

WILSON CALLS FOR SHOWDOWN

Congress Told to Vote On Warning Proposals.

DIVISION IS EMBARRASSING

Conduct of Foreign Affairs Declared Duty of President, Not Legislators.

GRAVITY IS MADE PLAIN

Teutonic Demands Said to Have Been Stiffened by Report of Dissension.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—President Wilson decided today that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while dissension in Congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a showdown on the pending proposals to warn Americans off merchant ships of the European belligerents armed for defense.

Making clear that he considers the President, and not Congress, charged with the conduct of the foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Poy, acting chairman of the House rules committee, asking him to provide parliamentary means for bringing the agitation out into the open on the floor of the House for full discussion and vote.

Leaders Called to Conference.

Later he summoned Senator Stone and Representative Flood, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, and Senator Kern, majority leader in the Senate, for a conference at the White House tomorrow morning. Then he will request that one of the various pending resolutions be acted on in both houses.

Administration leaders, working steadily for the last week strengthening their lines and counting on the support of the Republicans, now are so sure of their position that they plan to end all agitation with a vote of confidence in the President.

Divided Councils Harmful.

The President's letter to Mr. Poy, the signal that the Administration was ready to give Germany a demonstration of unity, follows:

"My Dear Mr. Poy—Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of the committee on rules, is absent in Texas, I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country, which can, I believe, be handled, under the rules of the United States Congress, only by that committee.

"The report that there are divided councils in Congress in regard to the foreign policy of the Government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks.

Early Vote Is Urged.

"I therefore feel justified in asking that your committee will permit me to urge an early vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen, which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them, and that all doubts and conjectures may be swept away and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings.

"The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of executive initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am taking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the House, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration. Cordially and sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."

Course Discussed in Cabinet.

This course was decided on after today's Cabinet meeting, at which it was discussed, and after a week's quiet, steady work at the Capitol. Prompt action is desired particularly in the House, where agitation has been most turbulent and where Speaker Clark predicted anti-Administration resolutions when first introduced would have

WEALTHY FARMER SHOT BY ACCIDENT

TRIGGER OF GUN IN SON-IN-LAW'S HANDS HITS DOOR.

Horace Murch Killed Instantly Near Coburg When G. W. Buckingham Goes After Hawk.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—Horace Murch, 52 years old, native son of Lane County and a wealthy land owner, was killed instantly today. A gun in the hands of his son-in-law, G. W. Buckingham, was discharged accidentally.

Mr. Buckingham, who lives near Coburg, stepped to the front porch of his home to shoot a hawk, and the trigger caught on the door sill.

Mr. Murch retired from active life several years ago and had been making his home with the Buckingham family. They had just finished breakfast, when a hawk was discovered flying over the house. Mr. Buckingham took his gun and started out of the front door. Mr. Murch and the other members of the Buckingham family were seated together in the room where he was killed.

Mr. Murch had been engaged in various mercantile enterprises in Lane County. His estate includes a 500-acre tract of valuable land in this county. He is survived by his two sons, Harold Murch, of Golconda, Ark., and George Murch, of Portland, and daughter, Mrs. Buckingham, of Coburg.

Mr. Murch was born on the farm where the tragedy occurred.

Coroner Veatch brought the body to Eugene tonight.

MARCH ENTERS LIKE LION

Month Will Go Out Even as a Lamb If Old Adage Proves Serviceable.

If the old saw about the weather holds good, and it has done duty for many, many years, March will go out like a lamb, for it came in like a lion. Strong blustering winds and rain christened it and a general storm that prevailed over the Pacific Northwest heralded the approach of the Spring month, for on March 20 the genial season of buds and blossoms opens officially.

Storm Warnings Flew at the Mouth of the Columbia River and elsewhere on the Coast yesterday.

Portlanders may expect southerly winds of some strength today, together with rain. This is just the condition, say the weatherwise, to assure a mild, pleasant ending of the month.

CLASS DRESS TO COST \$7

Senior Girls of Pendleton High School Fix Graduation Limit.

PENDELTON, Or., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—At a meeting of the seniors of Pendleton High School, held today, it was decided to cut down the cost of graduation gown to \$7. The cost is to include the purchase price only, which will bring it within the means of all the girls in the class.

The following commencement officers were chosen: Class poet, Angela Bowler; class prophet, Edith Richardson; historian, Ernest Roylen; Charles Gordon will give the advice to the juniors and Chester Reed is to read the class will.

GIRL, 14, RUNS OFF TO WED

Baker Lass Meets and Marries Vaudeville Actor in La Grande.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—Without telling her schoolmates, 14-year-old Ida, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Koski, joined Viktor Lunt, a vaudeville performer, and went to La Grande, where they were married by Rev. C. E. Edwards, pastor of the Methodist Church and formerly with the Baker church.

The girl was a freshman in Baker High School, and met Lunt July last here. While Lunt traveled he left a trail of letters behind and the girl replied.

RAILROAD PAYROLL GROWS

Distribution in Centralia This Year Expected to Reach \$400,000.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—T. E. Denny, yardmaster for the Northern Pacific in Centralia, said yesterday that the railroad payroll in this city last year averaged more than \$22,000 a month and that with increased transportation it was expected to reach \$400,000 this year.

There are 400 men employed here by the Northern Pacific, Great Northern and O. W. R. N. These men, with their families, comprising nearly one-fifth of the city's population.

RADIO SPEED SEXTUPLED

Two Hundred Words Minute Transmitted by Wireless.

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—A speed of 200 words a minute, said to be a high record for wireless transmission, has been accomplished by the wireless station at the Great Lakes Naval Training School, North Chicago, through the use of a transmitting relay there and a recently invented receiving machine at a private station here, it was announced today.

Thirty words a minute has been considered a fast record previously, according to officials at the station.

Portland Man Appointed.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Feb. 29.—George A. Benedict, of Portland, has been appointed land appraiser for the Interstate Commerce Commission.

U-BOATS BELIEVED MINING NEAR DOVER

Maloja Officers Suspect Germans.

VICTIM SHIPS SINK RAPIDLY

Lifeboats Are Made Virtually Useless by Explosions.

AMERICAN BARELY SAVED

Kansas Man Has Series of Perilous Experiences Following Destruction of Liner—Hour Is Spent in Water.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—That German submarines have been sowing mines off Dover was the belief expressed today by Ralph Foster, of Kansas, and other survivors of the Maloja disaster, including some officers of the ship.

The fact that a number of disturbances have occurred in the north of Dover during the last two Sundays is considered in some quarters in London as possible evidence that German submarines, knowing that a number of boats clear for foreign ports Saturdays, have taken advantage of that fact in order to creep in as near the coast as possible at night time and discharge cargoes of explosives.

Lifeboats Virtually Useless.

In the opinion of Mr. Foster, lifeboats virtually are useless where ships strike mines, as almost invariably they sink quickly and the crews are drilled insufficiently for quick action and the boats cannot be lowered when they are swamped, so I went below for a lifebelt. Mr. Foster had a thrilling experience. He was afloat in the water on an upturned boat an hour when he was rescued by a trawler.

"I was promading the deck well forward about 10:20 o'clock Sunday morning," said Mr. Foster today to the Associated Press representative, "when I heard a slight report. I thought it was a gun firing a blank shot until I saw debris falling. Even then the confusion had been so slight that I concluded an accident must have happened to some other ship near by.

Passport Is Saved.

"I rushed back toward the stern of the Maloja, but before I had taken a dozen steps the ship began to list, and I started toward a lifeboat that had been allotted to my cabin. It was so full of people I saw I was likely to be swamped, so I went below for a lifebelt. I put on my overcoat and the lifebelt and also took my passport.

"By this time—hardly three minutes after the explosion—the passageways below were awash. I returned to the lifeboat and tried to help shove it clear. Two of the white crew of the steamer were standing by to lower the boat, but only a steward and myself were making any efforts to put it off from the ship's side. We could not get the

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PINEAPPLE CROP IS HEAVY

Hawaii Will Ship 60,000 Tons of Canned Product to America.

HONOLULU, T. H., Feb. 29.—Sixty thousand tons of canned pineapples will be shipped to the mainland by the growers of Hawaii this year, in accordance with their agreement with the Matson Navigation Company to ship by that line for five years a minimum of three-quarters of the annual pineapple pack.

The freight rate on the product is \$2.25 a ton. The pack this year will be exceptionally large.

WOMAN SCORNS ALIMONY

No True Feminist, Says Fair Plaintiff, Needs Man's Support.

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—Mrs. Crystal Eastman Benedict, a suffragist, pacifist, business woman, wife of Wallace Benedict, electrical engineer, is suing for divorce. She cites actions of Benedict and an unidentified woman as cause for the suit.

No alimony is sought, as Mrs. Benedict asserts that a real feminist does not think of alimony and does not have to be supported by men.

IS KISS NOT WON CRIME?

Insurance Man Charged With Assault for "Intent" to Steal Car.

WATERLOO, Ia., Feb. 29.—J. V. Rhodes, an insurance man, surrendered to the police today to answer a charge of "assault with intent to kiss," which was made by Mrs. William Bunce, of Leports City.

Mrs. Bunce charges Rhodes attempted to steal a kiss from her while on a visit to her home. Rhodes declares he is innocent.

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CLUB PRESIDENTS GIVE SCHOOL TEST

Six Officiate of The SUPREME COURT LITIGANT.

OBJECT IS GENERAL SURVEY

Pupils of Eighth and Ninth Grades Examined.

IDEA APPROVED BY BOARD

J. P. Jaeger, Chairman of Committee, Says Endeavor Is to Determine Definitely if Results Being Attained Are Satisfactory.

FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL TEST.

Subjects—History, grammar, geography, spelling and arithmetic.

Pupils participating—Eighth and ninth grades of all Portland public schools.

Plan—Conducted under auspices of the Oregonian by committee acting independently and with the consent of Board of Education.

Committee—J. P. Jaeger, president Progressive Business Men's Club; Mrs. George W. McMath, president Oregon Congress of Mothers; Mrs. Isaac Sweet, president Council of Jewish Women; Mrs. G. J. Frankel, president Woman's Club; W. D. Whitcomb, president Ad Club, and N. G. Pike, president Rotary Club.

Results—Grading will be passed on by the committee and made public.

Pupils of the eighth and ninth grades of the Portland public schools yesterday participated in a written examination, conducted independently of the city school authorities.

The examination was held under the auspices of the Oregonian and was in charge of a committee selected by this newspaper, because of their representative standing as the presidents of six of Portland's chief civic organizations.

The object of the examination was to make a general survey of public school work in the fundamental studies. Before the results are made known the papers will be passed upon by the committee. This committee also chose the questions to be asked, the grades in which the test was to be made and passed upon all details. The results of the examination will be gauged by the committee and publicly announced.

Move Approved by Board.

The Oregonian undertook the promotion of this examination as a matter of news interest to every citizen of Portland. The suggestion of holding such an examination met with the

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RICH MINE OF 50 YEARS AGO FOUND

SEARCH FOR LEGENDARY POT OF MERCURY BRINGS FIND.

But Seeker Takes Samples Which Show Fine Cinnabar Deposits.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—A story so old that it becomes a legend has led to the rediscovery, after 50 years, of a valuable deposit of mercury near Canyon City, once the glory of the mining country. After half a century of idleness, mercury deposits in Cinnabar Mountain, thought to have run out in the '60s, have been rediscovered by Ralph M. Curl, of Canyon City, because he believed the legend.

Mr. Curl has relocated the old claim and is preparing at once to reopen the mine of cinnabar, or mercury ore, in Grant County.

A legend, handed down from the early days when mercury was taken from Cinnabar Mountain to aid in the extraction of gold, tells of an iron flask containing some 50 pounds of mercury and left in the underground works of the mine when it was closed down.

Mr. Curl, having heard of this cache and being aware of the steady advance in the price of mercury, made the trip recently to investigate.

He could not gain entrance to the tunnel, but did bring down some surface croppings and samples from the dump which on being tested showed high percentages of cinnabar.

TAX COLLECTION HELD UP

Court Grants Injunction Letting Cities Off From Paying for Roads.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 29.—A temporary injunction was granted by Judge Skpworth in the Circuit Court today restraining Sheriff Parker from collecting a two-mill road tax levied by the County Court on property located in Eugene and Springfield. The city holds that the tax is illegal and that the county districts should stand the expense of road building.

Pending a decision on the merits of the case, the Sheriff will collect two mills less from the citizens of the cities, which, it is contended by the tax collector, will cost the county at least \$1000, no matter which way the decision goes.

WHITMAN TO GET \$200,000

Walla Walla County Ranch to Go to College at Death of Heir.

WHITMAN COLLEGE, Walla Walla, Wash., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—When the will of the late W. G. Preston, of Walla Walla, was filed for probate Saturday, it became known that Whitman College was the ultimate heir to the share of Charles B. Preston in the Summit ranch near Walla Walla.

This property is in the best wheat country in Walla Walla County, and is worth at least \$200,000. At the death of Charles Preston Whitman College will get the property, and the income will be used to furnish free scholarships for needy students.

CARROLL B. OPENS BIG VEIN

Gold, Running \$500 to Ton, Is Uncovered in Baker District.

BAKER, Or., Feb. 29.—(Special.)—That a 14-inch vein of gold ore running \$500 to the ton has been struck at the Carroll B. mine was the statement made this morning by John Cronan, in charge of operations at the mine, who was in the city today. Twenty sacks of the precious rock have already been taken out for shipment, and there is no indication of the vein coming to an end.

Milling ore averages \$15 a ton is being taken from two ledges at the mine, one eight and the other seven feet in width.

DRY LAW HELPS DAIRIES

Consumption of Sweet and Butter-milk Shows Increase.

Prohibition has brought a great increase in the amount of milk consumed in Portland, according to information received from dairymen and creamerymen by Dr. D. W. Mack, chief of the City Milk Inspection Bureau. While no figures have been compiled, Dr. Mack estimates that the demand for milk has been increased several thousand gallons daily.

Increase in consumption of butter-milk also is reported. And the dealers are looking for still greater increase next Summer.

MINES LAID OFF SWEDEN

German Flotilla Working Under Protection of Warships.

COPENHAGEN, via London, Feb. 29.—The Aftonbladet reports that a large German flotilla is engaged in laying mines south of Falsterbo, but outside of Swedish territory, and that it is under the protection of 20 German patrol ships.

Falsterbo is a small seaport of Sweden near its southern extremity, on the Baltic Sea. A dispatch from London today said that the Swedish steamship Knippa had struck a mine south of Falsterbo and had sunk.

Only One American on Board.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Consul-General Skirner at London today reported to the State Department that only one American, Ralph B. Foster, was aboard the liner Maloja, sunk by a mine Sunday off Dover, and that he was saved.

BOOZE INFLUX GAINS; ARRESTS KEEP PAGE

Savings Accounts Grow With Prohibition.

BUSINESS FINDS READY MONEY

Real Estate and Rental Values Show No Falling Off.

PUBLIC SAFETY INCREASES

Bootlegging, However, Is Believed to Be Prevalent Despite Campaign and Confiscation in Raids by Police.

PORTLAND AFTER TWO DRY MONTHS.

February shows sharp increase in arrests for drunkenness. Blind pigs and bootleggers get down to working basis and are thought to be on increase. Express shipments of liquor into city three times quantity imported in January.

Public safety increases under dry law. Accidents drop sharply in traffic statistics.

Savings accounts grow and stores report better collections. Demand for store locations takes quarters left vacant by saloons, and realty men report better demand for homes.

Real estate and rental values have not decreased because of prohibition.

The Demon Rum, who was thought to have received his death blow January 3, shows some signs of reviving. After a remarkable showing in January for decreases in arrests for drunkenness, February returns indicate there is some life left in the Demon, for he has been noticed during the past 29 days to stretch himself, wiggle a finger or two and show indications of returning life.

Arrests for drunkenness are increasing. During the short month, just ended, statistics show a distinct gain over January.

The past two weeks have been most fruitful of all the elapsed time this year in bookings on the police blotter recording arrests for drunkenness.

Much Seized Liquor Returned.

This, too, despite the fact that during the month, as well as in January, officers of the law have been active in raiding blind pigs and quantities of liquors have been seized that would float a moderate-sized battleship. Much of this confiscated stuff has been given back to the owners, due to the fact that convictions, it was believed, could not be obtained.

Bootlegging is thought to be on the increase in Portland. Despite the harassment of the officers throw about this branch of trade, it is said not to be difficult to find a man who knows someone else who can buy a bottle for the required amount of currency.

The use of alcohol as a beverage is reported to be gaining.

"White-Liners" Multiply.

The "white-liner," one who mixes water or other liquids with alcohol and drinks it, is said to be growing in numbers, and this sort of a "jag" is providing work for the police, the doctor and, incidentally, the undertaker, for the drink is believed to be the most deadly form of intoxicant.

Drunks picked up by the police often are carrying bottles containing alcohol. "Where did you get it?" is the first question asked by the officers, who seek to cut off the source of supply in this way, but it is infrequently that the desired information is gained.

There was a big jump in express shipments of liquor into the city during the past month. The figures are three times those of January. Affidavits filed with the County Clerk for January shipments show that 727 persons imported liquor into the state for their own use, while the February affidavits will undoubtedly reach 2500 and probably 2600.

Storage Stocks Depleted.

This seems to indicate that storage stocks are being depleted, while the general public is becoming familiar with the processes for importing drinkables from outside, and it may have its part in the increase of drunkenness. It is predicted that March will show heavy importations.

Several causes may combine to make the showing of the police records of arrests. Drunk and disorderly persons taken to jail by the police in January during February numbered 169, as against 113 during January, a month two days longer.

Vagrants arrested during February numbered 130, as compared with 122 for January. The total for the past month is 290, as against 241 for January. The total will be increased by last night's arrests. The police arrested 13 during the month for violations of the dry law, and there was one man arrested who had the delirium tremens.

Statistics Are Compiled.

Mayor Albee has compiled statistics on the subject, which do not tally exactly with the above figures. He gives as against the number of arrests during 1915

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