FARM PRODUCTS, MACHINERY, FOOD CONTROL PLANNED

Bill Is Prepared for Initiation in November by Oregon Referendum League.

LICENSE PROVISION CARRIED

Proponents Include Grange, Farmers' Union and Labor Federation Officials.

Salem, May 25.—The bill which will put distribution of farm products, food supplies and farm machinery in this state entirely under state control is being proposed for initiation by the Oregon Referendum league, which initiated the rural credits law. This league is composed of officers of the state grange, Farmers' union and the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

A copy of the proposed bill was received today by Attorney General Brown from Hector MacPherson of Corvallis, who asked the attorney general to look the bill over so the least possible time will be lost in obtaining a ballot title and getting petitions into circulation if the final decision is reached to initiate the bill for the general election next November.

Dairy Commission in Charge

The bill provides that the state dairy and food commissioner shall be commissioner of foods and markets and shall enforce the provisions of the bill. It will be his duty to collect and disseminate information as to market conditions, promote economical and efficient distribution of agricultural products, farm machinery and the food supply in general. He shall collect information on food products grown in this state or imported, where they are stored, and processes by which they are distributed, and shall interpret and make public information obtained so as to give producers, distributors and consumers an estimate of what prices ought to be.

All concerns having anything to do with handling of farm and food products must be licensed, according to the terms of the bill. All grocers and other retail dealers in farm and other products and farm machinery shall pay a license fee of $5; wholesale grocers, commission merchants and wholesale produce dealers a license fee of $20; cold and common storage houses, warehouses and grain elevators at Portland and Astoria terminals a license fee of $20, those at other points a license fee of $10.

License Revocation Provided

Sixteen causes are named for which licenses may be canceled, the principal ones being for making misleading statements as to market conditions or conditions of a community, becoming party to a combination to fix prices or restrain trade, discrimination in prices or services between communities, making a contract with a competitor to divide territory or to pool business or earnings.

Penalties are provided for violation of the terms of the bill.

If the measure is initiated, petitions must be circulated and filed with the secretary of state by July 3.

TINY CEMETERY IS SWEPT BY SHELLS

(Continued From Page One)

saw. I will never forget the scene on the night Lieutenant Colonel Griffith was buried there.

"Griffith came from the west and served with the Canadians before getting a commission in the United States army. The breast of his coat was covered with medals, in fact, he did not know what fear was. He never sent a man anywhere until he went first. I have seen him calmly walking along a street with the shells dropping on all sides. One finally got the poor fellow, though.

Funeral Service Whispered

"It was up to us to bury him at once. The regiment chaplain was sick, but there happened to be a Red Cross chaplain visiting us from Paris, so he officiated. The Boches were within a few hundred yards of us, so he had to whisper the ritual. It was pitch dark as the grave was dug, and the boys had to be mighty careful to keep their shovels from clicking against stones.

"There were a few officers present. The burial took place about midnight. A lantern or a candle would have helped, but the crack of light would have meant death. It was the only funeral I attended that was conducted in whispers. Twice the ritual was suspended while the mourners took cover to avoid German bullets.

Colonel Griffith Buried Four Times

"Privates had gathered wild violets and poppies to the rear of the trenches, keeping them fresh in a dipper of water in a dugout. These were laid on the graves at night.

"The next night a poche high explosive shell demolished the little cemetery, exposing the bodies. We had to bury Colonel Griffith four times.

"Two Y. M. C. A. field secretaries deserve praise for the pluck they displayed. They stuck to their posts selling tobacco and other delicacies to the men in the immediate front in a hole with a wooden cover that was hardly rainproof.

"Both were gassed and had to go to the hospital. One's name was Howell and the other Leonard. Howell, who hails from Detroit, Mich., is a lay preacher; Leonard was formerly a coach at Colgate and later sold sporting goods in Ithaca, N. Y. Those guys sure have got nerve—both of them."

Speech in German Is Taboo in Iowa

Des Moines, Iowa, May 25.—(U. P.)—Foreign languages were given the deathblow, at least for the period of the war, in Iowa by an official proclamation issued by Governor Harding today.

The proclamation forbids the use of any but the English language in schools, churches or trains, in public gathering-places and over the telephone.

Italian Attacks Repulsed

Amsterdam, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—"The Italians three times attacked our lines in the sectors of Zugna, Torata and the Etsch valley," the Austrian war office announced in a dispatch from Vienna today. "The first two attacks were broken up with sanguinary losses. The third time the attackers got close to our positions before they were repelled. The enemy was repulsed three times in attacks at Mont Asalone."

Brother and Sister Reunited

Journal Spreads Happiness

Hillsboro, May 25.—Carrying in its columns Wednesday the draft from Washington county, The Oregon Journal accidentally reunited a drafted man and his sister who had not seen each other since they were small children. In fact, neither brother nor sister knew of the other's existence. The drafted man is Julius Skoggs of Tualatin and the sister lives with a farmer seven miles above Salem. When the man who raised the girl read the Washington county draft list he at once dispatched a messenger to Hillsboro to see the war board and he was told where Skoggs could be found. He located the embryo soldier and there was a reunion near Salem Friday night.

Young Skoggs came to the war board a few weeks ago and tried to get a permit to enlist, as he stated that he was anxious to get into the fight against the Huns. The war board denied his request, but told him they would call him the next draft and allow him to go in lieu of some farmer who might be called. This satisfied Skoggs and he is to report here June 1 for entrainment to Fort McDowell.

FEDERAL CONTROL OF RAILROADS IS GREAT BENEFIT TO PUBLIC

Greater Facility in Handling Freight Traffic Is Shown Under New System.

Government administration of the railroads has entirely eliminated the old refuge of railroad officials who once pleaded that "the shipper controls the routing of the freight," whenever appealed to, for equal division of their favors between two competitive terminals, such as Puget Sound and Portland.

The shipper no longer has any voice in the routing of the freight. Commodities are carried with reference to speed and efficiency and not in accordance with the alleged favoritism of shippers of one route over another.

The new condition is explained in a pamphlet recently issued by John J. Esch, a traffic expert.

"Under order No. 1 of the director general (McAdoo) designation of routes by shippers, heretofore authorized by law, are to be disregarded to promote speed and efficiency," says Mr. Esch. "Cross hauling of freight and use of circuitous, or long haul routes are to be discontinued for the same purpose, as are also traffic agreements between carriers."

Again, he says:

"The unification of the roads and surrender of control by their owners of all equipment will be the most salutary kind of revolution, a revolution which in large part will remain whether the roads are returned to the owners after the war or are controlled or owned by the government. Unified government control during this war will make the freight car as current as a dollar bill, and be governed by the same economic law—go where it can be used."

Government control of the railroads means the elimination of the strangulative methods used by the railroads in meeting water competition. Under government operation, each type of transportation can be assigned its proper place and be accorded its proper development without artificial restriction. With the congestion of railroad transportation, every encouragement is extended to the development of water transportation, and for this reason it is believed that inauguration of boat service on the Columbia river at this time would receive a support greater than at any time since the palmy days when picturesque river steamers operated on the Columbia and there were no railroad trains.

Under government administration the car situation in Oregon is said to have been greatly aided and lumber mills and other industries are getting approximately the number of cars needed to handle their output. For a time, without cars and with a difficult market condition to meet, Oregon mills accumulated side cut, that is, lumber not needed in ship and airplane production, in a way that threatened disaster.

Mass Meeting to Protest Lock Out

Seattle, May 25.—(U. P.)—Mayors of Tacoma and Seattle will address a mass meeting here on Sunday, called to protest against the locking out of union telegraphers by the Western Union and Postal Telegraph companies and to voice demand for the government operation of all wire communication systems in the United States. Delay of the war board in calling the telegraph companies to account is causing great dissatisfaction.

Five Enemy Planes Downed by Italians

Rome, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—"Five more hostile airplanes have been brought down," the Italian war office announced. "Enemy aerodromes at Feltre and Mottadilwenza were successfully bombed. Our patrols in the sector of Costa di Salo penetrated the enemy lines and destroyed the garrison. Attempts by the enemy to advance were repulsed everywhere."

U. S. Flyer Killed in Action

Paris, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—Paul Kurtz of Philadelphia, an aviator attached to the American flying corps, was killed in action just over the German lines, according to advices reaching here. His machine fell in flames inside the German lines.

Roger Balbiani, another pilot in the American flying corps, also has been killed in action. He formerly was chief of one section of the American field service in Belgium.

Disorders Continue In Prague, Report

Copenhagen, May 25.—(U. P.)—Disorders continue in Prague, according to reports reaching here.

The demonstrators frequently cheer President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George. Many arrests have been made.

The Czechs, Poles and Southern Slavs are said to be preparing for a violent demonstration against the government, in connection with the reopening of parliament.

Fairbanks Showing No Improvement

Indianapolis, May 25.—(U. P.)—Charles Warren Fairbanks today was reported to be just holding his own in his fight against Bright's disease. No improvement was made in the last 24 hours, it was announced today.

ASKS ORDINANCE TO KEEP WOMEN OUT OF 'MEN ONLY' BANQUETS

Representatives of Women's Clubs Learns That Present Laws Cover the Point.

An ordinance to forbid the appearance of women and girls at banquets and evening meetings for men only, was requested of Acting Mayor Bigelow today by delegates representing a number of local women's organizations.

The complaint was made that instances have been known where young women appearing before men only have conducted themselves in a "disgraceful and immodest manner."

Inasmuch as city ordinances are ample to meet situation of this kind the acting mayor, on advice of City Attorney La Rohce and Chief of Police Johnson, informed the protestants that it would be unnecessary to pass so drastic an ordinance. Future violations will be followed by prosecutions, it was promised.

The protestants were: Mrs. C. B. Zeebuyth, Mrs. Martha McKinster, Mrs. Louise E. Moore, Miss Ola Denistou, Mrs. Marie Dibbern, Mrs. Emily Sister, Mrs. Josephine R. Sharp and Mrs. D. M. Green.

Salmon Sent to Shriners

Five hundred pounds of selected chinook salmon, donated by the Columbia River Packers' association, was today shipped to Philadelphia to be used at a banquet of the Mystic Shriners at Lu Lu temple, June 1. The fish were assembled, iced and boxed in the municipal fish market. Mayor Baker will attend the banquet and lead the fight to win for Portland the next annual session of the order, which meets this year at Atlantic City.

MORE LAND IN O. & C. GRANT TO BE OPENED

(Continued From Page One)

south, including 13 south, and run to township 8, east of Willamette meridian. The southern line runs through Brownsville. The Willamette meridian runs north and south about three miles west of Portland. Counties containing this land are Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Clackamas, Marion, Lincoln, Benton, Linn, Columbia and Tillamook. Clackamas county contains the largest amount.

Good Land in District

N. Campbell, register of the Portland land office, is of the opinion that this is the best area of land left vacant in the United States. The greater part of it contains considerable timber, he says, and most all sections have springs or streams of water upon them. He says the people now living near these lands are anxious to secure neighbors and will gladly assist anybody in locating a piece of land.

Each applicant must swear that he is not the proprietor of more than 160 acres in any state or territory, that he has personally examined the land applied for and that the application is made in good faith for the purpose of settlement and cultivation. Fifty cents an acre plus fees must be paid to the land office when the application is filed and upon final proof $2.50 an acre more must be paid. Three years' actual residence on the land is required, allowing seven months to the year.

Pamphlet Will Be Ready Soon

All applications will be considered to have been filed simultaneously and drawings will be made on July 17 by a disinterested person to determine who secures pieces of land applied for by more than one person. August 1 there will be a general opening of the lands not taken at the first period, and persons who failed to get land then may make application again. The land lies in units of 160, 120, 80 and 40 acres. One person is permitted to take as much as 160 acres, but he cannot take a combination of units that are not contiguous.

A section of land classed as agricultural must not contain more than 300,000 feet of saw timber.

A descriptive pamphlet will be ready for distribution from the Portland land office within two weeks. The same regulation will apply to this opening as for the lands now being opened in Southern Oregon, and land office officials request the interested persons to familiarize themselves with these regulations before making any applications.

Roseburg Filings Close

This order has to do with the lands of the Portland district, which have now been cruised and classified, but does not include the 300,000 acres ranging from the California border north and comprising a little bit less than half of the grant lands in the Roseburg land district. The filings on this section of the grant close today at 4:30 p. m., while the drawings, in case of conflicting entries, will be held on May 28 at the Roseburg land office at 10 a. m.

Few Contests Expected

Roseburg, May 25. — Reports from Jackson and Josephine counties indicate that increased numbers of people are in the woods in the two counties searching out locations for homestading. The government officials maintain that the absence of a pell mell rush is gratifying and that the government's purposes will be better served and those of the individual also, by the methodical method that has characterized the searching out of grant land units. Filings have come along steadily, and there are few conflicting entries, which means that the scheduled drawing will be more or less perfunctory with but few contests.

Entertainment Nets $125

Lebanon, May 25.—The entertainment given by the Civic club at the opera house Friday night for the benefit of the Red Cross netted that body $125.

DRENCHING RAIN FALLS IN FRANCE

Pending German Smash Is Still Delayed; British and French Make Gains.

By William Philip Simms

With the British Armies in France, May 24.—(U. P.)—(Night.)—A drenching rain driven by a high westerly wind today swamped the battlefield and turned the choking dust into mud.

The situation along the front remains practically identical with what it has been for the past fortnight. The German concentrations continue opposite the allies, from the sea to the Oise. I have heard of but one new division coming from the east to the west front, the total remaining practically the same.

With each day the kaiser's troops are obtaining more rest, additional training for their fresh recruits, all of which tends to give them greater strength for their next blow. At the same time, each day permits the allies to perfect their organization to receive the coming shock. Likewise, with each moment, American troops are increasing the number of reserves at Foch's command.

Raids continue, as does intermittent shelling, while what might be called "practice barrages" are laid down without warning here and there. Gas shelling is becoming general, especially along the Lys and Somme rivers.

A captured stretcher bearer reported that a number of German divisions are in low spirits. He said there is considerable sickness among them, which is probably due to poor food and the long periods in the line.

Germans Claim Prisoners

London, May 25.—(U. P.)—Artillery fire and raiding operations were reported in the night official statements.

Field Marshal Haig announced that a few British troops are missing, the result of an enemy raid near Bucquoy Thursday night. British and French patrols brought in prisoners from different parts of the front.

Th French war office said a detachment penetrated German lines northwest of Lassigny and that an army raid failed east of Compiegny.

Revival of artillery activity on both sides of the Lens and Scarpe rivers Thursday evening was reported by the German war office. Capture of prisoners in five raids southwest of Bucquoy and along the Oise was claimed.

British Make Captures

London, May 25.—(U. P.)—Bombardment of British positions in the southern and northwestern portions of the Flanders front yesterday evening and last night was reported by Field Marshal Haig today.

"Hostile artillery bombarded our positions east of Bethune with gas shells yesterday evening," the statement said. "There was increased artillery activity in the Strazeele sector last night."

"In the neighborhood of Hamel last night we raided the enemy's trenches and took 40 prisoners and two machine guns.

"We carried out a successful raid and took a few prisoners near Lens."

French Penetrate German Line

Paris, May 25.—(U. P.)—Repulse of two German surprise attacks was reported by the French war office today.

One of these occurred south of Hangard wood (where American troops recently replaced the famous French foreign legion in the line). The other was in the Vosges.

French troops made successful raids west of Noyon and in the Woevre region, taking prisoners.

Germans Growing Stale

London, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—Commenting today on the failure of Marshal von Hindenburg to resume the offensive on the western front, the Evening News says:

"Hindenburg still hesitates to deliver the smashing blow threatened for nearly a month. It is known that his preparations have been completed for over a week. His army is stagnant and we know what generally follows stagnation."

IRISH PLOT WITH HUNS IS EXPOSED BY LONDON

(Continued From Page One)

John T. Nicholson, an American citizen of Irish birth, Von Papen and Bernstorff, it was learned, started reorganizing an Irish rebellion shortly after the Dublin uprising two years ago.

"Thus it is seen that negotiations between the Sinn Feiners and Germany were virtually continuous for three and a half years," says the statement. "At first the second rebellion was planned for last year, but the plan broke down as Germany was unable to send troops.

"The plan for this year was to bring about an uprising in conjunction with the German offensive on the western front and it was maturing. A shipment of arms from Germany to Ireland was imminent. Under the circumstances there was no other course open to the government, if useless bloodshed was to be avoided and our duty to our allies to be fulfilled, than to intern the authors and abbettors of this intrigue.

Bernstorff Sends Message

"In June, 1916, a message went from Berlin to Washington referring to 'A 259' saying that Germany was ready to give further help to Ireland if the Irish would only say what sort was required. On the 16th Bernstorff sent a message concerning the uprising, stating that a defense fund of 1000 pounds had been formed for Sir Rodger Casement.

"Later Bernstorff sent a message stating that the reorganization of the Irish rebels was progressing and that the lack of money had been remedied by him.

"Bernstorff sent a communication to Berlin, enclosing memorandum from the 'Irish revolution director, resident in America,' relating to details about a fresh uprising.

"'The rising,' said the American director, 'is contingent upon the sending from Germany of sufficient military forces to cover a landing and for Germany to fix the time.'"

Zimmermann Party in Plot

As an inducement the Germans were told of the advantages for submarine and Zeppelin bases on the west Irish coast and October was suggested as the best time for the revolution. Bernstorff sent a warning not to allow a certain Captain Boehm to write from Rotterdam to Irish-Americans for fear he would address the wrong persons.

Bernstorff surreptitiously attached a note to a message which passed the American government. Zimmermann (then the German foreign secretary) informed Bernstorff that it was proposed to land quantities of munitions (in Ireland) but that it was impossible to send a force of men. Bernstorff replied that the committee (evidently the revolutionary committee in America) refused to act unless Germany sent troops.

America's entrance into the war, added the official statement, temporarily broke up communication between the Irish in Ireland and their sympathizers in the United States, but there is no reason to believe that the messenger service devisd by Devoy between Ireland and America was affected.

De Valera's Words Support Charges

In support of the charges the official statement cited the following extracts from speeches of Professor De Valera, one of the Sinn Fein leaders recently arrested:

"Already there has been too much bloodshed without success. We cannot hope for success in the future except through a German invasion of England and the landing of troops and munitions in Ireland."

In January of this year, Professor De Valera said:

"As long as Germany is the enemy of England, and England is the enemy of Ireland, Ireland will be the friend of Germany."

For a long time, went on the official statement, it was difficult to secure accurate information. In April it was ascertained that the time was ripe for the landing of arms in Ireland. The Germans were awaiting information from Ireland as to the date and place. The British were able to warn the Irish commander of the probable landing.

A German agent was landed from a German submarine on April 12 and was arrested.

The rising depending largely upon the landing of munitions from a submarine.

Army Plans All Worked Out

According to documents found on the person of De Valera he had worked out the details of a constitution and a rebel army. He had hoped to muster half a million trained men.

German munitions had actually been shipped from Cuxhaven at the beginning of May. For some time the Germans had been busy off the west Irish coast on other errands than the destruction of the allied shipping.

"The revolutionary movement in Ireland culminating in the arrest of a considerable number of persons last week, consisted of two closely related series of activities," said the official report.

"1—Attempts by Germany to foment rebellion in Ireland;

"2—Preparations made in Ireland to carry these principles into action."

The events relating to the first were detailed, but those relating to the second were not because such an action would have disclosed the names of the persons who stood by the government.

The Rev. Father Nicholson fulfilled Rodger Casement's wish that the American priest corrupt Irish prisoners in Germany, it was declared. He helped to conspire for the Easter rebellion, Bernstorff fixing the date, it was said.

Von Jagow (former German foreign secretary) arranged to land arms at Tralee Bay.

Bernstorff asked for a simultaneous air raid over England and a naval attack against the English coast. The German plotter hoped to blockade Irish ports and establish submarine bases in Ireland. Attacks were actually made by the Germans between April 22 and April 26, in 1916, but the other German help miscarried.

IRISH INSIST PLOT STORY IS ONE-SIDED

By Webb Miller
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Dublin, May 25.—(U. P.)—Revelation of the evidence obtained by the British government of a revolutionary movement in Ireland, which culminated last week in wholesale arrests of Sinn Fein leaders, caused widest discussion here today.

Radicals bitterly denounce the statement issued by the official press bureau last night as "one sided" and declare it is a conspiracy.

The evidence purports to link up the Sinn Fein movement with German agents, many of whom operated in America. Count von Bernstorff, former ambassador to the United States, is involved. The statement covered alleged revolutionary and pro-German activities both before and after the Easter rebellion of 1916.

One-Sided Story, Say Irish

"It is an ex-parte statement," declared the Irish Independent, a Nationalist organ with Sinn Fein sympathies.

"The accused have not been heard. It is thus a question of credibility, upon which British and Irish opinions may come to widely diverse conclusion.

"All sections of the Nationalists have a profound interest in having the issue solved clearly and immediately.

"Ireland is not and never has been pro-German. No appreciable number of Nationalists, no matter how extreme, want to rid themselves of one domination to fall possibly under worse.

"The glaring weakness of the government's case is that it rests so largely on the public speeches of Sinn Feiners. It is a curious sort of a 'conspiracy' that is proclaimed from the housetops."

The newspaper declares that whatever countenance the extremists here and in America gave "another rebellion," there are men among those interned who would shrink from the horror of plunging Ireland into blood and anarchy.

Drama Rapidly Developing

The Sinn Fein and Nationalist press are attaching much significance to the arrival here of Walter Hume Long, colonial secretary and chairman of the committee drafting the home-rule bill, for a conference with Field Marshal French, lord lieutenant of Ireland.

Long recently was designated to advise the Irish executive. Newspapers believe his presence here portends another move in the government's policy, which is awaited with foreboding.

"Secretary Long's arrival suggests that the drama is rapidly developing," declared the Freemen's Journal. "We boldly forecast it will be along the well-known lines of coercion. Long was the real inspirer of the plot proclamation."

French's appeal for voluntary enlistment has not had the slightest effect. Everybody agrees it is practically impossible to find any plan that will be successful until the present situation is cleared up.

The anti-conscription national defense fund, which already amounts to nearly $1,000,000, is growing at the rate of about $30,000 a day.

Limerick recently sent $20,000. In many places workers' societies are collecting $5 from each member.

Elk Chase Farmers Up Trees

Skagit Folk Seek Protection

Complaints that the elk in Skagit valley are not only breaking down the farmers' fences and browsing on their crops, but even chasing the law-abiding inhabitants up trees, have been forwarded to the Washington state game commissioners by the residents of the valley, who ask that the game laws be remedied so as to allow them at least some personal protection, according to A. G. Jackson of the district forest service.

The question is then raised whether the elk which left Portland this morning for their new home in the Big Bottom country will remain peaceable or whether they will cause the inhabitants of the region as much anxiety. It is expected the animals will unite with a band of wild elk already roaming along the headwaters of the Clackamas.

Dee Wright, forest ranger, assisted by J. L. Maddron and L. F. Maddron, left Portland with the elk this morning over the P. R., L. & P. line for Estacada, where the annual picnic of the Elk lodge will be held Sunday.

TORPEDO VICTIMS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

(Continued From Page One)

Edward L. Gerl, Manitowoc, Wis.; Redwald Gottenberg, Pigeon Falls, Wis.; Guiseppe Graci, Licati, Italy; Charles F. Hackler, Millville, Cal.; Thaddeus Hodges, Mount Carmel, Utah; Clem Johnson, Martins Mill, Texas; Isador Knipps, St. Paul, Minn; John Knobus, Missouri avenue, South Milwaukee, Wis.; Henry C. Lading, Strausburg, Ill.; John S. Larsen, Chicago; Barney B. Williams, Dixon, Ky.; Frank Lewandoski, Chicago; Clyde B. Lindsey, Clarksburg, Miss.; Anton W. Lundell, South Chicago; James G. McCarthy, Boston; Frank McKinney, Stonington, Ill.; Jesse Mars, Shelbyville, Ill.; Rudolph Mikle, De Pere, Wis.; Jesse Milone, Olney, Ill.; Frank Odell, Blytheville, Ark.; Emil J. Bosh, Lankin, N. D.; Frank Roux, Rice Lake, Wis.; Leo Raser, Carville, W. Va.; Walter G. Sautter, New Hartford, N. Y.; John Schuh, Portsmouth, Ohio; Joseph Sherman, Fort Totten, N. D.; Lewis P. Spies, Nelson, Wis.; Ray Swartz, Pleasant Hill, Ohio; Maurice G. Sweetland, Albany, Vt.; Willow Trapp, Arbor Vitae, Wis.; Edward N. Weber, Trolley, N. D.

Torpedoing of the vessel in the English channel proved an especial shock because troop ships there have been virtually immune from German attack. German submarines have practically not dared to venture in that zone because of the mines, nets and destroyers so plentifully scattered there.

In this case it is assumed that luck played a large part in the Teuton action, for the British report showed no periscope was sighted despite the clearness of the night.

SPLENDID DISCIPLINE MAINTAINED ON SHIP

An English Port, May 25.—(U. P.)—"I never saw better discipline," declared Captain Johnson of the United States infantry, a survivor, in describing today the torpedoing of the transport Moldavia in the English channel Thursday morning.

"The torpedo struck the Moldavia forward of the engines on the port side," Johnson said. "All the troops were sleeping in bunks in their uniforms.

"There was a loud explosion and the ship's whistle sounded the alarm. All assembled on deck alongside the boats in perfect order. It was just like the daily boat drill. I never saw better discipline.

Goes On Under Own Steam

"The Moldavia continued under her own steam for a time for the purpose of avoiding a second torpedo.

"The destroyers escorting us circled about and dropped a number of depth charges, but no one saw the submarine.

"It is supposed that the force of the explosion cut off the means of escape for several men who were on the troop deck. The survivors lost all their personal belongings.

"It was a situation calling for the utmost courage and steadiness. The men responded nobly and sang as they took to the boats. They gave three cheers as the Moldavia sank."

The survivors are now at a rest camp. They are enthusiastic over the splendid work of the ship officers and crew and of the British destroyers.

No One Was Drowned

"I have learned little yet, except that the men got off the boat in orderly fashion," declared Major General Biddle, commander of American forces in Great Britain, following a visit to survivors of the torpedoed Moldavia.

"Most of the men were asleep at the time of the explosion," said one officer among the survivors," but there was no disorder so far as is known. No one was drowned. All casualties occurred at the moment of the explosion.

"After the ship was struck her officers kept on hoping to remain afloat, but when it was seen that this was impossible, British destroyers picked us up. The men were most courageous."

Caught in One Compartment

London, May 25.—(U. P.)—Fifty-six American soldiers were still unaccounted for early today in the torpedoing of the British mercantile cruiser Moldavia, sunk in the English channel early Thursday morning while transporting American troops.

The missing were all in one compartment and are believed to have been killed by the explosion of the torpedo. All officers and members of the crew were saved by British destroyers forming the convoy.

The Moldavia was struck at 4 a. m. There was bright moonlight, but the submarine was not seen before the attack. Efforts were made to keep the ship afloat. She sank in about an hour.

There was no panic and the transfer of the soldiers and seamen to the destroyers was made without a hitch.

The soldiers lost all their belongings except the clothing they wore, but were re-outfitted when they landed at a channel port. All were given temporary leave.

The Moldavia was a steel twin-screw steamer of 9500 tons, built in 1903. She was 280.5 feet long, had a beam of 58.3 feet and a draft of 24.8. She was owned by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation company and was registered at Greenock.

ORIENTAL TROOPS IN RUSSIA, REPORT

Chinese and Japanese Said to Be Aiding Anti-Bolsheviki Forces.

Moscow, May 25.—(U. P.)—The peoples' council at Kursk (about 275 miles south of Moscow) has declared a defensive mobilization because large German forces are reported moving through that region toward Moscow.

The newspaper Pravda stated today that the Germans are crossing Kursk with the object of cutting off railroad and waterway communication south of Moscow. It also stated that a German ultimatum, demanding annulment of military relations between Russia and the entente, is expected soon.

The army of General Semenoff, the anti-Bolshevik leader, is reported to have invanded Samara (on the Volga river), with the aid of Chinese and Japanese forces.

"White Russia," has proclaimed itself a republic, with a coalition government. It is seeking to unite with Lithuania under a German protectorate.

"White Russia" has no definite boundaries, but it is that name applied to the provinces of Mohilieff and Vitebsk by Empress Catherine. It is a region east of Poland, north of Ukraine and south and west of "great Russia."

Mooney Will Appeal To Supreme Court

San Francisco, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—Counsel for Thomas J. Mooney, preparedness parade bomb plot defendant under sentence of death, today filed notice of appeal from the decision of Superior Court Judge Franklin Griffin denying him a new trial on the ground of the alleged suppression of evidence on the part of the district attorney.

The case is to be taken to the supreme court.

Mooney is to come up for resentence Tuesday but his attorneys are hopeful of having the matter continued.

Mills Charges Desertion

Charles G. Mills filed suit for divorce Friday afternoon against Louise Mills, whom he married in British Columbia in 1903, alleging that she deserted him two years ago.

HIGHER AGE LIMIT SOUGHT BY BAKER

Would Take Men Into Army Up to 55 Years for Non-combatant Work.

Washington, May 25.—Secretary of War Baker sent to congress the draft of a bill which would raise the maximum age at which men may enlist in the army from 40 years, as at present, to 55. Under the proposed bill the enlisted men over 40 years of age will be assigned to non-combatant service.

The secretary wrote to Speaker Clark, in urging quick action on the measure, as follows:

"Every man above the age of 40 years who is enlisted in non-combatant branches of the service will make available for duty with the line troops a man within the prescribed age limit, for all troops.

"Many men whose long experience as mechanics and artisans will make them particularly valuable to the various staff corps and departments may be thus secured, instead of younger men without such experience, and the efficiency of the staff corps and the department thus will be increased."

Secretary Baker's action was taken as another move toward full utilization of the nation's man power. Officials estimated today that fully 7,500,000 men will become eligible to enlistment under the measure. Thousands of men over 40 have sought to join the colors since war was declared.

The government has in mind the release of thousands of soldiers in "behind the lines" positions whose duties may just as efficiently be performed by men between 40 and 50 years of age in order that younger men may step up to the fighting front. It has been estimated that for every million fighting men on the front there must be an army of 450,000 serving along the lines of communication. It is in this capacity that the older men, under the terms of the proposed law, would be used.

Steamer Reported in Distress Off Coast

A Pacific Port, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—The steamer Silverado, under charter to the United States shipping board, was reported in distress 65 miles southwest of this port early today in wireless calls for aid. The message from Captain McNeill said that the vessel's steering gear was disabled and the rudder head broken.

A tug was immediately dispatched to the assistance of the Silverado and she was picked up 40 miles off the Farallone Islands.

The vessel is owned by Swayne, Hoyt & Co. and was en route to a Transpacific port with a large cargo but no passengers.

The Silverado is a 1600-ton steamer.

Slayer of Sheriff Is Killed by Indian

Carson City, Nev., May 25.—(U. P.)—An Indian trailer named Pascal late Friday shot and killed Paul Walters, cowboy and draft-evader, who killed Sheriff Mark Wildes when Wildes tried to arrest him. Governor Boyle had offered $5000 reward for Walters and posses were on his trail.

Premier Dictator; Finns Quit Office

Copenhagen, May 25.—(I. N. S.)—The Finnish government has resigned because of the appointment of Premier Svinhufvued as dictator, said advices from Helsingfors today.

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