

LORD NORTHCLIFFE DECLARES GERMANY ALREADY DEFEATED

Noted Newspaper Owner and One of England's Most Prominent Men Gives Exclusive Interview.

TEUTONS IN A LOSING FIGHT

Recent Expressions of Leading Germans Regarded As Signs of Anxiety and Weakness—Germans Not Underestimated, but They Cannot Possibly Win This War.

(Lord Northcliffe, millionaire owner of the London Daily Mail and of many other English publications, one of the best known and most influential public men in England, prepared the following article exclusively for the United Press. He expressed that his statements echoed only purely unofficial views, though for 20 years, through his publications, he has warned England of Germany's hostile purposes. The interview was passed by the censor.)

BY LORD NORTHCLIFFE. (Copyrighted 1914 by the United Press. English rights reserved.)

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The success of the United Press representative, Karl Von Wiegand, in securing expressions of opinion from leading German generals from the crown prince, from Admiral von Tirpitz and others, should not be construed as indicating a pro-German tendency on the part of your agency. It is a tribute to individual enterprise. I would have been very glad to have had any of my newspapers have such a series of brilliant coups. But the increasing loyalty of highly placed Germans—the crown prince, Admiral Tirpitz, Herr Dernberg and company—I regard as a sign of anxiety and weakness. This is not indicated among the German people, from whom the facts as yet are hidden, but among the ruling class of Germany, who are well aware that Germany is fighting a losing war.

You will notice that all these Teutonic spokesmen—as is wont with beaten men—alternately whine and threaten. We are content to let Admiral von Tirpitz and the crown prince do the talking while Lord Fisher and General Joffre do the shooting. Pray don't think we underestimate the Germans. Many of us are of the opinion that this colossal war will go on for years. None the less, Germany is beaten, was beaten when she began to retreat from Paris.

Her battle for Calais, now in its eighth day, is another impossible effort on her part. Her mercantile marine has been wiped from the seas. Germany's whole original objective has been defeated. She is now every-where on the defensive, except in Belgium, where the last army occupation is still engaged in the horrible task of bullying and plundering its wretched victims.

MRS. JOHN C. THOMAS OF ECHO CALLED BY DEATH

WELL KNOWN RESIDENT EXPIRES SUDDENLY IN PHYSICIAN'S OFFICE.

(Special Correspondence.) ECHO, Ore., Dec. 29.—Almost at the exact moment that Mrs. L. B. Ashbaugh was run over by an O.-W. R. & N. freight train, Mrs. John C. Thomas, a well known resident of this place, dropped dead of heart failure in the office of Dr. Dorn wither she had gone to consult the physician. While the doctor and friends were working over her, a messenger came with the news of the tragic accident at the depot. Mrs. Thomas was the wife of the head miller at the Echo flour mills and had lived here for five years. She was about 40 years old. A married son is living in Portland and will arrive in the morning.

RATE INCREASE MADE TO APPLY TO TERRITORY IN SOUTHWEST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The interstate commerce commission published today an important addition to the five per cent freight rate case order, authorizing certain rate advances in the southwest.

BRITISH FLEET IS ABOUT TO STRIKE A DECISIVE BLOW

Great Activity is Seen at all English Naval Bases, Especially Those Near the German Base.

FEAR OF ZEPPELINS DIES

Christmas Raid Proves That Kaiser's Air-Craft Are Not so Dangerous as Believed—French General Pau is Hammering His Way into Alsace—Victory Seems to be Near.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—The war having practically stopped military operations in northern France and Belgium, the most important events in the western field are transpiring in Alsace, where General Pau's French forces are advancing and Paris dispatches indicated they are near victory. The belief is gaining here that the British fleet is about to strike. Naval experts said the Christmas day water-raid on the Kaiser's naval base at Cuxhaven proved there was nothing to be feared from the German Zeppelins. Today's advices were to the effect the utmost activity prevailed at all England's naval bases, especially those commanding the direct routes to the Kaiser's sea stronghold of Heligoland.

BERLIN, Dec. 29.—German gains in Russian Poland were claimed in a war office report, but it was admitted they were small ones. This was attributed to weather conditions which were reported so unfavorable that rapid progress was impossible. It was intimated, however, that another important movement is imminent in the eastern war zone. The gains referred to were said to have been made at various points on the lower Vistula, between the upper Vistula and the Pilica rivers and south-east of Skierniewice. The situation in the west, said the statement, was unchanged.

"MORAL EFFECT" HANDED BACK TO JUDGE LOWELL

MESSRS MOORE AND JACK CONTINUE TO ASK LOCAL LAWYER TO DO HIS "DUTY."

Will Moore and Marion Jack, former members of the city water commission, continue to "pass the buck" to Judge Lowell with reference to the judge's past professions about the "moral effect" of a man holding a city office when technically disqualified. In reply to a letter from Judge Lowell in which he sought to "escape" bringing out proceedings against Dr. Best the following letter was sent yesterday:

December 28, 1914. Hon. S. A. Lowell, Pendleton, Oregon.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 26th regarding Dr. J. A. Best's application for citizenship papers at hand. Upon looking this up we find that his application will not come up for hearing until the April term of court, which will leave plenty of time to complete out proceedings before he can become a citizen.

It appears to us that if the MORAL EFFECT of men holding office in this city, who by technicalities might be disqualified, is so bad, as to justify their being ousted from office, then it must surely be a grave crime for a man who is not even a citizen of the United States to be allowed to hold office, in this fair city.

We must therefore insist that you do your full duty to the good people of Pendleton, and start out proceedings at once.

Yours very truly, WILL MOORE, MARION JACK.

Makes His Usual Denial. WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Asked here regarding a report that he would resign as soon as the senate acts on pending treaties, Secretary of State Bryan said: "I have not resigned as yet, so please make the customary denial."

ENGLAND MUST PAY FOR DAMAGE DONE TO U. S. SHIPPING

America Intends to Demand Monetary Account for Violation of Rights on the High Seas.

WILSON MAKES THIS PLAIN

Financial Restitution Will Be Demanded As Soon as the Present War is Over—Note to British Government Carries No Threat But Makes Our Position Clear.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—America intends, after the present war is over, to hold England to strict monetary account for violation of the rights of American shipping.

This was made plain by President Wilson in discussing the dispatch sent to England by the United States government insisting on an early improvement in the treatment of American commerce by the British fleet. Financial restitution, the president declared, will be demanded. The note sent England, he said, carried no threat. It insisted merely that England apply the same rules that England heretofore has insisted on in times of war when her own trade was affected.

The president explained the note summarized comprehensively a series of complaints, though each individual case had been subject of a concrete protest. These protests, he said, will form the basis for demands for damages after the war.

It was evident from the president's explanation that wherever one government wrongs the maritime rights of a neutral nation, the offending nation eventually must pay for the transgressions. From his statement it is inferred that the United States intends to ask millions of dollars reparation.

America's position, the president said, wasn't debatable. He asserted that England herself took a similar position in former wars.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—That the British government would give the most careful consideration to the Washington administration's protest against the treatment of American commerce by the English fleet was stated at the war office. Such emphasis was laid on this announcement that it was evident they wanted Americans to understand that the former were most anxious to meet the views of the American people.

It is known that Ambassador Spring Rice at Washington cabled to London the text of the American communication. The foreign office explained, however, that it wasn't yet officially informed concerning American wishes.

This was because American Ambassador Page hadn't as yet presented his message to foreign minister Grey. Arrangements were made for him to do so, however.

Immediately afterward it was said, the note would be submitted to the entire cabinet.

Battle Lines About Cracow



A—Cracow, object of Russian attack. B—Miechow and Andrejew, where Germans attacked Russian forces and drove them across the river Nida at point C. D—Kielce, objective point of Germans. E—Sochaczew and Skierniewice, from where the Germans are advancing on Warsaw.

A. C. STEWART BUYS COSY THEATER FROM COOPER

POPULAR LOCAL PLAYHOUSE CHANGES HANDS TONIGHT—VAUDEVILLE WILL END.

A. C. Stewart, formerly of Spokane and a brother-in-law of Frank Downey, proprietor of the Oregon Market, is now owner of the Cosy theater, having purchased the business from E. L. Cooper, who started the Cosy over four years ago and has successfully conducted it until the present time. Mr. Stewart will take charge of the theater following the performance this evening. He is a practical motion picture theater man, having been connected with the business since picture shows first came into use. He formerly resided in Denver but has had headquarters in Spokane for some time past. His training has been such as to well fit him for conducting the business he has purchased here. Mrs. Stewart was formerly Miss Kate Downey.

According to the announcement of Mr. Stewart, the vaudeville attractions will be dropped from the Cosy program and all attention will be devoted to giving a good picture service. The Mutual service now used by the Cosy, which includes the Keystone service, will be continued.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper will leave tonight for San Francisco where they will visit for a week and then go on to San Diego where they expect to locate.

MAN WELL KNOWN HERE IS DEAD AFTER SHORT ILLNESS

ACTOR WHO PLAYED HERE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS PASSES AWAY IN IDAHO.

Pendleton friends of Mrs. F. M. Weeks, nee Miss Lula R. Lorenz, will regret to learn that her husband passed away in Rexburg, Idaho, on December 26, after a serious illness of three weeks. He was stricken suddenly with pneumonia on December 6 and in spite of the best medical aid, could not throw off the hold of the disease.

His remains were taken in charge by the Idaho Falls lodge of Elks upon instruction from the Ann Arbor, Mich., lodge, of which he was a member, and he was laid to rest by them in the cemetery at Idaho Falls. Mr. Weeks was an actor and had recently played in eastern Oregon, making many friends in his travels. It was the plan of him and his wife to locate in Cove, Union county, within the next year and they had purchased a nice home there. They intended giving up theatrical work for some business. Mrs. Weeks will now make her home in Cove with her parents who have lived there many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Weeks were married six years ago on December 15. Prior to that time Mrs. Weeks had been in the employ of the East Oregonian for a period of three years and had many friends here.

ALLIES GAIN MORE THAN THREE MILES IN NORTHERN ZONE

Germans are Driven Out of Trenches After Repeated Charges Following Artillery Firing.

WARSAW SAFE IN THE EAST

Teutons no Longer a Menace to Russian Stronghold in Poland—Attempts to Check Slav Advance Said to Have Failed—Kaiser's Right Wing Believed in Danger.

PARIS, Dec. 29.—More than a two mile gain by the allies in Belgium was claimed by the war office in a statement today. The most important progress, it was said, was in the vicinity of Neuport, where the Franco-Anglo-Belgian forces were reported to have charged the German lines after French artillery had shelled them, driving the Teutons beyond Saint Georges. The losses on both sides were reported to be heavy.

The Germans, continued the statement, were shelling the allies trenches along the line between Roye and Amiens and the villages of Eschelle, Sturin, Quenoy, and Bouchir, which, under fire for 24 hours, were being badly damaged. The opinion was expressed that this bombardment was a preliminary to another German attempt at a drive to the westward in the Roye-Amiens region.

West of Aprement, it was stated the allies have retaken the trenches from which the Germans recently drove them.

The allied forces were said to have made three fierce counter attacks to regain the position and the fighting was declared prolonged and bloody.

DECKER SAYS NO THREAT MADE TO BOMBARD CITY

CAPTAIN OF TENNESSEE SENDS CABLE EXPLANATION TO DANIELS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—A flat denial of the report that the American cruiser threatened to bombard Tripoli, Syria, was received by Secretary Daniels in a cablegram from Captain Decker of the cruiser Tennessee.

INSURANCE COMPANY BALKS UNTIL FARMER PROVES HE'S MISSOURIAN

Before he could collect insurance he had upon his stallion which he lost during a fire recently, Levi Eldridge, prominent Pilot Rock farmer, had to submit an affidavit to the effect that he is a Missourian rather than a German by nativity. He held a policy in Lloyd's agency of London upon his stallion "Chaco" for \$1000 and, when the animal perished in the fire, he made application for his money. It seems that the German insurance company since the outbreak of the war have refused to pay any damages to English policy holders and, in retaliation, the English companies have made a like discrimination against subjects of the Kaiser. The name of Mr. Eldridge probably aroused suspicions that he was born beyond the Rhine so that Major Lee Moorhouse, local agent, had to prepare an affidavit showing that Eldridge was born in Missouri, and had no connections with the Fatherland. Satisfied, the company sent the money, a check for \$1000 reaching Mr. Eldridge yesterday.

NEWS SUMMARY

General. Lord Northcliffe declares in exclusive interview that Germany is already defeated. British fleet is believed preparing to strike decisive blow against Germans. England will be held responsible for losses to American shipping. Allies make gains of several miles in northern zone it is declared. Local. Echo woman meets death in attempt to crawl under freight train to cross track. Eldridge proves he is a Missourian and not a German; gets \$1000. Playful dog causes \$800 fire. Moore and Jack again write to Judge Lowell concerning Best's eligibility. Actor, husband of former local girl dies.

Belgians Cleaning Shelled Houses



Here we see the Belgian soldiers amid the ruins of one of their native villages, salvaging timbers from the ruins of shelled houses for use in the trenches.