

The Aim

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Coos Bay Times

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Armies

of Europe are engaged in a death struggle which may change the map of the world. Each day brings new developments of vital importance. Keep yourself posted—read News that is News—subscribe for The Times and "wise up."

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No. 185

SKERRETT RELEASED ON BONDS ON ARSON CHARGE TODAY

Local Men Unite in Securing Release of Accused Bunker Hill Man

ALLEN FEARED MOB SEEKING SKERRETT

Removed From City and Placed Under Special Guard Last Night

SKERRETT'S BONDSMEN

Ten bondsmen put up a bond of \$3000 shortly before noon today and Charles Skerrett was immediately released to appear in the Justice Court tomorrow afternoon at 10 o'clock, the time for the examination having been changed. The bondsmen are S. C. Small, John Johnson, E. L. Robinson, F. Allen, W. J. Brown, William Rust, Harry Winkler, John H. Stadden and T. Anderson, each bondsmen qualifying in the sum of \$300.

Concurrent rumblings against Skerrett coupled with a report from Mayor Allen that he might be attempted on Skerrett, charged with arson left in the city jail during the night, Sheriff Alfred Johnson removed the prisoner to the city hall about supper time and he was guarded during the night in the city jail.

Mayor Allen has been arrested and he is going to have his extradition here; he will be taken to town only after that time," the Sheriff, and he meant it.

Mayor Allen Fearful Sheriff Johnson said that Mayor and Deputy Doane came to him last evening and Mr. Allen requested that Skerrett be taken to the city jail as he was feared a mob might attempt to take him.

Immediately Sheriff Johnson deposited Walter Condon and had Skerrett taken to a room in The Chandler. He kept there all night, being guarded by Mr. Condon even during sleeping hours.

Sheriff Johnson occupied the adjoining room.

No Threats Heard

Sheriff Johnson and Coroner Wilcox immediately after Mayor Allen had Mr. Johnson of the reported that from Bunker Hill, left for the Hill. They spent an hour or there talking with different people trying to get a line on the post-organization of a mob. Neither was able to get the slightest inkling of a thing. They returned late this evening.

It was stated by parties from Bunker Hill that many there were in favor of the charges against Skerrett.

It was reported that the removal of possible mob trouble that had Mayor Allen was started by the end of Skerrett who did not want to be kept in the city jail all night. This is the case he figured well.

Came from Pontiac

It seems that Skerrett came originally from Pontiac, Mich. It is not known that he came direct from Pontiac to the Bay. It was stated this morning that he was located in Canada for a time before engaging in the auto line business at Bunker Hill. His past record will probably be checked pretty thoroughly.

Skerrett is pretty well up in Masonry having joined the organization coming to Coos Bay. Members at order were largely instrumental in securing bonds for him today. Tomorrow at one o'clock in the Justice Court is the time set for examination that will probably be conducted by Attorney George Perkins for the state.

Charles Skerrett will have to explain and clear up several situations that may secure his freedom. His friends say that he will have no trouble in doing this.

No Trace of Books

The fact that he has sworn all books were burned in the destruction of a week ago, coupled with the fact that the searching party had been unable to find any trace of books near the spot where fire

Skerrett's room was located has aided materially in pointing a suspicioning arm toward the accused, according to the investigators, whose report was instrumental in causing his arrest.

Money found on his person after his arrest, amounting in greenbacks to \$570, which he claimed several times he did not have, may be account for, his friends believe, in a satisfactory manner. Skerrett owed several people in the city, his bills aggregating about two thousand dollars. According to law money or property owned by a man may be attached by creditors, though any money carried on the person is always exempt. It is this explanation that will probably go a great way in freeing Skerrett.

A writ of attachment amounting to about \$1100 was made yesterday by Attorneys Peck & Peck on the \$576 that was taken from Skerrett at the time of his arrest yesterday morning. Whether it will be possible to secure the money is a disputed point of law. Papers are already drawn up for another attachment of at least \$300 and it is said more are pending.

According to the Oregon law money taken from a prisoner held on a civil charge cannot be attached. This much is clear, but inasmuch as the charge of arson is a criminal one, a decision will probably have to be made in the courts. Another interesting point has come up in connection with the arson charge. According to the law of this state any person who shall "of premeditated malice in the commission of arson kill another, such person shall be deemed guilty of murder in the first degree."

It has been generally understood that the Bunker Hill auto line was one of the best paying auto services. However Skerrett seems to have been simply accumulating debts while running it. He paid only \$250 on his auto, owing about \$1150 and interest on the cars. Besides this he owes \$300 repair bill, a gasoline bill and other claims. Several attorneys have hatches of claims against him.

Sheriff Johnson said today that he had turned over the \$575 found on Skerrett's person to C. F. McKnight who has been retained to defend Skerrett. Mr. McKnight gave him a receipt for it. Whether this can be attached Sheriff Johnson does not know.

Liljeqvist is Coming

Sheriff Alfred Johnson was in communication with District Attorney Liljeqvist at Roseburg last night about Skerrett's case. He told him briefly the nature of it. Mr. Liljeqvist said that he would try to reach Marshfield early Friday morning to be here for the preliminary and in case he should be delayed, he would like to have it continued until he gets here. Sheriff Johnson will endeavor to arrange this. As Skerrett is now out on bond, it is probable that there will be no opposition to delaying the hearing if necessary.

The grand jury meets in April so that it will not be long until he can be secured on it.

Gets More Attorneys

This afternoon it was announced that Graves & McInturf had been engaged to assist C. F. McKnight in defending Skerrett. Mr. Graves said that there would be a preliminary, indicating that Skerrett would not waive it. He said that the circumstantial evidence against Skerrett could be easily explained. He said that Skerrett felt deeply humiliated, but hoped that he would not be judged until he had a chance to defend himself.

Missing Money Marked

According to an unverified report in circulation, a considerable amount of money belonging to the father of Geo. Craig, who was one of the victims, has not been found. This money is said to have been marked.

Funerals Held Today

The five remaining victims of the fire, Luis Kalowonski, S. E. Lewis, W. S. Glover, Louis Pappas and Roy Askew were buried this morning in the I. O. O. F. cemetery, a short service being held at the graves. The bodies were in such condition that it was impossible to tell who was who. The only means of establishing the identity of the bodies was their positions when found in the ruins.

English Irate at Suggestion That She End German Blockade

SUBMARINES OF GERMANY TO AUSTRIA

GENEVA, Feb. 25.—Three new German submarines arrived by railroad yesterday at Pola, Austria-Hungary, and will soon begin operations, not only in the Adriatic, but in the Mediterranean. According to a newspaper dispatch from Munich, the Germans are arranging to send several submarines to Austria.

BERLIN TELLS OF RUSSIAN LOSSES

German Claim to Have Captured 15,000 Lately—Russian Troops Gain On Point

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The official report today says: "In Champagne yesterday, the enemy continued the desperate efforts, which, despite strong forces, were again unsuccessful."

"In the East, on the Memel, Bahr and Narew Rivers, the engagements were continued. Przasnysz, in Russian Poland, which is extensively fortified, was stormed yesterday by the East Prussian Reserves. After a stubborn fight we were victorious and captured more than 10,000 prisoners, over 50 cannon, a large number of machine guns and a very large amount of war material. In other engagements north of the Vistula in the last few days we have taken 5000 prisoners."

"South of the Vistula, the Russians advanced to Mogily and occupied this position. Their forces outnumbered ours five to one. "It is characteristic that the commander of the Fifty-seventh Russian Reserve Division, taken prisoner on August 2, asked the German officers whether it was true that Antwerp was being besieged by the Germans and soon would fall. When the situation was explained, he refused to believe that the German army was on French soil."

CONGRESS ENDS IN ONLY SIX DAYS

Democrats Endeavor to Pass Supply Measures in Last Days of Session

EXTRA SESSION OF SENATE TALKED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The possibility of an extra session of the Senate alone after March 4th, for the consideration of treaties and nominations was discussed today among administration leaders. While White House officials refused to discuss the matter, it was known that President Wilson was giving the subject consideration.

Official Statement From Paris Outlines Defeats of the German Forces

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The official statement today says: "Near Lombers, our artillery demolished a blackhouse. In Champagne we maintained new positions we won yesterday. All the enemy's counter attacks were repulsed. Our aviators threw sixty bombs on the railway stations, trains and concentration camps. The German attack at Marletheres, in Argonne, was checked. In Cheppy wood we made further progress. The enemy were unable to retake the trenches captured by us."

EVERY SCANDINAVIAN man or woman, whether they are Norwegians, Swedes, Danes or Finns, should make it a point to HEAR B. B. HAUGAN'S LECTURE ON SUNDAY at three o'clock. The admission is free.

Great Britain Does Not Wish to Give up Absolute Blockade if Desired

AMERICAN NOTE IS CAUSE OF ANXIETY

Berlin Silent as to American Overture of Adjustment Between Nations

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—According to dispatches from North Sea ports, the Norwegian steamer Orla, when coming through the English channel, sighted a quantity of wreckage in which were to be seen British military uniforms. They were supposed to be from the British transport that had been sent to the bottom.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The proposals of Washington to Great Britain and Germany, which in London are assumed to embrace the abandonment of Germany's self declared war zone and the adoption by the belligerents of a definite policy regarding foodstuffs for civilians, have noticeably quickened public interest both in this country and in Germany, in this delicate diplomatic situation.

The press of England is generally restrained in tone, but the average Englishman plainly resents what he considers a hint at an attempt to interfere with the absolute blockade of Germany should England attempt to enforce this.

In the meantime and in spite of the sinking of various British merchantmen, Great Britain still holds off from declaring the food destined to Germany to be contraband. It is believed that if this step is taken, it will be postponed until the American proposals are discussed at length. Just what this proposal is, the public here and in Berlin are unaware.

GERMANS ARE SILENT

Conference of Kaiser's Leaders Kept Secret at Berlin.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—Nothing has been made known up to the present of the conference of German statesmen last night to discuss the American identical notes on marine warfare and the feeding of civilians, sent by the United States to Germany and Great Britain.

No further details are given out of the reported sinking of a British transport by a German submarine. It is explained here that the submarine sent only a brief wireless message.

The crew of the American steamer Evelyn apparently reached Bremerhaven, the second boat having been picked up by Germans there. Neither the American Embassy nor the German Admiralty have yet received a detailed report concerning the loss of the Carib. The circumstances under which these two ships were wrecked are being investigated.

FRENCH TELL OF GAINS IN EAST

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GERMANS SAY BIG VICTORY IN POLAND

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Another important victory over the Russians is announced by the German War Office today in the capture of the Polish city of Przasnysz. They say this was the heaviest fighting in Northern Poland since the expulsion of the Russians from East Prussia occurred in the vicinity of this city and the fall resulted in the capture of more than 10,000 Russians.

French and German official communications indicate that the calm on the western front is unbroken. The French attacks in Champagne continue without important results. Petrograd denies Germany's claim to an overwhelming victory in East Prussia, in the Carpathians, the Russians claim successes in small engagements. A newspaper dispatch claims the Russians have reinvaded Bukowina and reoccupied Sadagora, four miles north of Czeronowitz.

ENGLISH VESSELS SENT TO BOTTOM

Two More Merchantmen Sunk By German Submarines or Mines—Transport Gone

LONDON, Feb. 25.—One sailor lost his life when the British steamer Deptford, 1298 tons, was sent to the bottom in twenty minutes, either by a German torpedo or mine in the North Sea yesterday off Scarborough. Fifteen other members of the crew were landed at South Shields this morning.

The carpenter of the Deptford lost his life. After hours in an open and leaking boat in a snow storm, the men say they signalled a steamer, but no notice was taken of them. Later, however, they encountered the steamer Fulgens, which brought them into South Shields. Some members of the crew say they saw the wake of a submarine after the Deptford was struck.

SINK COASTING STEAMER

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The small British coasting steamer Western Coast, was sunk by a mine or torpedo in the English channel off Beach Head. The crew landed at Portsmouth today.

WANT TROOPS TO CAPTURE PIUTES

Utah Cattlemen Urging Strenuous Steps to Apprehend Indian Outlaws

SALT LAKE CITY, Feb. 25.—Indian Agent Croel and Assistant District Attorney Cook are in conference today with United States Marshall Nebeker and others at Bluff regarding the best method to apprehend the hostile Piutes. Cattle owners are urging that troops be rushed in at once.

JAPAN DAY AT SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—This is Japan's day at the Panama Pacific Exposition. Impressive and unusual ceremonies marked the dedication of the Japanese pavilions and gardens.

The Marshfield Quadrille Club will give a dance in the Eagle Hall Feb. 27 with old time dances and the latest up-to-date dances—good times assured. Everybody invited.

ENGLAND APPROVES RUSSIA'S PLAN TO GAIN ACCESS TO SEA BY WAR

JOHNSON AND WILLARD FIGHT CALLED OFF

TORONTO, Ont., Feb. 25.—Tom Flanagan, who trained Jack Johnson for his fight with Jeffries at Reno, announced today he received a cablegram from Johnson at Havana, in which the negro said he had called off the fight with Jess Willard, set for March 6th, at Juarez, and that the fight would take place in Havana. He said there was no chance to reach Juarez.

J. S. BARTON GUILTY OF SIMPLE ASSAULT

Coquille Man Convicted of Lesser Crime Against Madge Yoakam at Roseburg

PENALTY \$50 TO \$500 OR YEAR IN JAIL

ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 25.—Jesse Barton was late last night found guilty of simple assault by a jury here after a deliberation of five hours. He will be sentenced Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

The penalty is a fine of from \$50 to \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year. He will probably be fined. The decision relative to an appeal to the Supreme Court will be withheld pending the passing of sentence. Most of the witnesses left for their homes at Coos Bay early today, among them being District Attorney Liljeqvist, who prosecuted the case.

(Special to The Times.)

ROSEBURG, Or., Feb. 25.—The jury in the case of J. S. Barton, former state representative from Coos County, who was indicted for assault on Miss Madge Yoakam, an employee in his office at Coquille a few years ago, returned a verdict of guilty of simple assault. The jury was out only about three hours.

Barton at the previous trial in Coquille was convicted of criminal assault and was sentenced to state's prison, but the conviction was reversed by the Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial. On the grounds that he could not get a fair and impartial trial in Coos County, he was allowed a change of venue to Douglas County.

Barton and his friends had confidently expected that he would be acquitted on this trial. District Attorney Liljeqvist of Coquille, who conducted the prosecution this time, made a strong fight against odds and the conviction of Barton, even for the lesser crime is regarded as a decided victory for him. At one time it was said that the jury voted nine to three for acquittal.

Sentence will be pronounced Friday morning. It is expected that Barton will escape with a fine. Most of the Coos County witnesses in the case left this morning for home, some going via Eugene and Florence and others direct to Coquille via Myrtle Point.

AUSTRIAN NAVY SHELLS MONTENEGRINS

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—(Via Wireless.)—The Austro-Hungarian warships yesterday left the Cattaro Channel, according to a dispatch to the Overseas News Agency, and steamed along the Montenegrin coast, shelling the Montenegrin positions for a period of half an hour.

Foreign Secretary Grey Makes Important Announcement in House of Commons

CZAR DESIRES TO GAIN CONSTANTINOPLE OUTLET

Declaration Considered Most Far Reaching in Political Importance in War

LONDON, Feb. 25.—A declaration in the House of Commons today by Sir Edward Grey constituted perhaps the most important political development since the opening of the war. The Foreign Secretary announced that Great Britain was in sympathy with Russia's aspiration for access to the sea. He referred to Russia's hope of obtaining Constantinople as a result of the war with Turkey.

TURKS WIN BATTLE.

Report That They Have Repulsed Russians in Caucasus.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—Reports today from Constantinople say that the Russian attack east of Artvin, Trans-Caucasus, has been beaten off by the Turks with heavy losses to the enemy. The Russians also were driven from the region of Elmali in Asia Minor where the Turks captured a quantity of war material.

DACIA NEARS END OF GERMAN TRIP

Vessel Within 400 Miles of Destination February 23—Message Received Today

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—The steamship Dacia, which sailed from Norfolk February 11, for Rotterdam, with cotton, in the face of the assertion that she would be seized by British warships inasmuch as she had been a German vessel at the outbreak of the war, almost completed her trip across the Atlantic February 23, according to a message received today. The message said that the Dacia was 400 miles west of Lands End, England, on that date.

PORTLAND WOMEN VICTIMS OF AUTO

Mrs. Miles Bell and Mrs. M. F. Rule on Great Northern Trip Killed in Honolulu

HONOLULU, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Miles Bell and Mrs. M. F. Rule, passengers on an excursion liner of the Great Northern, together with a native chauffeur, were killed last night in an automobile accident on the road to Kilauea Volcano, Hilo. Both were residents of Portland, Oregon.

CHANGE MADE IN DEFENSE BOARDS

War Department Abolishes Several and Creates New General One.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 23.—Five special reference boards were abolished by the War Department orders promulgated today. The work hereafter will be directed by a general board of review composed of from five to seven officers, who will make recommendations regarding the country's defenses. The boards abolished are the Cape Henry, Long Island and Philippine defense board, the National Land defense board and the Panama fortification board.