

"IT'S ALL HERE  
and  
IT'S ALL TRUE"



# Oregon Journal



THE WEATHER  
Tonight and  
Thursday occa-  
sional rain  
southerly winds.  
Humidity at  
noon 72 per cent.

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PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 7, 1917.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

PRICE TWO CENTS

## PRESIDENT WILSON DECIDES TO AUTHORIZE ARMING OF MERCHANT SHIPS FLYING STARS AND STRIPES

### Chief Executive Plans to Deal With U-Boat Problem, Fortified With Opinion of Attorney General That Power Exists, Even Though Congressional Approval Has Been Withheld.

## WILSON HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH SIX SENATORS AT WHITE HOUSE

### Every Eventuality That Proposed Move May Bring Is Said to Have Been Weighed With Utmost Care by the Administration.

By John Edwin Nevin.

Washington, March 7.—(U. S. S.)—American merchant ships are to be armed by the United States government and sent on their voyages to the ports of the seven seas regardless of submarine, "unarmed zones" and other obstacles which the war has placed in the path of American commerce.

President Wilson definitely decided on this step today. Fortified with the opinion of the attorney general that he has the authority to make such a move with the approval of administration supporters in congress and the legal advisers of the government, the president is convinced that he is acting within his rights, even though the congressional approval which he sought before the death of the Sixty-fourth congress was withheld.

The president called to the White House this morning six Democratic senators who have been active in behalf of administration measures—Owen of Oklahoma, Walsh of Montana, Swanson of Virginia, Smith of Georgia, Reed of Missouri and James of Kentucky—and informed them of his decision. He also took up with them and approved the proposition of changing the statutes toward a modified form of cloture which will hereafter prevent any "little group of wilful men" from holding up legislation vitally affecting the nation.

With the president's decision to arm merchant vessels, the break with Austria, which looked to be temporary, averted by the conciliatory tone of the latest Austrian note, again becomes imminent. The Austrian government flatly stated that it considered the arming of American vessels in direct contradiction to international law, and declared in effect that its submarines would feel at perfect liberty to sink them. Should it do this, a diplomatic break could not be averted.

## 'OVERT ACT' ONLY TO CAUSE A BREAK WITH AUSTRIA AT PRESENT

### Arming of Merchant Ships Is One Point of Discord Between the Two Nations.

By John Edwin Nevin.

Washington, March 7.—(U. S. S.)—There will be no diplomatic break with Austria at present—unless the submarines of the dual monarchy force the hand of President Wilson by some "overt act," in which American lives are endangered. This was stated authoritatively today after officials had digested the reply of the Austrian government to this government's inquiry concerning her attitude on the submarine warfare as conducted by Germany.

The note which was before President Wilson today, is most conciliatory in tone. Officials realize that the position of the Austrian government is very delicate. On the one hand, it indorse the stand of Germany and at the same time do it in such a manner as not to offend the United States to the extent of a diplomatic rupture.

The one point on which the two governments are in discord is that of the arming of American merchant vessels.

"The Austria-Hungarian government is of the opinion that the arming of merchant vessels, even solely for defense, is not established by international law. They are to be regarded as pirate vessels which may be destroyed."

The paragraph from the Austrian reply may prove a stumbling block in the path of future good relations. President Wilson believes the right of this government to arm its merchant vessels is beyond question, in view of conditions, and it is said that he will go ahead regardless of the Austrian opinion as to its legality.

## Transport Dix Is Homeward Bound

Seattle, Wash., March 7.—(U. P.)—The Merchants Exchange here reported at 10 o'clock this morning that the army transport Dix is returning to Seattle under her own steam and is in no danger.

The Dix wirelessed S. O. last night, having had some trouble with her steering gear. The coast guard Snowdon picked up the message and went to the aid of the transport, which reported 360 miles southwest of Tacoma Island.

The Dix is bound for Manila via Honolulu. She has a crew of 150, a full cargo of stores and 800 horses.

## Two of "Wilful Senators" Are Given Rebuke

### Cummins and Gronna Are Dropped From Republican Steering Committee.

Washington, March 7.—(U. P.)—The first official rebuke by the senate to the "wilful senators" who block President Wilson's plan for placing the United States under "an armed neutrality" was seen today when the Republican caucus dropped support from their steering committee Senators Cummins and Gronna—two of the obstructionists.

The new Democratic steering committee was announced as follows:

Martin, Williams, James, Keed, Simmons, Smith (Georgia), Walsh, Thomas, Chamberlain, Owen and Robinson.

Senator Hitchcock was named vice chairman of the Democratic caucus. As such he becomes an ex-officio member of the steering committee.

## AMERICAN BUSINESS REALIZING CHINA IS ONE LAST BIG FIELD

### Samuel G. Blythe Returns to This Country After Several Months in the Orient.

American business has begun to realize that China is its one great and last-field of extensive development. With the stabilization of government under the new republic so that investments of American money may be protected, the opportunities for trade expansion are illimitable.

This is the impression brought back to America by Samuel G. Blythe, globe-trotting political and economic writer associated with the Saturday Evening Post, who arrived from China today after starting for his home in Washington, D. C., this afternoon after an absence of several months in the orient.

"Several great big hustling American corporations are now at work in China on a tremendous scale," said Mr. Blythe today. They are doing the pioneering work that is bound to be done by the smaller fellows who haven't the capital to begin now.

**Big Concerns Making Good.**

"The International corporation, headed by Frank A. Vanderlip of the National City bank, the Orient Mines company of Canada, the American bank, Siems-Carey Co. and the Lee Higginson Co. are some of them. The Standard Oil company and the British-American Tobacco company already have made good there in their special lines.

"The first great feat to be accomplished is the establishment of transportation systems. On a country that is as big as the United States and which combined there are now but 6000 miles of railways, and, accordingly, the enormous population of China is huddled along the rivers—the only highways.

"Access to the country inland is possible only in small carts and by camel. Transportation costs, therefore, are so enormous that development must wait until the rails are laid. The Standard Oil company sought to open a new oil field and found that it cost as much to haul the machinery from Tientsin as the original cost of machinery.

(Concluded on Page Five, Column Three)

## LEADER OF REVOLT IN CUBA AND HIS ENTIRE STAFF ARE CAPTURED

### Colonel Collazo, Government Commander, Surprises the Rebels Near Placetas.

Havana, March 7.—(U. P.)—General Gomez, leader of the revolt against President Menocal, and his entire staff were captured today by government troops.

Colonel Collazo, commanding the government troops which have been searching for Gomez, reported this afternoon that he surprised the revolutionists in camp near Placetas at 11 o'clock this morning.

Collazo's troops surrounded the rebels, he said, and attacked them. Gomez and his entire staff were captured in the running battle which followed.

Small bodies of men broke away from the Gomez band as the attack revealed overwhelming numbers against them, and escaped.

Collazo reported he was remaining at Placetas to pursue and round up the rebels.

Speedy execution of Gomez was predicted this afternoon as the news of the capture spread in Havana. Wildly cheering Latin soldiers collected about the president's palace shouting with wildest enthusiasm.

## Kern Is Slated for Joint Commission

Washington, March 7.—(U. P.)—Former Senator John W. Kern, Indiana Democratic leader in the Sixty-fourth congress, is slated to be nominated as a member of the joint international commission to fill a vacancy expected soon in the army.

President Wilson is understood to be ready to nominate Kern as soon as the vacancy occurs.

The paragraph attached to a seat on the international joint commission is \$7500 a year. The commission handles Canadian matters.

## Twenty-six Vessels Sunk in Past Week

London, March 7.—(U. P.)—Twenty-six merchant vessels have been sunk by mines or submarines during the past week, the official weekly announcement of sinkings made by the admiralty said this afternoon.

The report was as follows:

Merchant vessels over 1600 tons, sunk 14.

Vessels under 1600 tons, nine.

Fishing vessels sunk, three.

Unsuccessfully attacked by submarines, 12.

During the week 2528 ships arrived in British ports and sailings numbered 2477.

## Scott Reappointed As Chief of Staff

Washington, March 7.—(U. P.)—President Wilson today reappointed General Hugh L. Scott chief of staff of the army.

Reappointment was necessary, as the term of a chief of staff expires with the term of the president.

It was regarded as a significant view of General Scott's pronounced view in favor of universal military service.

## Government's Brief Is Filed In O. C. Land Case

### Asserts That Company Grossly Exceeded Rights in Sale of Lands, Granted.

Washington, March 7.—(U. P.)—The government today filed its brief in the supreme court in the Oregon-California land case, setting forth that the Oregon & California Railroad company had grossly exceeded its rights in disposing of thousands of acres of land in Oregon and Washington. About \$30,000,000 is involved in the suit.

The government in 1866 granted to the company thousands of acres on the condition that it was to be sold to settlers at a price not exceeding \$2.50 an acre and in lots not to exceed 160 acres. The government charges in its brief that the railroad sold the land at a much higher figure and in greater lots than instructed and pocketed the proceeds. It is now suing to recover the excess.

## Weekly Reports to Be Made

Rome, March 7.—(U. P.)—Hereafter Italy will adopt the plan of her allies and not make public daily statements of sinkings of vessels. At the end of each week the government will announce totals of arrivals, departures and losses.



## CAR AND DRIVER ARE CRUSHED IN 150-FOOT PLUNGE OVER BLUFF

### Antone Teresi, a Vegetable Vendor, Drives Off Grand Avenue Embankment, Dies

Antone Teresi, an Italian fruit and vegetable vendor residing on Karl street, near East Sixteenth, was instantly killed some time during the night or early this morning near the south end of Grand Avenue drive when his automobile truck plunged over the edge of the bluff and landed 150 feet below at the accident. Teresi's body was found about 10 feet from the car.

The drop from this point is almost sheer for over 100 feet, and marks on the face indicate that the automobile truck turned over several times in the descent.

The truck was badly smashed. Teresi's skull was fractured, his neck broken and the body was otherwise crushed.

(Concluded on Page Nine, Column Two)

## Son of Ex-Governor Of Nebraska Killed

Excelsior Springs, Mo., March 7.—(U. P.)—Apparently without warning or words between them, U. G. Balcombe, prominent Mason and son of ex-Governor Balcombe of Nebraska, was shot and killed here this afternoon in the auditorium area by E. Smith, 25, proprietor of a small candy shop.

Smith calmly waited for the police to arrive, and made a mumbled explanation of the shooting, saying Balcombe took candy from his store without paying for it.

## Armed British Ship Ordered to Depart

Berlin, March 7.—(U. P.)—(Via Sayville Wireless)—The British battleship, the *Mersey*, which arrived at the Hook of Holland this morning, was ordered to leave within half an hour because she mounted guns, says a dispatch from the Hook today.

## Bernstorff Due in Denmark Saturday

Copenhagen, March 7.—(U. P.)—The Frederick VIII, bearing former German Ambassador von Bernstorff, is expected to reach here Saturday, according to a wireless message received today.

## DEMOCRATS TO START FIGHT ON SENATOR STONE

### Reelection to Chairmanship of Foreign Relations Committee Will Be Opposed by Members of Own Party.

### SOME SUPPORT VOICED IN BEHALF OF STONE

### Opponents Say Defense Offered Is "Weak and Illogic."

Washington, March 7.—(U. P.)—A bitter fight against reelection of Senator Stone to the chairmanship of the foreign relations committee will be made by members of the Sixty-fourth congress despite the heretofore inviolable seniority rule that has always prevailed in such matters.

One of the most prominent Democratic senators, who was one of the leaders in the fight to pass the armed neutrality measure, is authority for this statement. However, it is said that the fight has as yet taken no definite shape.

The new senate cannot proceed to business, it was pointed out, until committees and chairmanships have been selected. The Democrats retain the majority sufficient to control the organization.

## POISON INTENDED FOR LLOYD GEORGE WAS EXTREMELY DEADLY

### Pathologists Testify in Trial of Four Charged With Plot in England.

London, March 7.—(U. P.)—Subtle poisons, an infinitesimal drop of which would cause death if introduced in a wound, were revealed as the tool by which the four plotters against the life of Premier Lloyd George and Minister Arthur Henderson sought to accomplish their end, in testimony offered at the Old Bailey trial of the four today.

The crown called two expert toxicologists and pathologists. Both delivered a bewildering analysis of the effects of various poisons found by Inspector Herbert Booth of Scotland Yard in the possession of Mrs. Alice Wheelton, Miss Hetty Wheelton and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Mason, the quartet on trial for the "poison plot."

John Webster, assistant scientific analyst to the home office and a pathological chemist of repute, testified he received from Chief Inspector Parker of Scotland Yard a box containing four glass vials. Two, he found, contained strychnine hydrochlorate, and two a substance similar to curare, a poison formerly used by South American Indians for tipping their arrows. He gave technical evidence.

(Continued on Page Nine, Column Three)

## NOW BEAN TRIES TO DICTATE NEW TITLE OF O. & C. LAND BILL

### Representative From Lane Files Appeal From Ballot Title as It Now Appears.

Salem, Or., March 7.—Louis E. Bean, state representative from Lane county, who with the aid of Standfield, Forbes and Moser, put through the legislature the notorious house bill 302 in opposition to the government's case in the O. & C. land grant litigation, is dissatisfied with the ballot title prepared for the measure by Attorney General Brown.

As a consequence, Bean Tuesday filed in the circuit court of Marion county an appeal from the ballot title and presents one he says should be substituted. He objects to mention being made in the ballot title to the fact that congress has passed an act investing in the government title to the unsold lands in the grant, or to reference being made to the terms on which the lands were originally granted to the railroad company, which terms were violated.

"The purpose of the bill is to declare that the title to the lands rests in the railroad company, which is what the railroad company contends, and to compel the assessors of the various counties to place the lands on the tax rolls in spite of the act of congress reversing the title to the lands in the grant."

(Concluded on Page Fifteen, Column Three)

## WHITE STAR LINER IS REPORTED IN TROUBLE; THREE DAYS OVERDUE

### Montreal Agents Send Dispatch Regarding Captain of the Steamer Baltic.

New York, March 7.—(U. S. S.)—The White Star liner *Baltic*, three days overdue, this afternoon telegraphed to New York for news regarding the big liner *Baltic*, now three days overdue at this port from Liverpool. It is understood that they have received safely that the ship has run into difficulties of some kind. The message to New York read as follows:

"Understand Ranson in trouble. Have you any particulars?"

Ranson is the name of the captain of the *Baltic*, and is supposed to be the person referred to in the message. The *Baltic* has been reported safely passing the "barred zone" mapped by the German government, but nothing has been heard from her since her departure from Liverpool, a week ago last Sunday.

The White Star offices in New York denied having received any message from Montreal regarding the *Baltic*, and they expect the *Baltic* to arrive at any hour.

## Tong War Death Toll Nine; Peace Distant

San Francisco, March 7.—(U. S. S.)—The death toll of the coastwide tong war stood at nine today with no indication that peace is near among the several tongs participating.

Influential Chinese, headed by the Six Companies, the peace society and the Chinese consulate, are trying to settle the trouble.

## HOW TO MAKE IDLE HOUSES EARN MONEY

The answer is easy. Find a tenant! But there's quite a difference between treating the matter as a joke and signing a lease with the responsible head of a family. Here's the solution of the problem.

Tell the more than 55,000 families who read *The Journal* each day what you have in a clever little "To Rent" talk to be run in the "Want Ads" pages of *The Journal*. When the ad is written leave it with *The Journal* or phone it to Main 7173 or A-6651.

## Russian Cruiser Is Damaged by Mine

Berlin, Via Tuckerton Wireless, March 7.—(U. P.)—The Russian cruiser, the *Rurik*, of 15,000 tons, struck a mine in Finland bay and was greatly damaged, the official press bureau declared today, quoting Stockholm reports.

The Russian authorities tried to conceal the disaster, the press bureau asserted. "The *Rurik* was later docked at Kronstadt."

The *Rurik* is a 15,000 ton armored cruiser, completed in 1906, has a length of 323 feet and carrying a crew of 900 men.

## Seattle Beats Bonds For a New Market

Seattle, Wash., March 7.—(P. N. S.)—Practically complete returns early today on Seattle's municipal election show the defeat of bond issues totaling nearly \$2,000,000 and the election of three councilmen who favored these bonds. The councilmen elected are Robert Hesketh, Oliver T. Erickson and W. D. Lane.

The bond issues, providing for a municipal market, a belt line railroad, a bridge and arterial highways were overwhelmingly defeated.