

# The Oregon Statesman

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## SIXTY-SIX LOSE LIVES WHEN FRENCH CRUISER RAMS U. S. STEAMSHIP

### City of Athens Sunk off Coast of Delaware—Panic Stampedes Vessel As It Rapidly Submerges

### FIRE ADDS TO FRIGHT, OF PEOPLE ON BOARD

### Many Trapped in Berths—Only Time for One S. O. S. Call

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 1.—Sixty-six persons lost their lives when the steamship City of Athens, bound from New York for Savannah, was rammed and sunk by a French cruiser off the Delaware coast at 1 o'clock this morning. The missing include ten men and two women who were on board, 14 out of 20 French sailors and 33 members of the crew. All the passengers and many of the crew were in their berths when the bow of the warship ploughed into the side of the 2300-ton coastwise vessel. Fire broke out almost immediately afterward in hold No. 1, but it had no bearing on the fate of the ship for the flames were quickly quenched by the rush of water which poured in.

Unable to Avert Panic.

Captain J. Forward, one of the veteran commanders in the service of the Ocean Steamship company, owners of the vessel, did his best to avert a panic and man the lifeboats. So quickly did the doomed vessel sink, however, that there was no time to get the boats away and many of those who perished were trapped in their berths.

Those of the passengers and crew who were able to reach the deck, all of them thinly clad and many without life preservers, plunged into the sea.

The cruiser launched lifeboats immediately after the crash and turned its searchlights upon the waters in which men and women were struggling for their lives. Sixty-eight persons were picked up and brought back to this port by the warship, which was not seriously damaged.

Fog Is Blamed.

Both ships were carrying running lights because of the heavy fog which hung over the sea.

E. J. Doherty, the wireless operator, was able to send out only one "S. O. S." call after the warship's bow plunged into the City of Athens.

side near the bow. There was no response to the appeal for aid and the vessel sank so quickly Doherty had no opportunity to repeat the call. He is believed to have been drowned at his post.

Many heroic deeds were recounted tonight by the survivors. One of the heroes of the sea tragedy was Harry A. Kelley of New York, an oiler, who swam to an overturned lifeboat and dragged upon the bottom of it four persons who were struggling in the sea. He held them there until they were taken off by a boat from the French cruiser.

Captain Forward Injured.

Captain Forward, who was one of those saved, was painfully injured and was grief-stricken at the loss of his ship. He said he was proceeding at half speed about 20 miles off shore sounding the usual fog signals, when the dim bulk of the cruiser loomed up through the mist and the crash followed. Fortunately the sea was calm or many more lives might have been lost.

Captain Forward refused to make a statement concerning the length of time his vessel remained afloat after the collision. Member of the crew declared, however, that the City of Athens sank within four minutes. A great hole was torn in her side below the water line near the bow and she was carried down by her own momentum as the water rushed in. The loss of the ship and cargo was estimated by the Ocean Steamship company to exceed \$2,000,000. The major part of the cargo was made up of cement, rope, foodstuffs, general merchandise and parts for machine guns.

## SUSPECT MOTIVE OF PEACE TALK

### Statements Quoted From Cologne Papers Considered Hun Propaganda

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Wireless dispatches, dated The Hague, and quoting Cologne newspapers as saying Pope Benedict intends to issue a new peace offer on May 19 were accepted in official circles here today as another bit of German propaganda. Heretofore, the state department has been able to gather an intimation of the purpose of the pontiff to initiate peace proposals, but not a suggestion of such an intention has come from any source recently.

The statement in the dispatch that the news of the pope's purpose had reached Berlin, "where it had been received sympathetically," was taken here to indicate that German influence is being brought to bear on the pontiff to intercede. Assuming such to be the case, officials feel that there might be some grounds for believing that the Germans now recognize that their efforts to obtain a military decision in the west this summer are doomed to failure.

## BRITISH ARMY TAKES MEZRAH

### Operations in Palestine Successful—Lines Are Steadily Advancing

LONDON, May 1.—An official communication issued this evening regarding the operations in Palestine says that the British have advanced along a line of one mile in the vicinity of Mezrah and occupied that village.

The British troops east of the Jordan river attacked the enemy holding the foothills south of Ec-Salt on Tuesday and the mounted troops were within two miles of Ec-Salt by nightfall, says a British official communication tonight dealing with the fighting in Palestine and Hedjaz. The communication adds that 260 prisoners had been taken.

Information from the Arab force operating in the Moab area shows that 550 prisoners were taken in the course of the recent attacks along the Hedjaz railway. West of the Jordan our line advanced to a maximum depth of one mile in the vicinity of Mezrah. The village and high ground to the west were occupied after slight enemy resistance.

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## BOHEMIANS ARE LEAVING ARMY TO JOIN ITALY

### Detachments Already Wearing Uniform of Allied Troops on South Front

### OFFER PEACE TO FRANCE

### Sends Representative to Confer With King Alfonso of Spain

LONDON, May 2.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Italian headquarters says that Bohemian troops are joining the Italian troops against Austria and that the first detachments are already on the Italian fighting line wearing Italian uniforms.

Makes Peace Offer.

LONDON, May 1.—Prince Sixtus of Bourbon-Parma, to whom the famous letter written by Emperor Charles offering peace to France was addressed, the Times says, visited King Alfonso of Spain on Monday, according to the Madrid Sol. The Spanish newspaper understands that he gave to King Alfonso explanations concerning his correspondence with his Hapsburg relatives. (His sister, Zita, is empress of Austria-Hungary.)

Simultaneously a report reached Stockholm that Emperor Charles was making a fresh peace attempt and that he was appealing to Italy to consider it in her own interests.

All that can be said about these rumors, the Times adds, is that they are not inherently incredible.

The dual monarchy and its ruler are unquestionably in a highly critical position, the newspaper continues, and it may well be that the youthful emperor is trying to tempt Italy, possibly also Belgium, as he tried to tempt France.

The detachments belonged to a Czech-Slovak army which is being formed in many centers from former subjects of Emperor Charles. They already occupy positions at various

## BAKER WILL SUBMIT PLAN TO CONGRESS

### Secretary of War Expected to Ask That All Restriction on Number of Troops to Be Raised Be Removed

### NEW CLASSIFICATION SCHEME IS PROPOSED

### Chairman Dent Introduces Bill Authorizing Mobilization of 4,000,000

WASHINGTON, May 1.—Secretary Baker will carry to congress tomorrow the army increase program mapped out by President Wilson and his advisers and based on the determination to win the war, if it takes the whole man power of the nation to do it. There are indications that he will ask that all restrictions on the number of troops to be raised be removed and the government authorized to mobilize as many men as it can equip, train and send to the battle front in France.

When the war secretary appears before the house military committee with supplemental estimates for the army he is expected to disclose that the department has reason to believe it can handle during the present year at least double the existing force under arms of approximately 1,600,000 men.

That would mean a total of 3,200,000 soldiers for whom clothing, equipment and transportation are now in short supply. Should additional facilities become available, however, it is indicated that President Wilson wishes to be able to call out more men without delaying to seek authority.

President Meets Cabinet.

The president's war cabinet met with him today at the White House and went over the ground thoroughly. Secretary Baker remained more than an hour with the president after the other members of the war cabinet had left.

In the house, Chairman Dent of the military committee, introduced a bill that would authorize the mobilization and organization of 4,000,000 selective service men, instead of the 1,000,000 to which the government is limited by the existing act. Mr. Dent said the measure was his own and he had not consulted the war department on it.

New Scheme Outlined.

Under the new classification scheme, there are understood to be 1,800,000 men immediately available for active military service in Class 1. This estimate is based on the returns of numerous states and the law of averages. It excludes all men rated as fit only for limited special service, and all delinquents, slated for immediate induction into Class 1 when apprehended, and all of the so-called remedial cases, the men who will be fit for active service after operations or minor physical defects.

Behind that, also, stand the men who have reached 21 years since the first act was passed and who will be brought in under pending amendments. Probably the total of effectives in Class 1 will prove to be 2,500,000 men when the definite figures are available.

This is the first reservoir from which men will be drawn to fill up the new armies. It is conceivable that Class 1 will be exhausted in time but not that it can be shipped to France before congress meets again.

For this reason it is regarded as probable that the question of increasing age limits of the draft act or of drawing upon Class 2 can be deferred until congress again convenes.

Figures Are Prepared.

Military precautions forbid disclosure of the rate at which the army is being sent to the front, but Mr. Baker will be able to give the house committee tomorrow some interesting figures in this regard.

In pressing forward the troops, the war department, it is learned, has abandoned its previous policy of completing organization of a unit before it goes over. Under the new plan, regiments or larger units go forward on schedule even if they are short a considerable part of their full enlisted strength. They will be filled up on the other side.

The number of the colors this month under the selective service act has been raised to 250,000. Last month 150,000 were mobilized. At this rate half of the 800,000 which the department, before the German drive was launched, had planned to call during the present year, will have been called out in two months time.

## FRUIT CROPS WILL REQUIRE MANY WORKERS

### Indications Point to Great Increase of Products in Willamette Valley

### PRUNES WILL BE TRUMPS

### Local Plants Will Employ Hundreds of People During Season

Repeated allusions have been made in the press with regard to the influences that are pulling people away from Salem and vicinity. Over against these should be placed some of the factors that are not only going to hold people in this vicinity but attract a large number from the outside. Not the least of these is the fruit industry in all its phases, from the field to the tin can.

A recent visit to the Hunt cannery showed a squad of men at work putting on a fresh coat of paint on woodwork, cleaning up machinery and making preparations for the run of business, which is scheduled to begin on the first of June. It is the expectation of the management to make a 40 or 50 per cent increase over the output of last year, and the plant is being lined up with that in view. The management has stowed away something over a million tin cans of all sizes, hundreds of thousands of berry boxes and thousands of crates. Not less than 300 people will be employed about the plant throughout the season, and at a greatly increased rate of wages.

Prices Not Fixed.

No estimate can be made at this time as to the amount that will be paid for the various fruits and vegetables, but it is assumed that the tendency will be toward a better rate than was paid last year, owing to the increased cost of labor. The Hunt plant alone will consume thousands of tons of produce during the season, and this means the employment of thousands of hands in the production and harvesting of crop.

## BABES ARE KEPT SAFE IN TRENCH

### French Soldiers Counter-Attacking Find Children in German Front Line

BRITISH ARMY IN FLANDERS.

May 1.—Prisoners say that the 1920 class of Germans are being mustered in at Kreis Offenbach and they have been mustered in at Kreislimpsh. Some of this class already are in the field, but they are not to be used in the fighting unless their aid is absolutely necessary.

The recent fighting in Flanders has furnished many unusual and trying experiences for civilians living near the front, but none of these was more amazing than that of two tiny French children who are in a British military hospital. These tots were among the few unfortunate persons in Neuve Eglise when the Germans overran that place. The town immediately became a storm center which was continually changing hands and German soldiers took these two babies into trenches for the protection.

During a counter-attack the British stormed and captured the trench. They found the little ones safe and sound and brought them back. The children had been living under terrific gun fire, and how they escaped death cannot be accounted for.

Another French baby was found by two British signal men at another place. As the child had no protection the soldiers took it with them to their billet in a barn. That night the signal men went to sleep with the baby between them so that no harm might come to it. German air men bombed the barn, both the Tommies being killed. The child escaped injury and later was rescued by other soldiers.

## Seattle Farmer Pats Bullet in Own Heart

SPOKANE, May 1.—Lyman F. Williams, a resident of this city for twenty-five years and proprietor of the Steno farms near Trent, east of here, was found dead in a hotel room here this afternoon with a bullet through his heart. A note addressed to the public stated his intention of committing suicide.

Mr. Williams was one of the original owners of the Le Roi mine at Rossland, B. C., and twenty years ago was part owner of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Friends believe business worries were responsible for his death.

## Democrats in Wyoming Endorse Prohibition

CHEYENNE, Wyo., May 1.—Wyoming Democrats endorsed state-wide prohibition here tonight by resolutions adopted by the state Democratic committee, in session here.

The committee also adopted resolutions endorsing the national administration's war program.

## Traps Laid for Yankee Souvenir Collectors

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, May 1.—Knowing that the Americans are persistent souvenir hunters, the Germans in the Toul sector have been strewing No Man's Land with all sorts of infernal devices. These consist of electric wires attached to bells, helmets, rifles and other paraphernalia connecting with concealed bombs.

In a number of instances American soldiers have tripped over these, and escaped.

## ACCIDENT SINKS STEAMER FJELL

### Crew Saved by Livingstonia, Other Vessel Involved in Collision

AN ATLANTIC PORT, May 1.—The Norwegian steamer Fjell was sunk off the Virginia coast at midnight last night when she collided with the British steamer Livingstonia. The Fjell's crew was saved by the Livingstonia and landed here today.

The collision occurred in a heavy fog. The Livingstonia, outward bound from this port, crashed bow-on amidships of the Fjell, which was coming down the coast. With a great hole in her hull the Norwegian vessel sank soon after the crew had taken to the boats.

Captain Johannessen of the Fjell and his crew lost all their effects, many of the men reaching the boats half clothed. The captain said his ship was sounding her fog signal regularly and taking all proper precautions, and that the Livingstonia would be libeled for damages.

The British captain would not discuss the collision further than to say that he would make a full report at the proper time.

The Fjell was a little vessel of 581 net tons. The Livingstonia's net tonnage is 2799.

## Elvin Tells French Audience of Salem's Most Noted Advertising Coup, and Recites Exploits of Cherrian Bunch—Predicts Long War and Advises Preparation

Through James Elvin, pastor of the First Congregational church who is now in France, the people of that country have heard of the Salem Commercial club, the Cherrians and of the advertising idea which caused the city of Salem to make bold and ask all the other Salermities in the United States to change their names. In a letter to F. W. Steudloff, president of the Commercial club, Mr. Elvin says when he told a French audience of Salem's most memorable advertising coup his listeners laughed until they cried.

Mr. Elvin commends the thrift that is shown by the French people, and declares that when the Willamette valley is cultivated as thoroughly as the soil of France the people here will all be millionaires.

Prepare for a long war, is the advice of Mr. Elvin to the people at home. He writes as follows:

"By this time I am pretty well accustomed to army life and army ways. Uncle Sam has surely taken on a big job and I never realized how immense the task is until I came over here to see for myself.

"I have been over a considerable portion of France and it is indeed a very beautiful country. It is indeed a very old country and is naturally thickly populated. When the Willamette valley is cultivated as carefully as some of the districts where I am now, we shall all be millionaires. The French are a very saving people. Nothing is wasted. Every little twig and cutting, from a grape vine is saved for kindling. There are no modern buildings of any kind. The French are great builders in stone and everything they build is constructed to last for centuries. Everything is saved and they are very frugal. It is very wonderful to me to watch the women workers. They work at anything and everything—on cars, in shops, clean streets, conduct business, and farms and in every sphere one is impressed with the fact that the women are on the job.

"Immorality Not Rampant.

"In regard to immorality I am of the opinion that it is no worse than at home. I have seen worse things in the streets of Boston than I have seen in France. Silly little fools there are in the larger centers eager

## ATTENDS COMMERCIAL CLUB

"I had an interesting experience several evenings ago. One of my friends here is quite progressive and has published quite a little literature about the commercial opportunities of this town. He invited me to attend a meeting of the Commercial club. The meeting was held in a room over a cafe and about thirty-five men, most of them quite old, attended. They invited me to speak and my friend interpreted the speech into French. I told them all about our valley and our products, about our commercial club, the number of members, the dues, the work of cooperation, the Cherrians and the prizes they had captured and all about our publicity work. When I related to them the story of asking the other Salermities in America to change their names so that our Salem might be the only Salem in America they laughed till they cried. When I finished my speech they asked me questions about Oregon and the Pacific coast till nearly midnight. Some of them were acquainted with Portland having done some trading with that city. How our fellows would have laughed to see a room full of French business men standing holding their glasses high in the air and shouting 'Vive le Salem, Oregon,' while I yelled in return 'Vive la France.' The president at the close made a gracious speech in which he thanked me heartily for coming and bringing to

## ITALIANS LOSE ONE SHIP

ROME, May 1.—Only one sailing vessel over 1600 tons was sunk by submarine or mine in the week ending April 27.

# AMERICANS HOLD AGAINST ATTACK OF HUN INFANTRY

## Bombardment at Villers-Bretonneux Followed by Onrush of Germans—Many of Enemy Killed and Left on Field—Remarkable Bravery Displayed Throughout Battle—Hand-to-Hand Fighting Occurs Along Entire Line

### WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN FRANCE, May 1.—A heavy German attack launched yesterday against the Americans in the vicinity of Villers-Bretonneux was repulsed with heavy losses for the enemy. The German preliminary bombardment lasted two hours and then the infantry rushed forward, only to be driven back leaving large numbers of dead on the ground in front of the American lines.

The German bombardment opened at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and was directed especially against the Americans, who were supported on the north and south by the French. The fire was intense, and at the end of two hours the German commander sent forward three battalions of infantry. There was hand to hand fighting all along the line, as a result of which the enemy was thrust back, his dead and wounded lying on the ground in all directions. Five prisoners remained in American hands.

## These Men Will Shave When Berlin Is Taken

Theodore Rowland, Fred Klein, and M. S. Farwell, all employed in the state engineering department, have announced their intentions to allow their moustaches to grow until the American troops occupy Berlin. Dating from yesterday no razor will be allowed to touch their upper lips until Old Glory waves over the palace of the kaiser. Heretofore the faces of the three men have been unadorned with beard or moustache.

## Struggle Is Violent.

The struggle, which lasted a considerable time, was extremely violent and the Americans displayed remarkable bravery throughout.

It was the first occasion in which the Americans were engaged in the battle which has been raging since March 21 and their French comrades are full of praise for the manner in which they conducted themselves under trying conditions, especially in view of the fact that they are fighting at one of the most difficult points on the battle front.

The American losses were rather severe.

## BOHEMIANS DESERT.

LONDON, May 1.—The Bohemian troops are joining the Italians against Austria, according to the London Mail's correspondent at Italian headquarters. Even now some of the Bohemians are on the Italian line, clad in Italian uniforms.

This information has passed through the hands of both Italian and British censors and would therefore appear to be authentic. The defection of the Bohemians would in a measure explain the delay in the proposed great offensive, long-heralded, of the Austrians against the Italians.

Rioting in Prague.

Prague, capital of the Crowland of Bohemia, recently has been the center of riotous demonstrations against Germany and the Germans. The Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, Count Czernin, has been strongly denounced, and President Wilson and the entente allies have been cheered. The Czech members of parliament together with the Slovene and Serbo-Croat delegates, have been leaders in the opposition to German rule.

American troops around Villers-Bretonneux engaged for the first time in the great battle on the French front, have repulsed a strong German attack, preceded by a heavy bombardment and carried out by three battalions of infantry. The Germans left many dead and wounded before the American lines. The American losses are reported as "rather severe."

## Losses Enormous.

Having been defeated with enormous losses in every phase of the fighting around Ypres, the Germans have attempted no further onslaughts. Inaction prevailed Wednesday before the positions held by the British and French troops, especially those in the hands of the British, which it has been the ambition of the Germans to capture.

Since Monday what activity there has been in this region was carried out by the British and French, both of whom have materially bettered their positions—the French near Loere and the British at Meteren. On both sectors ground was captured and prisoners taken.

Meanwhile, British and French artillery are sending a veritable rain of shells on Mont Kemmel. Thus far the allied guns have held back all attempts by the enemy to reinforce his men on the hill and if the good work is kept up the hilltop is likely soon to prove a death trap for its captors.

No News on Council.

Nothing as yet has been vouchsafed regarding the inter-allied war council which is holding sessions at Versailles, which are expected to bring forth decisions of great moment.

Great faith in the ability of Gen.

## THE WEATHER.

Cloudy west, fair east portion; moderate northwesterly winds.

(Continued on page 6.)