



BRITAIN CONSULTS ALLIES ON PROPOSAL

Answer to American Suggestion Delayed.

SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FOUND

Washington Considering Food Embargo as Possible Step.

HIGH TENSION IS ADMITTED

Loss of American Lives, It Is Declared, Might Result in Abandoning Policy of Friendship for Belligerents.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Great Britain has submitted to France and Russia, the proposals made by the United States Government designed to end the menace to neutral commerce arising from the retaliatory measures of the European belligerents toward each other.

Briefly the American proposals, which have been submitted to both England and Germany, seek the elimination by Germany of the recently prescribed war zone around Great Britain and Ireland, with a danger to neutral shipping through mines and submarine torpedoes, and the adoption by all the belligerents of a definite policy with reference to food supplies for civilians.

Next Move Depends on Britain. From such preliminary observations as American diplomatic officers abroad already have made there is said to be some encouragement in the manner of the reception of the proposals at London. Germany is inclined toward an acceptance of the suggestions, it is understood, but upon the attitude of Great Britain depends the next move in the situation.

The strong opposition which the Scandinavian countries, Italy, Holland and other neutrals, have assumed toward the retaliatory measures adopted by the belligerents is playing a considerable part in the situation.

Gravity of Situation Clear. Officials, while reticent about what has been said to Germany and Great Britain in the latest communication, do not deny that the gravity of the whole situation has been made unmistakably clear. In some quarters today the suggestion was made, but without confirmation from sources usually well informed, that an embargo on exports of foodstuffs from Germany and Austria was being considered as the next step in the event of an absolute rejection of the American plan for ameliorating the situation.

It became known that the latest communication, described as a confidential memorandum, was sent Sunday to Ambassadors Page and Gerard after the President had been apprised of the situation by Secretary Bryan and Counselor Robert Lansing. The American Government regarded the present as strictly confidential.

AMERICAN EXPORTS MAY DROP

Some officials think the most serious effect of the submarine warfare on merchant ships and the restrictions imposed on the shipment of foodstuffs and conditional contraband has yet to develop. They believe that if the present situation continues American exports will drop a considerable extent.

There is no concealment either of the feeling in high official quarters that if the present tension over the attitude of the belligerents continues and any American lives are proved to have been lost as a result of their activities, the Washington Government may be called on to abandon its present attitude of friendliness toward all the warring powers.

MUSICAL DEGREE IS ADDED

Requirements at University of Oregon Are Announced. UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., Feb. 24 (Special).—The University of Oregon is to confer the degree of bachelor of music hereafter.

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ITALY ALARMS GERMANY

Sudden Change of Feeling Noted Among Berlin Diplomats. BERLIN, via London, Feb. 24.—A sudden change of feeling, concerning the attitude of Italy was noticeable in diplomatic quarters during the last few days.

BRITISH WARSHIP IS THOUGHT LOST

ARMORED MERCHANTMAN WITH 280 MEN IS MISSING.

Part of Crew Is Made Up of Newfoundland Naval Reserve—No Word Heard for 3 Weeks.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The British armed merchant cruiser Clan MacNaughton, with 20 officers and 260 men aboard, has been missing since February 3, the official information bureau announced today. It is feared she was destroyed in a storm. The announcement said:

"The Secretary of the Admiralty regrets to announce that H. M. S. Clan MacNaughton, an armed merchant cruiser, Commander Robert Jeffreys, R. N., has been missing since February 3 and it is feared the vessel has been lost.

"An unsuccessful search has been made and wreckage supposed to be portions of this ship has since been discovered.

"The last signal received from the Clan MacNaughton was made in the early morning of February 3 and it is feared she was lost during the bad weather which prevailed at that time."

Among the crew of the Clan MacNaughton were 20 men of the Newfoundland Naval Reserve. The commander and the principal officers belonged to the Royal Navy, the others to the Royal Naval Reserve.

HILLS MAY BUILD IN IDAHO

Construction of Winnemucca-Boise-Lewiston Line Thought Likely.

LEWISTON, Idaho, Feb. 24.—(Special).—According to advices received in this city from San Francisco, in all probability the Hill system will build a Winnemucca-Boise-Lewiston Railroad. It has been ascertained that Louis W. Hill, chairman of the board of directors and president of the Great Northern Railway, is on an automobile trip from Winnemucca to Boise, and is investigating the feasibility of an extension of the proposed road from Lewiston to Boise.

It is known that the Hill interests have obtained control of the Gilmore & Pittsburg Railroad running from Armstead, Mont., to Salmon, Idaho, and it is predicted the new owners intend connecting it with Montana with the Northern Pacific and extending it from Salmon to Lewiston, which will shorten the distance by many miles.

VERDICT SIMPLE ASSAULT

Jury Acts in Trial of ex-Member of Legislature, Jesse Barton. ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 24.—(Special).—The jury in the case of Jesse Barton, ex-Member of the Oregon Legislature, charged with a charge preferred by Miss Madge Yoakum, of Coquille, returned a verdict at 10 o'clock tonight of simple assault. The jury retired at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

Chief among the evidences introduced today was the testimony of Edna W. Yoakum, formerly of Coquille, but at present in a Portland hospital. In her deposition Mrs. Yoakum denied several of the allegations made by the prosecuting witnesses. Mrs. Yoakum was formerly employed with Miss Yoakum in Mr. Barton's abstract office in Coos County.

Other witnesses who testified today were Mayor Morrison, Jack Tozier, Mrs. Louise Mansell and Mrs. Patrick Rooney, of Coquille. Their testimony was in reference to the general reputation of Mrs. Yoakum at Coquille.

MAN LEARNS NECK BROKEN

Carpenter Walks About Town 12 Days After Accident. Wandering about for 12 days with a broken neck, suffering little pain and snowed up in the kindness of his condition, Harry M. Lambert, a carpenter who resides at Lent, is a human puzzle to many Portland physicians.

Lambert fell eight feet from a ladder on February 12 and landed on the back of his head. An X-ray photograph of his injuries yesterday disclosed that Lambert's neck was broken. To be exact, the Atlas bone, which supports the head, was broken. He was taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital and his neck was put in a plaster cast, after which Lambert walked to the University of Oregon Medical School and allowed the students to examine his condition. Physicians say that Lambert will recover.

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RIVER AND HARBOR BILL IS IN DANGER

Only Existing Projects Have Much Chance.

SHIP BILL MAY BE REVIVED

Spirited Effort at Passage Rumored in Washington.

CONSERVATION IS COST

Enlarged Self-Government for Philippines May Pass if Quick Action Can Be Obtained, but This Is Doubtful.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Democratic Senate Leaders conceded tonight there was little hope for the passage of any legislation except the big supply measures before the adjournment of Congress a week from tomorrow, and there was no prospect of passing the rivers and harbors bill in its present form.

For the rivers and harbors bill it was generally expected would be substituted a joint resolution appropriating \$30,000,000 to continue existing projects.

Ship Bill Efforts Renewed. As to the Government ship-purchase bill, there were rumors of a spirited revival of the effort to pass it. These rumors were denied by the President and Senators Fletcher and Simmons. Senator Simmons said later that no report would be made to the Senate before next Monday.

Prospects for the conservation legislation were declared to be out of the question. As for the Philippine enlarged self-government measure, it was understood there might be some chance of its passage if it could be done within a few hours' time, which was gravely doubted.

Rural Carriers' Salaries Fixed. The Senate today passed the post-office appropriation bill virtually as it passed the House, carrying a total of approximately \$25,000,000.

A recommendation of the Senate committee to eliminate the House provision fixing the salary of rural mail carriers on standard routes at \$1200 a year was overruled, 62 to 10, adding \$2,700,000 to the bill as reported from the committee.

All attempts to add new legislation were stricken out on points of order.

SWISS FIRE AT GERMAN

Aviator Later Is Target for Frenchmen, but Escapes. GENEVA, via Paris, Feb. 24.—Another German aviator flew today over Swiss territory. Swiss infantrymen fired at him over the village of Beurvesin, near Bonfol.

Later French troops at Pfetterhausen fired at him, but he returned to Muelhausen apparently unharmed.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 64 degrees; minimum, 49 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain; southerly wind. War. Britain wary of adopting Washington plan of ending food blockade and submarine war. Page 2. Allies push fighting in Champagne district to relieve Rheims. Page 2. Second British army landed in France. Page 2. Few churches in war zone spared. Page 2. Austrians retreat in Bukovina and Germans stop in North Poland. Page 5. British armed merchantman, with 280 men aboard, is missing. Page 1. German government gives pledge not to interfere with cargoes of food from America. Page 2. Mexico. Carranza's command levies heavy tax on people of Mexico. Page 2. Domestic. Counselor Lansing says path of neutrality is strewn with thorns. Page 3. National. River and harbor bill unlikely to be passed in present form. Page 1. Domestic. Japanese day at San Francisco is joyous. Page 13. Sport. Johnson-Willard fight may be transferred to Havana. Page 12. Four Portland chess players defeat champion in world's record match. Page 12. Oregon Colored Giants to play 23 games in Pacific Northwest. Page 12. Oregon and Aggies to battle for state basketball championship. Page 12. Pacific Northwest. Democrats berate diametrical actions of two Legislatures. Page 4. Major Bowley asked to remain temporarily as State Highway Engineer. Page 3. Idaho Senator quits \$11,700 from school appropriation bill. Page 6. Governor vetoes bills creating new judgeships. Page 6. Washington Legislature likely to send delegates to Portland to conference on Ferris bill. Page 3. Commercial and Marine. First wool contracts made in Northwest at 25 cents. Page 17. Resumption of export trade sends wheat up at Chicago. Page 17. Stock market turns firm with numerous gains at close. Page 17. Sales of cargo in transit forbidden by clause in American war-risk policies. Page 14. Portland and Vicinity. Minimum for labor on municipal work set at \$3, after work day. Page 18. Contract for irrigation of 19,000 acres near Echo soon to be let. Page 1. Question as to application of new tax law puzzles officials. Page 12. Council passes emergency law to give Idaho men work cleaning up gulches. Page 17. Y. M. C. A. workers add 78 new members second day of campaign. Page 19. New compensation act has many changes from present law. Page 11. New bills in market. Page 18. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 17.

19,000 ACRES NEAR ECHO TO GET WATER

Contract for \$600,000 Job Soon to Be Let.

AGRE COST ESTIMATE IS \$40

Twohy Brothers, U of O Library, to Use Big Force of Idle.

PAYMENTS TO BE EASY

Bonds to Be Issued With 10-Year Exemption in Redemption and Reduced Interest—Tract of 3000 Acres to Be Sold.

Reclamation of 19,000 acres of fertile land near Echo, Umatilla County, is planned by the directors of the Teel irrigation district, who are about to let the contracts for the work, requiring an expenditure of approximately \$600,000.

Asa B. Thomson, president of the Oregon Irrigation Congress, and one of the directors of the district, was in Portland yesterday and consulted local contracting firms regarding the work.

Portland Firm Expects Job. Twohy Brothers, of Portland, are figuring on the contract, and it is probable that they will be awarded the job. They hope to begin work as soon as weather permits and will employ a large number of men.

The project adjoins the Government irrigation district at Hermiston. The land is held largely in small blocks and will be developed by the owners themselves. One tract of about 3000 acres may be placed on the market after the work is done.

Directors of the district have arranged to bond the property under the district bonding law. The contractors, presumably, will be paid partially in bonds. It is hoped to market the remaining securities in the East or in Europe.

Cost Estimated at \$40 an Acre. According to present estimates the work can be done and the water turned onto the land at a cost not to exceed \$40 an acre. The land itself is valued at \$20 an acre. The owners will pay 5 per cent interest on the bonds but will pay no part of the principal for the first 10 years. In the 11th year they will pay 5 per cent of the principal in addition to the interest. Each year they will pay 1 per cent more of the original principal than was paid in the preceding year. While the principal payments constantly will grow greater, the interest payments obviously will grow less.

Water for the proposed project will be taken from Camas Creek and will be turned onto the land with a gravity flow. It is believed that if the contractors can begin work early in the Spring, it can be completed before Fall.

ENGINEER APPROVES PLANS

In addition to Mr. Thomson the directors include: J. Frank Spinning. (Concluded on Page 6.)

Wednesday's War Moves

THE German blockade of the British Isles has been in effect for a week with the result that, so far as is known, two Norwegian, one French and five British steamers have been sunk or torpedoed by submarines with the loss of four lives. Two of these steamers, the Bridgeway and the Dinorah, succeeded in reaching port.

On the other side of the account it is reported that two German submarines are missing and that a third had been hit and possibly sunk by a French destroyer.

Besides the vessels which fell victims to the submarines, two American and one Norwegian steamer have been sunk in the North Sea and the two American tea-mer Specia and one of the American steamers are overdue and it is feared, have been lost with their crews.

In almost every case the steamer sunk by the submarine was a small and slow vessel and at least three of them were caught while at anchor or while they were barely under way. This, with the failure of a submarine to hit a fast cross-channel steamer at which it fired a torpedo, apparently proves to the satisfaction of British naval writers that the steamers with modern speed, which observe various precautions can invariably escape the underwater craft, and such vessels are continuing to cross the seas.

The blockade, however, has had the effect of increasing insurance rates and some neutral owners are keeping their ships in neutral waters.

With conditions such as this, the public, both in England and neutral countries, are naturally curious as to the latest proposal of the American Government to Great Britain and Germany, of which little has been allowed to leak out, either in London or Berlin, and also as to what the allies' reply to the German blockade will be, another matter in which secrecy is being maintained.

In addition to the loss of the merchantmen, the British Admiralty has been impelled to give up hope for the armed steamer Clan MacNaughton, which has not been heard from since February 3 and which it is believed went down, as did another armed merchantman, the Viknor, during storms which prevailed early in the month. The Clan MacNaughton carried a crew of 280 men, consisting largely of Royal Naval Reserve men, 20 of whom belonged to Newfoundland.

The Admiralty also reported last night the loss of three positions along the Belgian coast.

Nothing further has been heard of the naval operations in the Dardanelles, which were interrupted by unfavorable weather conditions, but it is understood the intention is to continue all efforts to demolish the forts which line the straits. Otherwise the Turks, who have been severely handled in the Caucasus, Egypt and Mesopotamia, are being permitted to rest while preparations are being made by the allies for a powerful attack against them.

REMARK APPLICABLE TO OREGON

What Governor Lister, of Washington, said to me today about the changes made by the Washington Legislature respecting his control over certain state activities referred solely to Washington affairs. Let it not be understood that he was commenting on what the Oregon Legislature has been doing. Nevertheless, his remarks are applicable to the new policy adopted by the Oregon Legislature in passing the McGardie bill giving the appointing power the right to recall an appointee at will. Governor Lister said:

"The Legislature could not perform a kinder act in behalf of the Governor personally than to deprive him of all political patronage. But there is an unmistakably growing sentiment in favor of centralization of authority. The public demands that there be someone on whom responsibility for the proper administration of state business can be unmistakably fixed. The people do not want responsibility scattered among officers who can shift blame for mistakes in the conduct of the people's business."

McGardie Bill Hits Lister. The things the Legislature of Washington is doing to the Democratic Governor are represented in the so-called McGardie bills. They have heretofore been reviewed in The Oregonian, but it will do no harm to review them again.

One bill abolishes the State Tax Commission. The tax commission law of Washington is quite similar to that of Oregon. There are a few differences in that there have been three appointive members here against two in Oregon. The Washington Tax Commission has also had collection of a state liquor license paralleling the government license. A license of \$25 has been levied in each case where a Government license has been required. The Tax Commission has had supervision over estates and inheritance taxes and, as in Oregon, has fixed the tax value of public service corporation properties.

There has been more or less of a movement in Washington for several years to abolish the Tax Commission. Last year an attempt was made to initiate a law eliminating that department, but it failed to get on the ballot through lack of a sufficient number of signatures.

VETO IS EXPECTED

The Legislature's bill abolishing the Tax Commission is in the hands of the Governor, who is expected to veto it. It transfers assessment powers over public service corporations to the Public Service Commission and supervision over estates, inheritance taxes and state liquor license collections to the Secretary of State. The Governor appoints the members of the Public Service Commission.

A second bill has been passed by both houses over the veto of the Governor. This law reforms the State Land Board by removing therefrom the State Forester, who is indirectly appointed by the Governor, and the appointive three Tax Commissioners. The fifth member has been the Commissioner of Public

ALBANY POSTOFFICE TO MOVE MARCH 15

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 24.—The Postoffice Department today announced that the Postoffice at Albany, Or., would be moved into the new Federal building March 15.

DEMOCRATS MOURN DEPARTED POWER

Cases Diametrical at Salem and Olympia.

POINT OF VIEW IS CHANGED

Lister Shorn of Patronage; Withycombe Gets More.

NEITHER ACTION PLEASES

Anti-Republican Press Decries Decentralization of Authority in Washington; Calls Addition of Power in Oregon Reactionary.

BY RONALD G. CALVERT. OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 23.—(Staff Correspondence).—It is an odd circumstance in a way that the Legislature of Washington is proceeding in one particular in a direction opposite from that taken by the Legislature of Oregon.

At Salem the Legislature gave summary power of removal to a dangerous decentralization of authority. In Washington certain patronage is being taken away from the Governor and the Democratic party is a dangerous decentralization of authority.

Cases Are Diametrical. These are, of course, two viewpoints. The new Governor of Oregon is a Republican, the first of that political faith in 12 years. The Governor of Washington is a Democrat, who, when elected two years ago, was the first of that political faith in practically 12 years. Both states are normally Republican and both have been electing Republican Legislatures.

During the 12 years that Oregon had Democrats in the executive chair there was a steady trend toward trying knots to prevent the Governor from exercising complete control over administrative affairs in the appointive departments. In Washington the Republicans let the Governor have a sway commensurate with the dignity and natural responsibility of his office. The recent Legislature in Oregon began untying knots. The present Washington Legislature is tying them.

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