After Experience at Sea.

SCARBOROUGH, England, via London, Feb. 12.—The new cargo steamer Torquay, of Dartmouth, was towed into Scarborough harbor tonight in a sinking condition, either after striking a mine or being torpedoed, eight miles east of this port.

The damage sustained by the steamer was amply shown, one boiler having been penetrated. One man was killed and two were injured.

OREGON MAN CONFIRMED

W. H. Hornbrook Is Asked to Prepare for Legation in Siam.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 12.—The Senate tonight confirmed the nomination of William H. Hornbrook, of Albany, Or., as Minister to Siam.

Mr. Hornbrook was asked to confer with the State Department for instruction in the conduct of diplomatic affairs before departing for his post in the Orient.

Friday's War Moves

All eyes now are turned on East Prussia, where the German army, under the observation of the Russian forces, has taken the offensive.

The Russians refer to this as a strategic retirement, but the German official communication intimates that the appearance in this district of a strong German force was a surprise to the Russians and that the Germans captured 26,000 prisoners, 20 cannon and 30 machine guns, in addition to a lot of war material. If the German statement is correct, the Russian recovery apparently is almost as serious as that which the Muscovite forces suffered in the same place early in the war.

Before the German official communication was received in London, military men were inclined to look on the Russian retirement as a wise move, declaring that it would compel the Germans to fight the battle on Russian territory and away from their strategic railways. The army which the Germans flung so suddenly into East Prussia is believed to have numbered 200,000 men, and to have been made up of soldiers who have been fighting on the Izura and western fronts and of units of the new army which has just completed training in Central Germany.

The Germans have resumed the offensive in Russian Poland on the right bank of the Vistula and have occupied the town of Sierpe, which lies a short distance to the northwest of Plock. Thus the chief battleground on the east has been transferred from the lines west and southwest of Warsaw to the north.

The battles in the Carpathian Mountains continue, but the general staff of neither of the contending forces gives much information concerning the fighting.

The bull continues to prevail on the western battlefield, where the fighting has continued since the Russian army and a couple of infantry attacks in the Argonne and northwest of Verdun, in which the Germans say they have been successful.

A British eyewitness, in a report of his observations on the western front, says the British artillery arm has been greatly strengthened, and adds that it has gained the ascendancy over the Germans. There have been many reports that new and better guns were being constructed for the British, and these apparently now are in service.

Airmen have been extremely active. Thirty-four British fliers have delivered an attack on the German position in Belgium, while German aviators have dropped 100 bombs on Verdun. It has been urged that an attack by large numbers of aeroplanes is the only way to make them effective, and both sides seem to have adopted this suggestion, as is indicated by today's British raid and the attack by German aircraft over Dunkirk some days ago.

Senator Kern Enters

NEW YORK, Feb. 11.—(Special.)—A particular Oregonian of the second generation followed several honeymoon couples from the sleeper into the wonderful Union Depot of Washington and through it to the street beyond, the National Capitol loomed large and impressive in the offing through the morning haze, just as he expected.

Once at the hotel a shave was in order. Jarety had been seated in one of the two chairs in the dingy barber shop beneath the hotel when he walked a familiar-looking individual, who asked the barber when he would be through. The barber responded, "In a minute or two."

"This elicited, 'You mean an hour?'"

As the gentleman climbed into a rickety chair the barber whispered that that man was Senator Kern, leader of the Democrats in the United States Senate and former candidate for Vice-President. This remark gave rise to worry on the Oregonian's part, but he was reassured when the Senator the barber invited remove an ear, or part of the nose or possibly gouge out an eye. But the wielder of the razor proceeded leisurely, fulfilling the Senator's rather than the Oregonian's expectations.

Soon a young dandy was heard approaching, passing for Senator Kern. On seeing the Senator, he filled his lungs and, with head tilted back, announced that the Secretary of State would have words with the Senator from Indiana.

Message About Lecture Date

Then, through the medium of an old-fashioned telephone that was screened on the wall of the barber shop, followed a conversation which, considering the circumstances, should not be repeated. It is sufficient to say that the talk was not concerning important affairs of state, but in reference to a lecturing trip to be taken by Secretary Bryan. Every bellboy in the hotel knew that there was a big fight on in the Senate in which Senator Kern was pitted against such leaders of the Republican filibusters as Senators Root, Smoot and Gallinger; but the Secretary appeared solicitous that the Senator accompany him on the forthcoming trip. A week later the following news item was printed in the New York Times from friends:

"Secretary Bryan, accompanied by Governor Ralston and a few friends, had luncheon at the home of Senator Kern. He addressed a meeting at the Y. M. C. A. this afternoon and concluded his two days' visit here with an address before the Transportation Club tonight."

Senator Eats With Squatters

After breakfast, as the Oregonian walked across the Capitol grounds toward the Senate office building, he found a long-haired gentleman resting with the squirrels. The long hair, which fell below the shoulders, was grizzled with gray, showing evidence of years in the wilderness; but it was now carefully combed. In fact, the individual looked fortunate and prosperous. He was in the company of two smartly-dressed and well-to-do young women, and he himself wore a becoming long black coat. This strange personage proved to be not a poet, but Senator Vardaman, of Mississippi, one of the seven insurgents in the Democratic Senatorial caucus over the ship bill.

The reported Democratic extravagance of his haste to obtain the missing link between modern Democracy and the Jeffersonian economy.

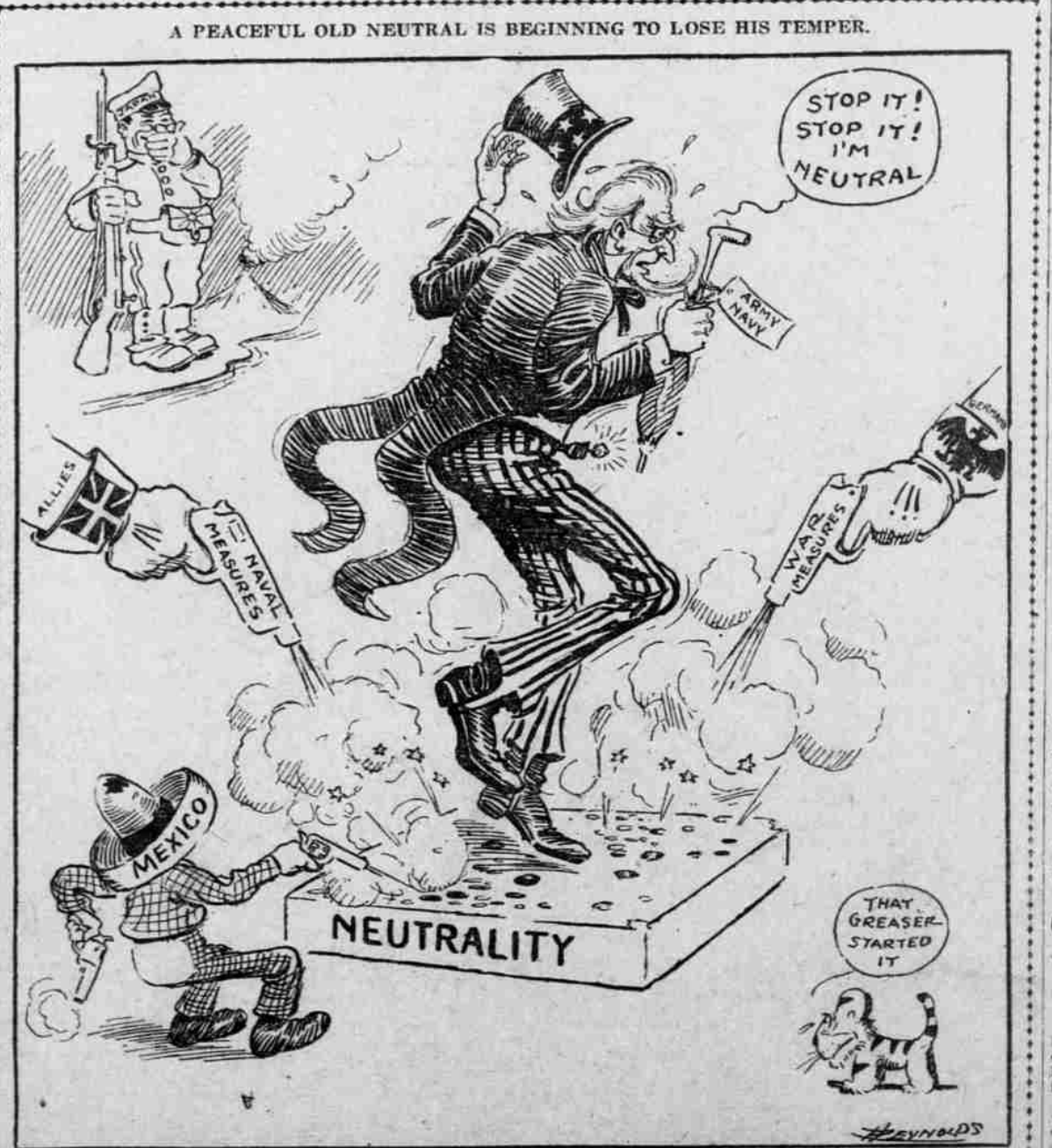
The main trouble experienced in the Senate building, as in the Capitol, was distinguishing the dignified old soldiers, who attended the elevators and doors, from the Senators. At all events the respect was not misplaced.

Mr. Lane Cordial

Senator Lane's office adjoin the rooms of Senator Thomas, committed, that of woman suffrage. The well-traveled visitor found the assistant secretary of Senator Lane explaining with considerable embarrassment to a former soldier that his bill for a special pension would not be endorsed by the committee in charge because if he was asked as he said he was, the pension office should give him relief, while if the doctors were correct in pronouncing him a fit man, he was not entitled to a pension.

The Senator greeted the Oregonian hospitably and offered to send him upstairs to where President Wilson, following his biweekly custom, was meeting friends of the Senators. But the private secretary, Mr. McBride, semi-law of the Senator, revealed the offer because it was raining, or the elevator

(Continued on Page 5.)



(Continued on Page 2.)