

Coos Bay Times

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Aim

The aim to be always bright, wholesome and interesting, keeps the contents of The Times up to its high standard of news excellence.

The Armies

of Europe are engaged in a death struggle which may change the map of the world.

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CLAIM EVIDENCE THAT CIGARETTE CAUSED BUNKER HILL FIRE

C. F. McKnight and R. O. Graves Announce Roamer Admits Causing Fire

NAME OF ROAMER IS WITHHELD BY THEM

Says Foreigner Was Smoking in Bed—Time Given Differs From Time of Alarm

Discovery of the cause of the Bunker Hill fire, the knowledge of the man in whose room it started and testimony that in every way exonerates Charles Skerrett from any implication was announced this morning from the offices of C. F. McKnight and Graves & McInturf, attorneys for the defense at the recent hearing.

"The man had been smoking a cigarette in bed," said Mr. McKnight this morning "and the stub he threw away, carelessly, and went down from his room on the second floor, to the first floor, for a drink of water. When he returned, according to this man's own statement made in the presence of four disinterested witnesses, he found his room ablaze and so full of smoke that he fled leaving behind his clothes, watch and money."

"There was absolutely no criminal intent. The fire was a careless accident. The man is a foreigner. He did not understand that his testimony would help in clearing up the trouble. We have his name and the names of the four witnesses to whom he told the story."

"I went down stairs about 1 o'clock after a drink of water and came back in about ten minutes and my room was all on fire. There was so much smoke I could not holler. I did not have time to get my watch or money." This is the statement the attorneys give from the man who claims the fire started in his room.

The fire alarm was turned in at ten minutes to 2 o'clock or nearly three-quarters of an hour after the fire witness claims that he discovered it.

The name of the man is not made public, according to the attorneys, for the reason that it would affect further actions at law, meaning damage suits that may be started against the C. A. Smith Company, declaring them criminally liable for the alleged poor construction of the building.

Craig Tells Jurymen,

"Where did this news come from and why was it not produced at the trial?" was the question asked.

"George W. Craig, proprietor of the boarding house, found out this information himself and immediately came up to tell us about it. That was last Friday after Charles Skerrett had been arrested and immediately before his hearing in the justice court on Saturday.

"Mr. Craig came hurrying up the street and on the way to our offices he met Walter Condon, of the Coroner's jury and also the deputy who guarded Skerrett while he was under arrest. Condon was told the story. Not a bit of this information came out in the hearing on Saturday and Sunday, through the state's witnesses or the District Attorney. We can't imagine the reason for keeping secret the information that would free an innocent man charged with the crime of arson and incidentally the murder of seven men.

Fire on Second Floor. According to the story of James Hammond, said Mr. McKnight, the statement has been made under oath that he declared the fire started next to room five which he occupied on the second floor. This would be room 3, occupied by the man who it is claimed unintentionally started the fire.

Both rooms are at the head of the stairs on the second floor and just off the lobby. The room occupied by Charles Skerrett was on the first floor and in the north end of the building. "Remnants of the purse that contained the paper money, said by some to have been stolen, have been found by Ben Mathison," declared R. O. Graves. "This in itself will show

ED QUINN FOUND DEAD AT BROOKINGS

Logger, Well Known on Coos Bay for Many Battles with John Barleycorn, Dies

(Special to The Times.)

GOLD BEACH, Or., March 5.—Ed Quinn, a logger, single, 43 years old, was found dead on the railroad track about a mile from the ferry at Brookings, by Mr. Driscoll, foreman of Camp No. 2 of the Brookings Company.

Mr. Quinn had been working for the company for some time, but quit on Washington's birthday and went to Crescent City, where he proceeded to spend what money he had for booze, and came back to Brookings to sober up and get a job and go to work. He stopped at the Antlers Hotel a few days, and left the hotel and started for Camp No. 2, and was found dead as stated.

Justice Benham held an inquest at which Dr. Saunders was an expert medical witness. The verdict of the jury was that the deceased, Ed Quinn, came to his death from heart failure, caused by the excessive use of liquor.

ED QUINN KNOWN HERE.

It is believed that the Ed Quinn found dead near Brookings is the Ed Quinn who for the past two years has been frequently in police court in Marshfield. Almost invariably he was broke and the fines imposed on him were charged. Quinn worked in the different camps of the Smith-Powers Company. He was of the typical hobo type, excessive drinking having robbed him of his better self. At times, he would reform and work steadily for months and a few days in town would see his savings all gone. Then he became a "moocher" and finally was placed on the black list. He has not been around Marshfield since about Christmas time and is believed to have gone South. He had wandered all over the country and came to Coos County originally from California.

The name of the man is not made public, according to the attorneys, for the reason that it would affect further actions at law, meaning damage suits that may be started against the C. A. Smith Company, declaring them criminally liable for the alleged poor construction of the building.

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GIRL LONG SOUGHT IS DEAD IN PARK

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 4.—An autopsy in the case of Lillian May Cook, the 18-year-old Brooklyn stenographer whose body was found in the park here yesterday, was to be performed today. The Coroner has declared that Miss Cook, for whom the police of three states searched for a week, committed suicide. An autopsy was ordered to determine her physical condition when she sent the bullet into her heart.

Miss Cook's employer, Virginia J. Mayo, who as head of the Mayo Radiator Company, resided here with his wife and supported in a house in Brooklyn a woman who formerly occupied the position held by Miss Cook, said that in offering a reward for information concerning the whereabouts of Miss Cook he was prompted by a desire to aid her family.

the purse was not stolen.

"Also great heaps of books were found in the location that had been Skerrett's room. The men later poked through the books, stirred them while they burned. Two boxes full of remnants were picked up as evidence and all the rest destroyed. Ward Blake at the Smith mill found many partly burned volumes in the ruins."

G. W. Craig said today that he did not know the last name of the roamer whose cigarette is said to have caused the fire. He said his first name was Gus. Mr. Skerrett said that he informed Walter Condon of the whole matter and that Mr. Condon immediately left them to lay it before Geo. Watkins who was then looking after the state's case.

Campaign for Dardanelles Now Overshadows All Others

RUSSIAN FLEET TO AID ATTACK

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, Mar. 4.—The Russian Black Sea fleet is steaming toward the Bosphorus, says a dispatch from Rome. A Bucharest correspondent (telegraphs that the Russian fleet has passed Burgas, Bulgaria.

Conflicting Reports From Allies, Russians and Turks Regarding Situation

RUSSIANS TO JOIN ALLIES IN ASSAULT

Begin Attack on Bosphorus From Baltic—Allies Continue Shooting

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, March 5.—Although the assault of the Allied fleet on the Dardanelles is continuing, there is such a confusion of reports that it is impossible to gain a clear idea of what has been accomplished. The Turkish authorities admit that some damage has been done to the outer forts, but state that the defenses on which main reliance was placed were still intact. From British sources it is reported that the Allied fleet penetrated well into the straits and that the inner fortifications were badly damaged.

While the Anglo-French fleet is striking at the Dardanelles, the Russian sea fleet will attack the approaches to Constantinople from the East, according to unofficial reports which say the Russian fleet is steaming toward the Bosphorus.

War on Land.

Berlin today says the French left more than 1000 dead before the German entanglement as a result of several attacks yesterday north-east of Celles. Paris reports the recapture of the trenches lost to the Germans last Wednesday near Notre Dame De Lorette.

In the Eastern campaign, the Russian offensive continues, but without definite results.

MEXICO CITY FOOD SUPPLY ORDER SHARP

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 4.—The food situation in Mexico City has been further complicated by a new decree of General Obregon, ordering all merchants in the capital to open their shops and accept the Constitutionalist currency.

The Spanish Ambassador discussed the situation with the State Department officials and Secretary Bryan took the latest official dispatches to the Cabinet meeting.

URGES QUICK RELIEF

After receiving the latest report, Secretary Bryan dispatched an urgent message to Consul Silliman at Vera Cruz, telling him to make the strongest possible representations to Carranza, urging him to take some action which might relieve the dangers threatening Mexico City.

CARRANZA FORCE DEFEATED AGAIN

VILLA TROOPS REPORT VICTORY NEAR SABINES—MANY SLAIN IN HEAVY FIGHTING

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Heavy fighting between the Villa and Carranza forces near Sabines in which the Carranza forces lost many and retreated after cutting off one column of Villa troops, is reported today to the State Department.

WILSON TO DELAY TRIP TO EXPOSITION

President Postpones Visit to San Francisco Fair Until Later in Summer

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5.—President Wilson practically has decided not to go to the San Francisco exposition this month, but will go later in the summer. He wants to stay in Washington to keep in close touch with the European situation at the present stage.

SAYS SHIPS SUNK BY MINE FIELDS

Commander Gherardis Denies That False Directions Were Given Commanders

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 4. Commander Gherardis' supplementary report on the investigation of the sinking of the American steamers Carib and Evelyn in the North Sea, received today from Berlin, says: "Both boats were sunk by mines. No false directions were given by the British. The boats simply ran on the mine fields."

MIDDLE WEST IS BLIZZARD SWEEPED

Four to Seventeen Inches of Snow in Oklahoma and in Middle Western States

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

CHICAGO, March 5.—A blizzard that swept portions of the Middle West and Southwest last night reached Chicago today. Reports from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas told of a snow fall of from four to seventeen inches. Traffic is seriously affected and many wires are down.

DUM DUM BULLETS

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 4.—Investigation of the alleged manufacture of dum dum bullets in the United States for the use of the Allies has been undertaken by the State Department with the result of the submission of new evidence by the German Embassy.

FEAR 175 LOST IN VIRGINIA MINE

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

HINTON, W. V., March 4.—Five more bodies were taken from the coal mine today at Layland, where a gas explosion killed probably 175 men. The total list of recovered bodies is now 44.

PLATYRIA RELEASED

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

NEW YORK, Mar. 5.—The Standard Oil Co. received a cable today saying that the tank steamer Platyria has been released.

Easter Hat display, CLARKE MILLINERY, Central Ave., Friday and Saturday, MARCH 5 and 6.

BE WISE AND ATTEND THE OWLS BALL, EAGLES HALL, SAT. EVE., MARCH 6.

CREW IS LANDED

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

DOVER, England, Mar. 4.—The crew of the U-8, numbering 29, was landed at Dover today and taken to Dover Castle under an armed escort. The U-8 was smaller than the latest German submarines, her displacement under water being only 300 tons.

AUSTRIANS LOSING AGAIN IN BUKOWINA

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, March 4.—The Bucharest correspondent of the Evening News telegraphs that Russian offensive movements in Galicia have forced the Austrians to evacuate Czernowith, the capital of Bukowina, and says that the main Austrian forces in this region retired in the direction of Franzenthal.

SAN FRANCISCO GIRL HONORED IN WAR

Miss Josephine Redding, Red Cross Nurse, Gets Legion of Honor Cross

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

SAN FRANCISCO, March 5.—Miss Josephine Redding, a San Francisco girl, who is a trained nurse in the Red Cross service of the French army, has been awarded the Cross of the Legion of Honor, by the French government, according to word received by her parents. The honor, bestowed for bravery on the battle field, is said to have been recommended by General Joffre, commander in chief of the French army.

SALEM MEN DIE AFTER FAILURE

Pres. John Pemerton and Supt. Ralph W. Feeney, of Defunct Insurance Co.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

SALEM, Or., March 4.—John Pemerton, until recently president of the Horticultural Fire Relief of Oregon, which has gone into the hands of a receiver, died here suddenly today. A physician pronounced his death was due to heart trouble. Ralph W. Feeney, superintendent of the same company, committed suicide in Portland yesterday as a result, it is believed, of worry over the failure.

MEXICO CITY FACES REIGN OF LOOTERS

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 4.—Secretary Bryan and Ambassador Dagama, of Brazil, conferred today over the reports that General Obregon is threatening to evacuate Mexico City, cutting the water supply, and that looting may begin. Three hundred merchants who resisted Obregon's decree to open the stores were imprisoned.

MRS. ROBERT McCANN of North Bend was in Marshfield yesterday en route to South Coos River where she will visit at the home of her daughter, Mrs. E. George Smith.

GERMANS AND TURKS DENY DARDANELLES ABOUT TO FALL

TWO SUBMARINE SUNK BY ALLIES

English Admiralty Confirms Reports of German Craft Being Sent to Bottom

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

ANOTHER SUNK

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

PARIS, March 4.—The Ministry of Marine today gave out a statement to the effect that a German submarine of the U-2 type, was fired upon by a French cruiser in the English channel yesterday. The submarine plunged and no further trace of her was found.

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

LONDON, March 5.—The British Admiralty confirmed today the reports of the sinking of two German submarines, the U-8 which the French Admiralty previously announced had been destroyed by a torpedo boat, and an unidentified submarine, rammed by the collier Thordis.

The text of the Admiralty's statement is "The Nordis has not been examined in drydock and injuries to her keel and propeller confirms the evidence of the crew that on February 28 the Thoris, bound from Blyth to Plymouth, rammed and in all probability sunk a German submarine, which had fired a torpedo at her. Yesterday afternoon the German submarine U-8 was sunk in the channel off Dover by French destroyers and the officers and crew were taken prisoners."

SUBMARINE SINKS TWO FREIGHTERS

American Ship from Galveston Reaches Bremen and Reports Disasters

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

BREMEN, March 5.—The destruction of two freighters by a submarine in the English Channel was witnessed by the captain of an American ship the Gulfport, from Galveston, which arrived in The Weser Thursday with a cargo of cotton, according to the Morgen Post. One of the sunken vessels was loaded with rice and the other with coal, while the captain says he passed safely through the mine fields by following the directions issued by the German Admiralty.

RAILROAD RATE HEARING OPENS

Western Lines Claim They Must Be Allowed Increase to Give Better Service

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

CHICAGO, March 4.—That the railroads operating throughout the West must be permitted to earn more if they are to keep pace with the public's demand for increased service, was the substance of testimony given before Interstate Commerce Commissioner Daniels today in the hearing of the application of 41 Western railroads for increased freight rates.

S. M. Felton, president of the Chicago Great Western, resumed his testimony under cross examination by an attorney for the shippers who oppose the increases. Felton denied his road was so prosperous it did not need the increased rates and asserted that the railroads should be assured a reasonable profit.

Berlin Announcement Says Three British Warships Were Badly Damaged

CLAIMS THEY ARE NOW AT SALONIKI

Says Direct Reports From Forts Do Not Indicate That Allies Fleet Has Gained

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

BERLIN, March 5.—(Wireless to Sayville.)—Dispatches from Constantinople continues to controvert the report being given out in London concerning the damage done to the Dardanelles forts as a result of the persistent bombardment. Two Turkish newspapers, Etilan and Tasfir Ekkfir, published reports of witnesses of these operations, who declare that three British warships were badly damaged and have been lying in the port of Saloniki for a week. One of these is the Spur, whose smoke stacks were shot away and the machinery destroyed.

FRENCH GAINS ON GERMANS AT ARRAS

Paris Claims to Have Recaptured Lost Trenches—Successes Elsewhere

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

PARIS, March 5.—The official statement this afternoon says: "North of Arras, near Notre Dame De Lorette, we recaptured most of the advance trenches we lost Wednesday. The enemy again bombarded Rheims cathedral. In Champagne there is nothing new since yesterday. In the Argonne at Vauquois we repulsed two counter attacks and made new progress, inflicting appreciable losses and taking many prisoners. We are masters of the greater part of the villages."

GERMANY CLAIMS MANY VICTORIES

Announces French and British Troops Repulsed in West and Russians in East

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

BERLIN, March 5.—(Wireless to Sayville.)—The official statement today says: "South of Ypres we inflicted considerable loss on the British with artillery fire. In the positions in the Lorette Hills, which we took from the French, a counter attack was repulsed yesterday. In Champagne, the French continued their attacks north of Le Mesnil, but were repulsed. Attacks on our positions at Vauquois and in the Cosensvoys forest failed. All attempts to dispute our possession of the ground captured the last few days at Badonviller district failed. An attack undertaken last night on the heights northeast of Celles broke down with heavy losses to the French. Several night attacks were also unsuccessful and over a thousand Frenchmen are lying before our entanglements. The situation around Grodno, in Northern Poland, remains unchanged. Russian attacks northeast and north of Lomza failed. Many prisoners of the First and Second divisions of Russian Guards were captured. A few advances by the Russians east of Plock were unsuccessful and strong night attacks executed by the enemy east of Skernewice failed completely."

OVER 1,000,000 AT SAN FRANCISCO FAIR

(By Associated Press to Coos Bay Times.)

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 4.—Shortly before noon today the million mark in attendance was passed at the Panama-Pacific Exposition. The largest single day's attendance was 246,000, on the opening day.