

GERMANS, IF HELD, MAY RECLAIM LAND

Tentative Plan, In Event of Interment, Provides for the Payment of Wages.

NEW WORK COULD BEGIN

Interior Department Is Considering Idea at Suggestion of Administration—All Depends on Outcome of War Crisis.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 24.—At the suggestion of the Administration, the Interior Department is giving consideration to the idea of placing a large number of interned Germans on Government reclamation projects in the West, in the event Congress declares war on Germany or declares a state of war exists between the two governments.

No definite plan has yet been worked out, but from preliminary study given the subject, officials regard the project as entirely feasible and one that would work great permanent benefit to the United States, best of all, being a practicable means of caring for those German subjects who in time of war must necessarily be interned by this Government.

Payment of Salaries Favored. The idea meeting with most favor just now is to adopt, in the main, the Canadian plan of employing interned German subjects in construction camps, providing quarters, clothing and rations and paying them salaries equal to those paid to soldiers in the army. This would permit a gradual increase of compensation according to the ability of the individual, and would call for salaries ranging from about \$15 to \$18 per month.

The adoption of this scheme, it is pointed out, would enable the Government, at a minimum expense, and at a much less cost than in construction camps, to build a great many new projects in the West which otherwise must wait an indefinite time. Such a plan, of course, would call for an appropriation by Congress, but that must be made in any event to care for all German subjects who may be interned.

Drainage Possible, Too. If the interned foreign subjects are not employed on reclamation works, they would in all probability be employed on some other public works. Coupled with the proposal to put them on reclamation projects is to let them work also on various drainage projects which have never yet been authorized by Congress.

This policy would provide a means whereby German subjects could be interned at points some distance from the coast, remote from coast defenses and fortifications and also remote from large cities. A comparatively small guard would be required to patrol the interior, and it is believed, and that would be supplied by the War Department, which also has been approached on the subject.

New Projects Could Be Begun. It is pointed out that interned Germans could be used not only to hurry the completion of projects such as the Umatilla and Klamath, but could be put to work on new projects which have been tentatively outlined and approved, the Owyhee among others.

A large part of the interned foreigners would, it is thought, be glad of an opportunity to work in the interior, where they would be assured government protection and escape legislation which they might encounter in or near the large cities.

In this connection, the Reclamation Service has given careful attention to the necessity for guarding the larger Government dams, which might, as an act of German strategy, be destroyed by German spies in this country.

Dams Might Be Destroyed. The blowing up of any one of a dozen of the larger dams, would, if successfully accomplished, cause the loss of many human lives, and the flooding and destruction of much valuable property, but from a strategic point of view it is recognized that the destruction of some of these dams would let loose a great flood of water which would carry out railroad bridges and thus for a time, interrupt railroad communications in various parts of the West.

The War Department has been asked to give this question the same attention and to take such steps as may be found expedient.

During the Mexican trouble military guards were placed on the Elephant Butte dam on the Rio Grande and the Roosevelt dam in Arizona, and it is likely that similar guards will be placed in the near future on other large dams in the West. There is no intention, so far as can be learned, that any particular dam is threatened, and it is not believed likely that any could be destroyed if a suitable guard should be provided, but the possibility is one which the War Department has been asked to pass judgment.

GREAT AID IS EXPECTED

French Paper Says America Will Enter War Body and Soul.

PARIS, March 24.—The Journal Des Debats, in a long and friendly discussion of America's position, says:

"Once the Americans begin fighting they will go into the conflict body and soul and with the energy and tenacity that characterizes them. They will want to succeed and will joyfully consent to the heaviest sacrifices. The idealists will be interested passionately in the great enterprise of the liberation of the world. Others will give to the task the keenness they put into the management of their enormous businesses."

SPY IN MINE SENTENCED

German Attempts to Wreck Underground Machinery.

ROANOKE, Va., March 24.—Johannes Schmidt, a German miner, was sentenced at Mayberry, W. Va., today to 30 days in jail on a charge of attempting to wreck machinery in a mine in which he was employed. Detectives said Schmidt placed an spike in a mine motor.

A crowbar was found in a conveyor.

WIRE BRIDGE SPANS GORGE

School Children in Curry County Aided by Forest Service.

School children at Agness, in Curry County, now skip gaily across a wire fence suspension bridge about 660 feet

ISLAND FOLK SATISFIED

AMERICANS AND FILIPINOS DECLARED IN ACCORD.

Natives Are Settled Down to Work Out Salvation in Preparation for Independence When Fitted.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—(Special.)—"Americans and Filipinos were never so much in accord as at present and the country never settled down to trade expansion and growth as it is now doing," said Rev. George W. Wright, of Manila, who arrived on the Sibiria, Maru today.

With the passage of the Jones bill the Filipinos have settled down to work out their salvation and to prepare themselves for independence when the time arrives," said Mr. Wright. "President Quezon, of the Philippine Senate, is now of the opinion of the Filipinos better than any man before. His long service in the United States and his close association with Americans during that time have given him a broader outlook on the relations of the two countries which he is instilling into the minds of the Filipino people."

"The added responsibilities now given the Filipinos have settled their leaders to a great extent, they have everything they have asked for except independence and there seems to be little desire for anything more. They realize now that they are not fit for themselves fitted for it, which they realize will not be for many years."

There is an indication of how serious the Filipinos are about their future. They have spent this year for public works, roads, bridges and harbor improvements, the largest sum ever devoted to that purpose in any year since American occupation."

Of the 100 or more who were injured, it was said probably 75 were badly hurt, but that less than a dozen were in a serious condition.

The institution of relief measures was prompt. Citizens of Louisville subscribed \$12,000 and sent motor trucks loaded with food and clothing. Later in the day the Chamber of Commerce here issued an appeal to the country for aid, estimating that \$200,000 was needed. State troops were dispatched to the work of clearing away the wreckage and searching the ruins for bodies.

The first organized effort to estimate the property loss was made late today by a committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, the New Albany Real Estate Board and Red Cross representatives. The committee, after an examination of the devastated districts, placed the loss, including damaged or destroyed homes and contents, at \$1,132,000.

37 DEAD AT NEW ALBANY

MORE THAN 100 ARE INJURED, 75 OF THEM BADLY.

Property Loss Is \$1,132,000—Louisville Citizens Raise \$12,000 and Send Food and Clothes to Victims.

NEW ALBANY, Ind., March 24.—Six additional deaths reported today made a total of 37 persons who lost their lives because of the storm here yesterday. Three-fourths of the wrecked buildings have been explored, and the list of missing is being reduced almost hourly by reports from missing persons who have been cared for in private homes.

Explaining to the jury the statement he is alleged to have sworn to in the office of Chief of Police Beckingham last Wednesday to the effect that Logan Billingsley had bribed Metzdorf said he did not regard himself as under oath at that time. The notary before whom he appeared was Walter Fulton, counsel for Beckingham, and Smith had said Fulton would protect Metzdorf, Metzdorf continued.

"Fulton and I (Metzdorf) were together," said Metzdorf, "and I asked me to everything they asked me. Most of this statement is nothing but lies. I was just noting the story around."

After Metzdorf had been excused Sergeant Kent was called and he had never even met Metzdorf until yesterday.

Watson H. Smith was recalled and asked to read the indictment which Metzdorf said he did not regard himself as under oath at that time. The notary before whom he appeared was Walter Fulton, counsel for Beckingham, and Smith had said Fulton would protect Metzdorf, Metzdorf continued.

MARKET SKULKER JAILED

Detectives Gather in Parole-Breaking Pickpocket.

The stealthy actions of a young man who skulked through the throngs of the public market on Yamhill street yesterday afternoon drew the attention of Detectives Joseph Morak, Helyer and Tackaberry.

"Pickpocket," was the conclusion of the trio, and they gathered him in. He is 22 years old and a parole violator from the Washington Reformatory. Further, Dunlap's previous record was that of pickpocket, and he frankly admitted that he was again questing for a likely "poke."

POLICE TO RELIEVE SAILORS

Special Squad to Guard Bridges in New York City.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Five hundred naval militia men who have been engaged in guarding the bridges across the East River will be relieved tomorrow by a force of special policemen recruited for the work.

Girl Enlists as Yeoman.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Miss Elizabeth Harry, of this city, was enlisted in the United States Navy yesterday as a third-class yeoman's rating. Harry is a stenographer. When the week's campaign for volunteers for the American Red Cross ended tonight 2230 persons had enrolled as members.

STORY OF POLICE PLOT IS UNSHAKEN

Waiver Goes Through Severe Grilling Without Changing Tale of Bribe in Least.

OWN RECORD IS EXPLAINED

Sergeant Kent Again Accused of Hounding Him Because of Old Conviction and Parole, but Officer Denies Charge.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 24.—Judge Neter in the United States District Court today reminded counsel for the defense in the whisky conspiracy case that the defendants were on trial, and that Eddie Metzdorf, a witness who alleges that Police Sergeant William B. Kent forced him to circulate falsehoods about Logan Billingsley, chief prosecuting witness, was not on trial.

The defendants on trial are Mayor Hiram C. Gill, Chief of Police Charles I. Beckingham and City Detectives Peyster, Poolman, Doorn and McLeannan, all charged with conspiracy to violate the Federal laws by importation of liquor into the state of Washington.

Metzdorf was a pathetic figure during his examination yesterday. He had passed the two preceding nights in chair cars in flight to and from Spokane, and after returning to Seattle to confess everything to the Federal authorities, he was hurried to the witness stand without sleep without food. He begged for mercy on account of his physical and mental condition.

Witness Severely Grilled. Today, however, Metzdorf was vigorous and confident and he endured cross examination from three attorneys for the defense without losing his temper or contradicting himself in any way.

Metzdorf explained that his record, which had been often referred to in court. He said that five years ago he had been convicted in the Superior Court for grand larceny. He had seen two gamblers steal \$55 from another man, and was convicted because he had been seen to assist them. Metzdorf never served a day in prison. The police had kept him in jail 28 days, feeding him insufficient food and not permitting him to telephone.

This criminal record, he continued, was held over him by Sergeant Kent, brother-in-law of Detective Beckingham, to compel Metzdorf to frame a story that he had been bribed by Logan Billingsley to commit perjury in the conspiracy case.

Metzdorf repeated his story about Watson H. Smith giving him "a hundred bucks" last Saturday night, and that it was time to "start the noise." Metzdorf said he began at once to spread the story that he had been bribed by Logan Billingsley to commit perjury.

Own Statement Repeated. Explaining to the jury the statement he is alleged to have sworn to in the office of Chief of Police Beckingham last Wednesday to the effect that Logan Billingsley had bribed Metzdorf said he did not regard himself as under oath at that time. The notary before whom he appeared was Walter Fulton, counsel for Beckingham, and Smith had said Fulton would protect Metzdorf, Metzdorf continued.

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PROPOSED BILL IS HIT

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DECLARED OPPOSED TO ITSELF.

Aim Is to Have All Changes in Laws Made Clear and No Conflicting Sections Left.

SALEM, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—A proposed constitutional amendment referred by the Legislature to the people to be voted at the June election and having for its apparent purpose prevention of the repeal by implication of any amendment or part of a constitutional amendment which is virtually ineffective if passed, according to lawyers who have examined its provisions.

Among other things, the amendment provides "that it is the function of this constitution to define clearly a plan of government, every provision of which is consistent and harmonious with every other provision thereof, and to perpetuate such consistency and harmony, and all amendments to this constitution shall be so worded that their adoption by the people will leave the amended constitution in any case consistent with the provisions. And as a vital consideration in constructing any amendment is the effect of the amendment upon the entire constitution, no amendment shall have the effect of rendering any other part or parts of the constitution ineffective by opening and specifically repealing such other part or parts."

It is pointed out that should this amendment pass it would have the effect evidently intended, as any amendment that would pass thereafter would supersede this amendment, and other contained repeals by implication or not.

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\$87,326,383 IN BANKS

PORTLAND DEPOSITS SHOW GAIN OF \$14,500,000 IN YEAR.

Total Resources of 26 Institutions in City March 5 Reported as Being \$109,609,573.50.

SALEM, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—"Total deposits in the 26 banks and trust companies of Portland equaled \$72,823,181 on March 5, 1917, said Superintendent of Banks S. G. Sargent, in issuing the comparative statement on Portland banks today.

"This is an increase, as compared with a year ago, of approximately \$14,500,000 and a decrease since November of \$2,283,143.42.

"Postal savings deposits in Portland have increased \$404,540.83 during the year, while savings deposits in the banks show a slight decrease during the same period.

"With the increase of deposits there has been a corresponding increase in the credit extended by the banks, the loans showing an increase of \$12,835,578.69 since November 7, 1916, and an increase of \$2,091,282.05 since November 17, 1917.

It is of interest to note that not a single bank in Portland is using the Federal reserve bank for rediscounting purposes, yet on date of the call the rediscouts and bills payable, representing money borrowed, amounted to \$5,040,847.06, an increase of \$3,074,491.29 compared with the corresponding call of last year. However, this is not all the money borrowed, none of which are members of the Federal reserve system.

"Total cash in the Portland banks on March 5, 1917, was \$23,116,200, an increase of \$1,008,650.75 compared with a year ago.

"Total reserve held (not legal), including cash in other banks, amounted to \$29,725,114.70, or 34 per cent.

Total resources of the 26 banks and trust companies of Portland on March 5, 1917, were \$109,609,573.50, an increase of \$17,560,810.84 compared with March 5, 1916, and a decrease of \$9,575,662 since the last statement compiled in this office under date of November 17, 1916."

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Smith and Jasper O'Brien Made Sensational Flight After Filing Bars of Isolation Cells.

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Smith, with Jasper O'Brien, was central figure in one of the sensational breaks at the prison. He and O'Brien were confined in the isolation cells, but fled and saved their way out. Bed clothing was tied together, and an improvised hook at one end was caught on top of the prison wall. While the wall guard had his back turned they scaled the wall.

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LUMBER DEMAND FELT

CALIFORNIA SENDS HEAVY ORDERS TO TIDEWATER MILLS.

Cut Reported by Associated Plants for Week 73,500,000 Feet and Wants Are 83,500,000 Feet.

Unexpected demands from California served to strengthen the lumber market in Oregon and Washington last week.

Tidewater mills in the two states took on upwards of 16,000,000 feet during the week, a 25 per cent increase over any previous week of the last eight months.

While this buying movement is somewhat unusual for the mill operators, it is explained by the probability that the California yards practically have been out of the market for the last few weeks, and the southern dealers want to lay in supplies on the present basis.

Relatives compiled last week by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association show that 135 mills out an aggregate of 73,532,797 feet, which was 23 per cent below normal cutting possibilities. New business amounted to 83,500,000 feet, of which 1984 carloads, or 49,700,000 feet, came mostly from transcontinental markets, 27,686,909 feet from coastwise and overseas markets and 6,170,189 feet from home markets, such as shipbuilding and local construction.

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