

GERMANS TAKE BRITISH PRIZE

Steamer Appam Brought Into American Port.

SEVEN OTHER SHIPS SUNK

Vessel Flying German War Flag Crosses Atlantic to Refuge at Norfolk.

450 PERSONS ON BOARD

Large Percentage of Company Said to Consist of Women and Children.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 1.—The British steamer Appam, given up as lost by maritime authorities, entered Hampton Roads early today, a German prize of war, with the German naval ensign flying at her stern. She was captured off the Canary Islands January 15 by a German raider, believed to have been the Mowe, and a prize crew, which was put on board, had sailed her across the Atlantic to reach an American port of refuge.

The same raider sank seven other British steamers, the Trader, Arthur, Corbridge, Ariadne, Dromonby, Farthing-Ford and Clan MacTavish. The survivors of these vessels were brought in on the Appam.

450 Persons on Board Prize. The Appam had on board 450 persons, divided as follows: Her own crew, 115; passengers originally on the ship, 150; survivors of the seven ships destroyed in German sea raids off the African coast, 138; German prisoners bound for detention camps, 20; prize crew, 22.

The Mowe is described as a ship of 562 tons net, built in 1912 at Gesteemunde, Germany. She is 241 feet long, 36 beam and draws 18 feet 5 inches. She is described as equipped with submarine signals, wireless and 220 horsepower engines.

British Cordon Eluded. In bringing the Appam safely across the ocean and eluding the cordon of British cruisers across the Atlantic Lieutenant Berg added to the historic chapter of German exploits at sea, a chapter to rank with the adventures of the Dresden, Karlsruhe, Prinz Eitel Friedrich, U-29 and Kronprinz Wilhelm.

A large percentage of the number on board the Appam are said to be women and children and several high colonial officials who were returning to England from Africa. There were also on board the captured ship four wounded sailors, who were taken from one of the sunken ships which resisted capture and was shelled.

Meat Ship Gives Battle. According to the information gleaned from those who had talked with Lieutenant Berg, in charge of the prize crew, the liner was captured without show of resistance January 15, the day that British news reports said wireless communication with the vessel suddenly ceased. The prize crew was placed on board, and on the same day the warship gave chase to another British steamer, which was found for Australia with a cargo of meat. The meat ship gave battle and was sunk, but not until a large portion of her cargo had been taken off for use by the Germans.

Six more vessels were destroyed in rapid succession, it was stated, and the crews taken on board the ship, which was then headed across the Atlantic for Hampton Roads. The run to this port was made without incident, it was said.

Name "Buffalo" First Given. When the Appam came within the Virginia Capes and took on a pilot, the Fort Monroe wireless station asked who she was. The reply was: "The German cruiser Buffalo."

Upon the arrival at Old Point, Quarantine Officer H. W. McCafferty went aboard and after his inspection brought Lieutenant Berg ashore. The Appam was given a clean bill of health, the four wounded sailors being the only cases of sickness found.

When the boarding officer left the Appam he said the vessel had among (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

MURDERER DIES IN FIGHT WITH POSSE

HOUSE IN WHICH WOMAN IS PRISONER RIDDLED.

Desperado Captures Wife of Victim, Whose Home He Uses as Fort.

LANCASTER, Cal., Feb. 1.—After riddling the residence with bullets, a posse which had been held at bay by an unidentified man who, after killing one man and probably fatally wounding two others, barricaded himself in the ranch house of Harry H. Kent, Jr., at Elizabeth Lake, near here, rushed the place and found the fugitive dead, according to advices received here tonight by telephone.

No mention was made of Mr. Kent, who was supposed to have been a prisoner in the house.

George Curtis was shot and killed as he attempted to reach the house after the man had taken refuge there. His body fell just in front of the door. Kent was shot through the lung when he ordered the man away from his ranch early today. Gratton G. Bennett, Justice of the Peace, suffered a gunshot wound in the head when he attempted to arrest the man.

Both were reported to be in a serious condition.

After wounding Kent and Bennett the man took refuge in Kent's home. He held Mrs. Kent a prisoner with him, apparently to prevent the posse which quickly gathered from rushing the house.

SNOWBOUND HERD SAVED

Men Make Arduous Journey Into Cascade Mountains.

OAKLAND, Or., Jan. 31.—(Special)—Ellis Watson and Burley Wright have just returned from an arduous trip into the Cascade Mountains, at Glen Echo, 25 miles east of Roseburg, where they got out a snowbound herd of cattle.

They packed their supplies on horses in as far as the North Umpqua, which they forded on a raft, and on foot trailed the cattle through the snow. They found the animals belly deep in snow, floundering about hawling and subsisting on fir boughs and moss.

The cattle were nearly starved, but only two were lost. The herd was driven into the river at Glen Echo, and the men followed on a raft.

ZOO ELKS DISDAIN SHEDS

New Shelters Empty While Animals Sleep in Snow.

The herd of elk at Washington Park Zoo apparently do not appreciate the work the city recently went to in building modern sheds for their shelter during winter months. Instead of building up in the warmth of the new sheds they slip out under the fir trees in their corral, and after pawing a hole in the snow curl up and sleep in the open.

Therefore and consequently, Park Superintendent Conville is having a good laugh at the expense of the animal sympathizers who complained against the poor elk having no shelter from the cold and snow.

RANCHER SHOOT 115 HOGS

Animals Suffering and Helpless Put Out of Misery.

MANFIELD, Wash., Feb. 1.—(Special)—E. J. Carroll shot 115 head of hogs during the worst part of the storm. The pigs were crowding into the pens and smothering, and nothing could be done to care for or feed them, so he took his gun and put them out of their misery.

He estimates the loss would not be heavier than if he had fed them dollar wheat and had to sell at the present market price. Some of the pigs weighed more than 100 pounds. They were hauled out into the field, and will be buried in the spring.

BIRDS FED AT SCHOOLS

Pupils Enter Into Work of Saving Starving Beings Joyfully.

Schools of the city took up an errand of mercy yesterday when they started the work of feeding the birds. The feathered songsters seemed to show their appreciation, for many seemed on the verge of starvation, because they have been unable to get food on account of the snow.

In each school the principal directed the work of placing food for the birds, and the children entered into it with a right good-will. The movement was widespread throughout Portland and much good was accomplished.

ASKS ROAD APPROPRIATION

McArthur Bill Provides \$200,000 for Mount Hood Highway.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash., Feb. 1.—Representative McArthur has introduced a bill making a straight appropriation of \$200,000 to construct the proposed road around Mount Hood, with laterals connecting with roads to The Dalles and Dufer.

An originally drawn McArthur's bill proposed to build these roads out of Oregon's share of forestry receipts, but because of serious objection to this plan, he has decided to ask a straight out appropriation.

STATUS OF APPAM RAISES NEW ISSUE

Vessel Is Either Warship or Prize.

WASHINGTON MUST DECIDE

Further Information Is Being Awaited by Officials.

SITUATION IS COMPLEX

Crew, Too, Complicates Problem—If Men Are Accounted in Naval Service They Will Be Interned, as Others Before Them.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Until it is decided whether the German commander aboard the British steamer Appam brought the ship to an American port as a prize of war or as a converted auxiliary cruiser of the German navy, there will be no determination of the American Government's course respecting the ship.

When certain formalities have been complied with, the ship's passengers, including several British colonial officials, will be released and their disposition passed on by immigration authorities. Any prisoner of war will be released, because international law permits no holding of war prisoners in a neutral country.

Crew May Be Interned. The United States then finally will have to deal with the German crew, and if they are accounted in naval service of Germany, as were the crews of the Prinz Eitel Friedrich and the Kronprinz Wilhelm, already interned at the Norfolk Navy-yard, they, too, will be interned unless their ship goes to sea to run the cordon of British cruisers outside.

As to the disposition of the Appam herself, if she is held to be an auxiliary cruiser her commander will have the option of putting to sea after a certain time to make repairs and take provisions. If she is declared a prize, the situation becomes more complex.

In that event it is admitted that the United States will have to deal with probably the most novel question concerning its neutrality that has arisen during the war. As one of the first steps, the problem probably would be referred to the neutrality board, which is an unofficial body whose function is merely advisory.

Treaties Much Confused. It was pointed out that in the Constitution department that there is much confusion in the treaties and provisions of international law on the subject of prizes, the right to convert captured vessels into auxiliary warships and the right of reclamation by the original owners of captured vessels.

One theory largely held is that title to the captured vessel does not pass until a prize court has acted. Another opinion strongly championed is that title passes immediately after the capture is made, providing the senior officer of the captors duly commissions (Continued on Page 2, Column 1.)

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 30 degrees, minimum, 24 degrees. TODAY'S—Forecast: Sleet or snow; not so cold; winds becoming southerly.

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Commercial and Marine. All Northwesters wheat markets higher, following Chicago. Page 17. Heavy foreign buying hits Chicago wheat market. Page 17. New York stocks advance with broader investment demand. Page 11. Tariff of \$25 and \$30 for flour to Orient announced. Page 16. Referendum attacking steamer's act is on. Page 16.

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Reed Collegians Debate. Clarence Young and Horace Miller, the Reed College debaters, who were recently defeated by the University of Washington debate team, won a unanimous decision over their fellow collegians, Charles Cohn and Samuel Weinstein, who defeated the Washington debaters at Reed on January 14. The debate was held in the Central Library hall on Monday evening. Young and Miller supported the negative side of the same question which was argued in Washington—"National Preparedness." The judges were: Judge John H. Stevenson, Dr. K. S. Latourrette and D. H. Morrison.

NO SCHOOL TODAY.

Superintendent L. R. Alderman announced last night that, owing to the weather and the uncertainty of transportation facilities, there would be no school in any of the city schools today.

There will be no night school in any of the buildings tonight. Principal Ewing, of Portland Academy, announced the school at the academy was postponed until further notice.

PRESIDENT FINDS WORDS ARE FUTILE

Power to Back Up Demands Asked For

NATION IS DAILY IN DANGER

Des Moines Audience Cheers Preparedness Sentiment.

DIFFICULTIES HINTED AT

"Do You Want Situation to Be Such That All President Can Do Is to Write Messages of Protest?" Wilson Asks.

DES MOINES, Feb. 1.—President Wilson, speaking here tonight, dealt with the futility of messages and words of protest to meet breaches of international law.

"Do you want the situation to be such that all the President can do is to write messages and utter words of protest?" he asked, in advocating preparedness before the largest audience of his present trip.

Question Answers Itself. "To ask that question is to answer it," he said. Whenever international law is violated by one or the other belligerents, the President said, America was called upon to register a "voice of protest, of insistence." He continued: "Do you want the situation to be such that all the President can do is to write messages and utter words of protest? If these breaches of international law which are in daily danger of occurring should touch the very honor of the United States do you wish to do nothing about it? Do you wish to have all the world say that the flag of the United States can be stained with impunity?"

Dishonorable Peace Not Wanted. "I know there is not a man or woman within the hearing of my voice who would wish peace at the expense of the honor of the United States."

The President's address was punctuated with thunderous applause. He spoke slowly and gravely, with emphatic gestures to enforce his words. His declaration that the United States wanted peace drew a quick response and his assertion that the self-respect of the Nation must be preserved elicited another great demonstration.

Words Weighed Carefully. The President declared he was trying to weigh carefully every word he said. He reiterated that he had been daily charged to keep the country out of war and also to uphold its honor.

"Many a night it has seemed impossible for me to sleep," he said, "because of the apparently inextricable difficulties into which our international relations were drifting. I have said to myself, 'I wonder if the people of the United States fully know what that United States fully know what that means?'"

He said he knew that there was not a community in America that would (Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)

TROLLEY FLASHES LIGHT UP SKIES

RADIATION SEEN ALL OVER CITY CAUSES ANXIETY.

Weatherman Explains Phenomenon as Clouds Extracted by Ice Carried Up by Rain.

Sudden flashes of light on the low-hanging clouds all over the city last night caused considerable anxiety. From sudden glares to faint flashes, the reflection was seen in different parts of the city.

E. A. Beale, of the United States Weather Bureau, blamed it all on the silver thaw, which made icicles on the trolley wires. As the trolley hit the ice, the current was interrupted, and the result was a series of flashes. The rain naturally was a good conductor and carried the flashes high into the heavens.

Less ornamental and more serious disturbances were caused by huge icicles which attached themselves to trees and poles all over the city. Wires, some carrying high voltage currents, were down in various sections. The Corbett property, south of Taylor street on Sixth street, was fenced with ropes to keep pedestrians out of reach of limbs which fell from trees overhanging the street.

Crossed wires are believed responsible for the small fire which started in the Inman Poulsen mill at East Water and Division streets early last night. The fireboat made a hurry-up run to the scene, but the damage was inconsequential.

TREES FALL IN STREETS

Traffic Tied Up by Tree Across Morrison at Twelfth Street.

Numerous trees fell throughout Portland last night, in some instances tying up traffic.

A huge tree fell in the H. W. Corbett grounds at Fifth and Yamhill streets, and at Twelfth and Morrison streets a tree fell across the car tracks.

In the park blocks between Salmon and Madison streets numerous trees came down under the weight of the icy filaments.

On Portland and Willamette heights many trees were uprooted and went crashing to the ground. Branches fell from trees in every part of the city.

FARM PRODUCTS GOING UP

Increase of Seven Per Cent Is Recorded for December.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Prices for the principal American farm products on January 1 were slightly more than 2 per cent higher than on the same date a year ago, said a Department of Agriculture bulletin issued today. Prices increased 7 per cent in December.

Prices on January 1 were nearly 4 per cent higher than the average for the last eight years. Prices paid producers for meat animals in December were 2 1/2 per cent lower than the year before.

STEAMER IS CONTRACTED

Oakland Firm to Build Vessel for Run to Norway.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 1.—A contract for construction of a 7100-ton steamship, to be used in the Norway service, has been let by George W. McNear, of this city, according to announcement today.

The new vessel is to be a sister ship to one being constructed by the same contractor, Moore & Scott, for the Ralph Navigation & Coal Company in Oakland. The contract price is \$730,900.

HOUSE AND BRIAND CONFER

President's Representative Expects to Leave Paris Soon.

PARIS, Feb. 1.—Colonel Edward M. House, President Wilson's personal representative, today had a long conversation with Premier Briand after his arrival from Berlin.

He will see other prominent persons during the week, and, according to his present plans, will leave for London next Monday.

SWAINS SHY AT LEAP YEAR

Only Four Marriage Permits Issued at The Dalles.

THE DALLES, Or., Feb. 1.—(Special)—Wasco County swains evidently fear to wed during leap year, lest they be accused of having been proposed to. County Clerk Fox issued only four marriage permits during January compared with a previous monthly average of 20.

HOCKEY PLAY TIE IN FIRST

Walker Scores for Seattle and Oatman Marks for Portland.

Total score, end second period: Portland 2, Seattle 1.

PORTLAND PUTS ON ICE FILIGREE CLOAK

Silver Thaw Demoralizes Traffic.

SCHOOLS TO CLOSE FOR DAY

Down-Town Pedestrians Wade in Sea of Slush.

LIGHTS FAIL ON EAST SIDE

Trees and Shrubbery Give Way Under Weight of Jeweled Covering. Telephone Lines Down and Other Damage Done.

STORM SITUATION IN PORTLAND

There will be no school today, either in the public schools or Portland Academy. Streetcar lines kept open with difficulty; interruptions to service frequent.

Falling poles and branches weighed across wires put many telephones out of commission. Trouble on light circuits left Mount Tabor, Rose City Park and other sections of the city dark for a time last night, but the repair crews soon relieved the situation.

Streets filled with slush and small rivers run at every crossing. Trees fall, weighted down by ice and snow, and shrubbery is damaged in parks and gardens.

Ice menaced pedestrians in downtown district, so that all are warned to keep to outer edge of sidewalks. Forecast for today: Rain, prodded by sleet or snow; not so cold; winds southerly.

Old man Thaw, whose first name is Silver, breezed into Portland yesterday and laid his heavy hand upon the town. On the Heights and the East Side his presence was most marked. Downtown the condition brought by this most dreaded weather visitant was mild.

He brought with him a wealth of crystal filigree in which he decorated the city. Wires bent under the weight of the rain that, freezing as it fell, rounded out tiny strands to the size of a human finger.

Trees Wreathed in Silver

Trees had each twig outlined with silver and they hung their heads, unused to such magnificence. Cornices of buildings were rich in fairy jewels and rows of icicles adorned with rare beauty the most commonplace structures.

The city was decked in phantasy. Silver baubles decorated busy automobiles, passing in the streets. Ice ornaments even hung to the trappings of horses and attached themselves to vehicles. Umbrellas, held aloft a short time by hurrying pedestrians, became coated with ice.

Traffic Demoralized

The first inconvenience brought by the storm was to traffic. Underfoot was slush. During the 24 hours ended at 5 o'clock yesterday morning six inches of snow had fallen. Rain came later, and the mixture was just between melting and freezing. The temperature ranged from 25 to 23 degrees.

The warm rain, striking the colder trees and wires, froze drop by drop under the reversal of usual meteorological conditions, as it was warmer at higher altitudes than at the earth's surface. This is what makes a silver thaw.

Car Company Has Hard Fight

Streetcars waged an all-day battle with the storm. Yesterday morning the outlying lines were in bad shape. One hundred regular section men in the employment of the company worked throughout the night keeping the tracks clear. Early yesterday 300 additional men were added to this army, and they shoveled all day long.

Passing vehicles were forever crowding the snow on the streetcar tracks that had to be shoveled off. The snow froze to the rails and cars grounded, losing the contact between rail and wheel that completes the electric current.

Quantities of Salt Used

Salt in generous quantities was poured onto switches that had frozen to melt the ice. During the past month, while Portland has experienced its greatest snow storm in recent years, the local streetcar company has used 75 tons of salt in thawing its switches and tracks.

Five snowplows and three motor brushes were in commission all day on the carlines in and about the city. The St. Johns line was out of commission yesterday morning and a number of teachers at the St. Johns schools who live in Portland were unable to reach their destination. School was dismissed at noon at St. Johns, only the teachers living nearby being on the job. The line was opened at noon.

Car Service Irregular

The Rose City Park line was blocked for a time beyond Fifty-fourth street. (Continued on Page 12, Column 2.)

SOME WEATHER WE'RE HAVING THESE DAYS!

