

MARGIN OF LOSSES AT SEA NARROWING

British Premier Delivers Message of Hope to People in Commons Speech.

GERMAN POWER IS WANING

Further Sacrifices to Stiffen and Support Armies Declared Necessary—America's Advent Into World Politics Momentous.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—Speaking in the House of Commons today, David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines, he declared, were decreasing, while shipbuilding was increasing. The Premier said the sinking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down by 20 per cent, he added, the loss had been only 6 per cent of imports over that of last year.

Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment he attributed to the Russian collapse.

Germana Score One Success.

The Germans, the Premier said, had had only one success, which was due to surprise and this was now engaging inquiry. The Germans, he stated, had lost 100,000 prisoners, valuable positions and hundreds of guns.

Complete Restoration of the Territories Taken by the Enemy, Together with Compensation, was Demanded by Premier Lloyd George in Explaining the War Aim of the Government.

The Premier said that the losses in shipping had been lighter by hundreds of thousands of tons than he had anticipated in his August estimate.

Russian Collapse Deplored.

The Premier said if the Russian army had fulfilled the expectations of its generals, by this time the pride of the German military power would have been completely humbled.

On the whole, the British campaign had not achieved the expectations formed, he said. It had had some military successes in Palestine which would have a permanent effect on the history of the world. Jerusalem, he stated, never would be restored to the Turks.

After referring to the Italian reverses, the Premier said it would be necessary for the British to make greater sacrifices to strengthen its armies in the coming year. The need would arise to increase the nation's man power by taking some men now exempted.

The Premier's speech was delivered when adjournment for the holidays was moved in the House of Commons this afternoon. He dealt first with the problem of food. Two causes, he said, had contributed lately to the gravity of the situation—the failure to obtain margarine and butter from Holland and Denmark and the fact that England had been required to make sacrifices in order to supply deficiencies of her allies. Owing to the efforts of the food controller, an improvement was visible in circumstances which had caused so much anxiety in the last few days. More tea was coming in and it was hoped by increased manufacture to improve the situation as regards margarine shortly.

Germana Are Deteriorating.

Owing to the food difficulties in Germany, the Premier went on, the physical deterioration of workmen there had been so marked that the output per man had been decreased by 33 per cent.

As for the British casualties, Mr. Lloyd George said they had not amounted to more than one-fourth or one-fifth of the Germans. Opposed to Germany, Austria and their allies, he asserted, were men power and reserves more than double those which the Teutonic allies possessed.

The government, he declared, would confer next week with trades unions on the man-power proposals.

The advent of America into world's politics, the Premier declared, was an event which would loom large in the future. This was true also of the establishment of the international council at Versailles.

Colonials Must Be Heard.

As for the disposition of the German colonies, the Premier said, that must be settled by the peace congress. The future trustees of those countries must take into account the sentiments of the people themselves.

The Premier told his hearers that a

league of nations in which Germany was represented by triumphant militarism would be a hollow farce. Great Britain did not enter the war, the Premier asserted, to increase by yard the territory of any one else, but because of the belief that Britain's honor, the question of standing by her word was involved.

TURKEY PRICES GO UP

CHOICE BIRDS NOW SELLING AT 31 CENTS WHOLESALE.

Under Agreement Obtained Some Time Ago, Dealers Are Allowed Margin of Five Cents.

Christmas turkeys may cost one or two cents a pound more than was paid for these birds at Thanksgiving time. The supply of turkeys on which the Portland householder may draw his Christmas feast is light and the demand is heavy, according to Federal Food Administration heads and representatives of the distributing agencies.

Choice turkeys are now being sold at 31 cents a pound wholesale. This means that the consumer pays 36 cents, the margin of 5 cents being officially allowed the retail dealers. This arrangement was obtained at Thanksgiving time and was found so satisfactory that it is being continued over the holidays, says Administrator Ayer.

Turkeys not classed as first-grade will sell for 35 cents and possibly down to 30 cents per pound. At Thanksgiving 35 cents was the top price, yet there was a good run of the fowl at 32 and 33 cents.

The Food Administration is not definitely fixing prices, contenting itself with keeping tabs on supply and demand and limiting the retail gross profit margin. Outside demands have this year made heavy inroads on the Oregon turkey supply.

But the money part constituted a problem at first. It didn't grow on trees or the boys would have found it, but it is to be forthcoming if the youngsters sell their little Christmas trees. They have dug and potted and will have on display in the Liberty Shop in the court of the Portland Hotel on Saturday.

These trees are "just the thing" for the center of a table or for a sick-room or for people who live in apartments. They will be on sale cheap.

In addition these enterprising boys have made some fine holiday articles. They did the work in their manual training classroom, and the girls of the school, every bit as loyal, contributed some handbags, dainty, attractive gifts that should find ready sale.

All patrons of Couch School and friends are invited to attend the sale. The shop is open to the public.

COUCH BOYS WILL HELP

YOUNGSTERS TO RAISE FUND FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

Minister Christmas Trees and Manual Training School Products on Sale Soon at Liberty Shop.

The live-wire lads of the Couch School have formed a new organization called the Couch Patriotic Juniors. This new club has undertaken to do patriotic work and to gather funds to help the 7th or 8th Central Army or Navy and to buy a service flag for the school.

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RESCUE WORK RUSHED

EVERY AVAILABLE MAN ASSISTING AT WILKESON MINE.

Little Hope Held Out That Five Men Entombed Tuesday Night Are Alive Yet.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 20.—Under the direction of pit bosses, mine superintendents, the state mine inspector and representatives of the United States Bureau of Mines, every man that could find room to work is laboring to reach the five men entombed in the Wilkeson Coal & Coke Company mine at Wilkeson since they were cut off by a cave-in Tuesday night. There is little likelihood that the men are living.

The workers have little idea how far they are from the unfortunate men. Endeavors are being made from every possible direction. A large portion of the roof of that part of the mine where they were working fell and the miners working to reach their comrades have to contend with fallen timbers, caved-in roof and high waters.

The Wilkeson Coal & Coke Company management is unable to tell precisely how the accident occurred.

MILLS TO CLOSE 3 DAYS

Lumber Plants of Booth-Kelly Company Observe Government Order.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The Booth-Kelly Lumber Company's mills at Wendling and Springfield, together with logging camps, will close today.

Operations at the Springfield mill and in the camps will be suspended for three days only, the usual week's holiday vacation having been advanced at the request of the Government. The Wendling mill will be shut down three weeks to permit of repairs. The company's mills have been making full time, weather permitting continued operations in logging camps.

MORE RECRUITS NEEDED

Call Sent Out for Division No. 5, Portland Contingent, Red Cross.

A call for new recruits to the present membership campaign of the American Red Cross, to serve in division No. 5, of the Portland contingent, has gone forth from local headquarters.

Fifty field workers, preferably women, are asked to report at once for service in the campaign, that Portland may not fall in its quota of memberships. Applications should be made this morning or today at the office of Charles Richton, in the Morgan building.

BALFOUR REPLIES TO PACIFIST CRITICS

War Policies Rather Than War Aims Declared More Desirable Consideration Now.

WILSON'S VIEWS LAUDED

Assertion Made That United States and Allies Are in Thorough Accord and Formal Conferences Would Accomplish Nothing.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—Foreign Secretary Balfour made a spirited reply in the House of Commons this afternoon to attacks by Arthur Ponsonby, Liberal member for Striding, a pacifist, regarding the war aims of Great Britain and her allies, the published versions of which Mr. Ponsonby said did not tally with the proposals of the secret treaties.

Mr. Balfour in his response, declared that President Wilson's statements on war policy were absolutely identical in spirit with those of the leaders of thought in Great Britain. He did not think there had been in the whole history of the war a more powerful state document than that issued by the President of the United States.

When Mr. Ponsonby was vehemently charged that the allies were sheltering themselves behind the President's reply to the Pope, continued Mr. Balfour, he presumed the member meant no more than that when a statement of policy was admirably made by the head of the great American Republic it might not be necessary, and very often was unnecessary, that it should be at once repeated on this side of the Atlantic. The British government, he continued, had not refused conference on war aims, but the problem presented enormous difficulties and it was his belief that friendly conversations were better than a formal conference, for the discussion of these delicate matters.

In any event, added Mr. Balfour, all the allies, including Russia, were strongly of the opinion that this was an inopportune moment for such discussion. What was desired was a discussion of war methods rather than of war aims.

Mr. Balfour defended at length the government's procedure with regard to the agreements between the allies concerning Constantinople, Persia, etc. He declared that Italy properly deserved some rearrangement of territory in her favor.

Great Britain, continued the Foreign Secretary, never desired or encouraged the idea that a bit of Germany should be severed from the parent state and erected into a sort of independent buffer state on the left bank of the Rhine. The government, he declared, had never been aware that such a proposal was seriously entertained by any French statesman and he protested against the British government being charged with lack of faith or honesty on such a flimsy foundation.

STUDENT SOLDIER DIES

Dale Melrose Victim of Diphtheria at Camp Lewis.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Word was received here today of the death of Dale Melrose, son of G. B. Melrose, of Clatskanie, Wis., and a member of Ambulance Company 361, stationed at Camp Lewis.

Mr. Melrose was a junior in the university last year, coming to Oregon from Clatskanie, Ore. He was prominent in literary circles and was a member of Tilden Inn chapter of Sigma Upsilon National writers' fraternity. He was 22 years of age.

OREGON CITY SOLDIER PROMOTED.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 20.—Private Edgar N. Terrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Terrell, of Oregon City, who enlisted in April at the age of 19 years, has received a promotion to bugler of Twelfth Company, Coast Artillery, and stationed at Fort Canby, Wash. Mr. Terrell takes the place made vacant by Sidney N. Carnine who is leaving for the East to take up work with the Government. Terrell is well known here.

Fire Risk Decided Too Great.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—State Fire Marshal Wells received a telegram today in which he is advised that the headquarters of the American Red Cross has instructed its local chapter to disregard suggestions relative to placing a candle behind service flags which are hung in windows on Christmas Eve. The suggestion has been withdrawn owing to the additional fire hazard which would be caused by placing candles behind the flags.

Republican Chairman May Quit.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—William R. Wilson may resign as chairman of the Republican National Committee at a meeting of the committee here in February. It was authoritatively learned today. He is understood to have told a number of his personal friends that his business activities have become so pressing that he would prefer to be relieved of the post.

Read the Oregonian classified ads.



Every Man's Store

—The first noticeable feature of our house, so kind friends have told us, is the genial atmosphere of fellowship that prevails. We accept the flattery good-naturedly, but—we do try our utmost to make trading in this store pleasurable quite as much as dependable.

FINELY TAILORED SUITS \$15 and COATS \$15

—By finely tailored we mean these suits and coats are cut to precise model lines. That the seams are just as accurate and carefully stitched as you would want them, and that linings are good—buttonholes, buttons and all of splendid order. We have an enormous lot of these \$15 garments on our big second floor—all ready to put right on for immediate service. They are WOOL, and there is an abundance of patterns to choose from. Come in!

Ready-to-Wear Clothes \$15, \$20, \$25
Tailored-to-Measure Clothes \$25, \$30, \$33, \$40

OPEN EVENINGS

—For the convenience of those who cannot spare the time to shop during the day we are keeping open shop evenings until Christmas.

—You'll find here, EVERYTHING FOR MEN!

Brownsville Woolen Mill Store

“Half a Century of Reliability” Morrison at Third

CITY MILK SUPPLY SHORT

FLOODS REDUCE SHIPMENTS FULLY THOUSAND GALLONS.

Home Deliveries Made for Welfare of Babies, but Hotel and Restaurant Keepers Are Slighted.

It wasn't split milk, but merely milk that failed to arrive, that figuratively brought tears to the eyes of Portland dealers yesterday.

The prevailing floods cut short Portland's milk supply for the day by at least 1000 gallons, according to F. M. Kiger, manager of the Oregon Dairymen's League, and the Portland Milk Producers' Association. Absence of shipments from the Salem and Estacada lines particularly reduced the city's daily supply.

Portland's supply of milk is always so close to the requirements, said Mr. Kiger, that the shortage that the floods are causing was instantly felt. Customers who did not receive their usual allowance must blame the traffic interruptions, for we did the best we could to supply them.

“So far as I know, deliveries were made to all the homes on the customers' lists. It is our practice always to get the milk to the homes where the babies may be depending on it first. Because of this policy the dealers, hotel and restaurant keepers were the parties who were slighted yesterday. We do not know just how long the supply may be curtailed, but indications are that the shortage will be just as serious tomorrow as it was today.”

YOUNG MAN FOUND DEAD

BODY OF CLARENCE BIEDELMAN DISCOVERED NEAR ASTORIA.

Nephew of Mrs. C. H. Knapp, of Portland, Left City About Month Ago. Formerly Salesman Here.

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The body of Clarence Biedelman, who is supposed to have lived in Portland, was found this morning under a tree near Smith's Point. It is believed death resulted from starvation and exposure. A man had been seen wandering about the woods there for several days and he is thought to have been deranged.

Biedelman was about 30 years of age and very small, not weighing over

SIRE OF THREE IN COURT

EDGAR STAFFORD ACCUSED BY RED CROSS WORKER.

Profanity Defended on Theory That He Was Called Slacker When Three Sons Are in Army.

Edgar Stafford, an elderly man who wears a service flag with three stars on his coat and runs a photographic studio at East Seventh and East Burnside streets, was arraigned in Municipal Court yesterday afternoon for alleged profane and abusive language to Mrs. Isabelle W. Moody, when she came into his shop to solicit his membership in the Red Cross. Mrs. Moody failed to appear against him, and he was released.

Mrs. Moody came to police headquarters Wednesday and told Deputy City Attorney Delich that Stafford had called her a fool.

Mrs. Moody, who is the wife of Alex S. Moody, vice-president of the Pacific States Electric Company, in swearing out a warrant for Mr. Stafford's arrest, said that he had called her a fool and ejected her from his place of business.

In court yesterday Mr. Stafford testified that Mrs. Moody had called him a slacker and pro-German.

“If you had three sons in the Army, as I have,” he demanded of the court, “would you take such a remark as that from anyone?”

Six-Year-Old Girl Attacked.

SILVERTON, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—The six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Lyons was attacked Tuesday night by an unknown man as she was going to her home on Liberty Hill. She gave a very good description of him and the officers believe they will apprehend him.



Give that VICTROLA to the family this Christmas

You have been planning every Christmas to surprise the folks with a VICTROLA—then why not make this one that long-promised Victrola Christmas? We have Victrolas to suit every purse—as low as \$20, with a wide range of prices upward—\$20, \$30, \$45, \$57.50, \$85, \$110, \$165, \$215, \$265, and up to \$380. You have no idea how easy it is to have a Victrola—so many styles from which to choose and such easy payment terms.

Sherman, Clay & Co.

Dealers in Steinway and Other Pianos, Pianola Pianos, Victrolas and Records, Player Music, Music Cabinets, etc.

Join the Red Cross Today. A duty everyone owes to humanity.

A Sterling Silver or Sheffield Silver gift is beautiful, pleasing and practicable

Tea Sets, Pyrex Lined Casseroles, Baking Dishes, Bread Plates

Henrichsen's 1861 386 Washington Street Bet. W. Park and 10th St. Earliest Jewelry House in Northwest

Optometrists—30,000 Prescriptions 21 Years

FOR PATRIOTISM FOR HUMANITY

This National CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN for members, of which 240,000 must come from OREGON, is now under way.

You Can Do Your Part "Over There" By Joining the Red Cross Over Here

Your opportunity to serve your country at home is offered through membership in the American Red Cross. Help carry on the great humanitarian work of making the life of "Our Boys Over There" safer, brighter, happier. Enlist "Your Heart and a Dollar" today.

—Red Cross Booth, Main Floor.

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