

## BERLIN PLANS SIEGE OF BRITAIN BY SEA

Formal Notice to Be Given to Neutrals; Feb. 1 is Date.

### THIRTY NEW SUBMARINES READY

All Ships to Be Hailed, and Sunk if Contraband is Found on Board—To Sink All Armed Vessels.

New York—Germany will declare a deep sea barrier around the British Isles, beginning February 1. This news is brought to New York by four passengers arriving from British and Baltic ports on the Philadelphia, of the American, and the Baltic, of the White Star line, Monday, gave the same versions of the new plans of the German admiralty.

The deep sea barrier will be patrolled by 30 submarines of the latest type, all of which have been launched in the past two months and are capable of a 6000-mile cruising radius, according to three Americans, travelers from Germany.

A note will be sent by the central powers to all neutral nations, warning them of Germany's decision, similar to the note sent on February 18, 1915, which received Mr. Wilson's famous reply in return demanding strict accountability, from Germany for any American life placed in jeopardy.

This newest "danger zone" is the North Channel, which separates Ireland and Scotland; St. George's channel, between England and Ireland, and the entrance to the English channel.

All allied vessels, whether carrying contraband or not, will be stopped, their crews ordered to take to the ship's boats and the vessel immediately sunk.

The submarines which will patrol this newest zone have a speed of 18 knots on the surface and 12 knots submerged, it was said by the Americans, who asserted that they had the highest German authority on this statement. Each submarine will operate in a 10-mile radius, and will be held responsible for any allied merchant vessel which slips past into an allied port.

Each submarine is to be equipped with six torpedo tubes, two rapid-fire guns mounted fore and aft, bomb-laying chambers and a large supply of bombs, mines and grenades. They will carry sufficient provisions to last five weeks without recharging.

In the case of neutral vessels passing through the war zone their cargoes will be examined as previously and, if they are carrying contraband, they, too, will be sunk, their crews first having taken to the lifeboats.

It is understood that Germany is preparing a new list of contraband articles, which will be in effect as soon as the new note is sent to neutrals. It is believed that large quantities of foodstuffs, as well as other necessities of life, will appear on this new contraband list.

Allied merchantmen similar to the British steamer Aberleau, which sailed Friday for Southampton via Halifax, with a steel gun turret, to have a six-inch gun mounted for offensive, as well as defensive, warfare, will be considered as an armed cruiser and will be sunk on sight, it is said.

### Twenty-Fve Thousand Guardsmen on Border Ordered Home

Washington, D. C.—More than 25,000 National guardsmen, now on the Mexican border, have been designated by Major General Funston for return home and muster out of the Federal service. All these organizations will be started homeward as soon as transportation facilities can be provided.

Their departure will leave between 45,000 and 50,000 men of the guard still in the Federal service doing border patrol.

War department officials continue to withhold comment on reports that the movement of General Pershing's regulars out of Mexico soon will be under way and the statement announcing the guardsmen designated for relief does not connect these orders with the withdrawal plans in any way.

### Kiss Rewards Governor.

Cheyenne, Wyo.—A resounding kiss implanted on the executive lips in full view of a number of persons assembled to witness the governor's action was the reward Mrs. John B. Kendrick gave Governor Kendrick Saturday for signing the bill submitting prohibition to the people of Wyoming.

The bill provides for a vote to be taken in 1918 on the adoption of prohibition amendments to the state constitution.

## LONDON ROCKED BY BLAST

Huge Munitions Plant Wiped Out by Explosion, Killing Many.

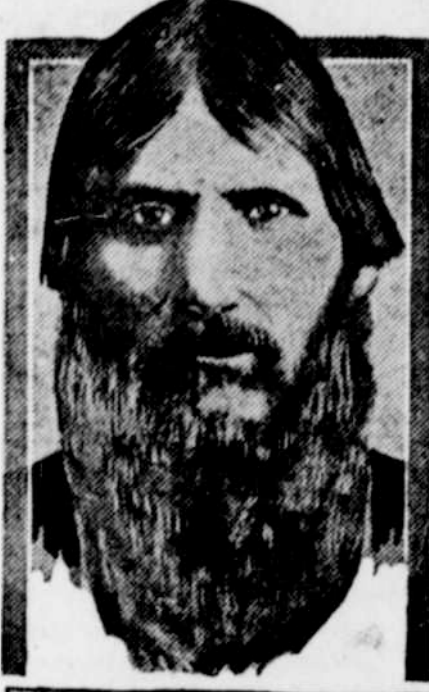
London—A portion of the area of London was shaken severely Saturday night when a chemical plant in which munitions were manufactured was the center of a series of explosions, scattering death and destruction over a considerable section of the district in which the works were located.

There is no evidence that the explosion was other than the result of a fire, such as that to which any factory is subject. Between 50 and 60 bodies have been recovered.

In 10 hospitals on Sunday 21 persons died, and there were 112 patients receiving treatment, Lloyd's Weekly says. In addition, 265 persons suffering from injuries were treated.

The central point of the volcano-like upheaval was in the heart of the working district of a suburban town. At 6:45 p. m. a series of explosions sud-

### Russia's "Sacred Devil," Who Was Assassinated



GREGORY RASPUTIN

Gregory Rasputin, called the "Sacred Devil of Russia," whose influence over the royal family, particularly the czarina, became obnoxious, was quietly assassinated by several relatives of the czar and high officials. He was one of those strange mystical characters who have floated through all Russian history. Rasputin had gained such power over the royal family that it was feared he would interfere seriously with the conduct of the war. At any rate he interfered with officials of such importance that the Russian police fear to prosecute the men who killed him.

denly transformed the works into a fiery furnace and great masses of burning liquid and timbers and red-hot iron were hurled high in the air. Mingled with the deafening crash of beams and girders were cries from the working people. An adjoining flour mill, in which a number of women and girls were employed, was engulfed.

The explosions were only the centers of a succession of widespread series of fires, as the masses of firebrands from the affected quarter settled down on surrounding areas. Added to the terror of this upheaval was the sudden darkness in which the entire quarter was plunged.

### Blizzard in East is Worst in Years; All Traffic is Hindered

St. Paul—The worst blizzard since 1908 raged over Southern Minnesota, Western Wisconsin, North and South Dakota and Northern Iowa Sunday, with slight signs of abatement. No loss of life has been reported.

Fifteen inches of snow fell here during the day. All railroads running into St. Paul report trains many hours late, and on trains from the South Dakota district indefinite reports are given. Pierre, South Dakota, reports all trains have been cancelled until the storm abates.

Information received here indicate the storm was the heaviest in the South Dakota territory, where telephone and telegraphic communications have been seriously hampered.

### British Propose to Lease Merchant Ships of Greece

Athens—The cabinet Monday discussed at length a British proposal to lease the Greek merchant marine. It was decided to take measures to assure the retention of the number of ships necessary to provide the foodstuffs which Greece requires.

According to a high official, two considerations already have put Greek shipowners in the hands of the entente, namely, coal and insurance.

The latter, it was pointed out, might be secured in the United States, but the former, according to this authority, was sufficient to induce owners to accede to the proposals of Great Britain.

## SCHOOL WORK SHOWS WELL

Oregon Pupils Rank First in U. S. in Regularity of Attendance.

That the public schools of Oregon have made much progress during the past two years is shown by the biennial report which has just been issued by Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. A. Churchill. The report contains nearly one hundred pages and deals with many phases of school work. Superintendent Churchill has briefly noted the principal lines of progress, in the following words:

"A summary of the work of the public schools of Oregon during the past two years shows that substantial progress is being made. Every year the attendance of the pupils has become more regular until Oregon now ranks first in the United States in regularity of attendance in the rural schools. There is a growing interest in the industrial club work, and the number of children who carry their projects through to a successful termination is increasing each year. To use the words of a county superintendent: 'The pupils are not only learning to do things and acquire right habits, but they are learning to produce and make things at a profit.' The standardization of the country schools is doing much to improve the work of that institution, and while there are still many rural schools that have not yet met all of the requirements for standardization, the number that have done so is increasing from year to year. The work of the high schools has been greatly strengthened through meeting the requirements of the State Board of Education relative to libraries and other equipment. This is especially true of the smaller high schools, many of which have heretofore had almost no equipment or apparatus with which to do their work. The high school tuition fund law, which was passed in 1915, is making it possible for thousands of pupils to attend high school who would otherwise be denied the opportunity. That the increase in attendance due directly to this law has been phenomenal, is shown by the fact that in some high schools the number of students has doubled. The county superintendent of one of the large counties of Western Oregon reports that the high school attendance in his county has increased 128 per cent since the passage of the high school tuition fund law. Among the other features of progress should be mentioned the gradual increase in the requirements for certification, which mean more thorough preparation on the part of teachers and better teaching; the stimulated interest in supervised recreational activities, which has led to the improvement of playgrounds and the installation of play apparatus; an improvement in the style of school architecture, embodying both utility and beauty; and, finally, a better community spirit, due to the work of the Parent-Teacher association and kindred organizations."

Collier Judges Poultry. North Yakima—Yakima county's annual poultry show is well under way and Chief Judge Harry F. Collier, of Tacoma, says the showing, both in quantity and quality, is equal to any which has been held in the county. He is especially pleased with the entries in the White Leghorn and Black Minorca classes.

\$85,000 for 55,000 Bushels Wheat. Spokane—Thomas F. Wren, who owns a wheat ranch near Fenn, Idaho, Thursday sold 55,000 bushels of wheat for \$85,000. Four grain companies participated in the transaction.

### NORTHWEST MARKET REPORT

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.86 per bushel; club, \$1.65; fortyfold, \$1.65; red Russian, \$1.62. Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$36.50. Barley—No. 1 feed, \$38.50. Flour—Patents, \$8.40; straights, \$7.60 @ 7.80; valley, \$7.90; whole wheat, \$8.60; graham, \$8.40. Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$26.50 per ton; shorts, \$30.50; rolled barley, \$41@42. Corn—Whole, \$46 per ton; cracked, \$47. Hay—Producers' prices: Timothy, Eastern Oregon, \$19@21 per ton; valley, \$16@17; alfalfa, \$17@18; valley grain hay, \$13@15; clover, \$12.50. Butter—Cubes, extras, 35@35½c; prime firsts, 34½c; firsts, 33½@34c. Jobbing prices: Prime extras, 38c; cartons, 1 cent extra; butterfat, No. 1, 38c; No. 2, 36c, Portland. Eggs—Oregon ranch, current receipts, 38@40c per dozen; Oregon ranch, candled, 41c; selects, 43c. Poultry—Hens, 15@17c per pound; springs, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 20@22c; dressed, 25@26c; ducks, 16@20c; geese, 12@14c. Veal—Fancy, 14½@15c per pound. Pork—12½@13c per pound. Vegetables—Artichokes, 90c@1.10 per dozen; tomatoes, nominal; cabbage, \$3.25 per hundred; eggplant, 25c per pound; lettuce, \$2.50 per box; cucumbers, \$1.50@2.00 per dozen; celery, \$5.50 per crate; cauliflower, \$2.50, squash, 1½c per pound; peppers, 25c; sack vegetables, \$1.25; sprouts, 10c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon buying prices, \$1.75@2.00 per hundred; sweet, \$4. Onions—Oregon buying prices, \$5 per sack, country points. Green Fruits—Apples, 50c@1.50 per box; pears, \$1.50@2.50; cranberries, \$11@12 per barrel. Hops—1916 crop, 5@9c per pound. Wool—Eastern Oregon, fine, 24@30c per pound; coarse, 33@36c; valley, 33@35c; mohair, nominal. Cascara Bark—Old and new, 5c per pound. Cattle—Steers, prime, \$8.25@8.50; fair to good, \$7.00@8.00; cows, choice, \$6.75@7.50; medium to good, \$6.25@6.75; ordinary to fair, \$5.50@6.00; heifers, \$6.00@7.00; bulls, \$2.75@5.25; calves, \$3.00@7.00. Hogs—Heavy packing, 215-250 pounds, \$10.20@10.55; light butchers, \$10.00@10.35; light packing, 170-190 pounds, \$10.00@10.15; rough heavy, \$9.00@9.25; pigs and skips, \$8.50@8.75; stock hogs, \$8.50@8.75. Sheep—Lambs, \$9.25@11.25; yearling wethers, \$8.75@10.00; old wethers, \$8.50@9.00; ewes, \$6.75@8.25.

### Would Make Every Oregon School House a Civic Center

In his biennial report to the legislature Superintendent of Public Instruction J. A. Churchill highly commends the law making every Oregon schoolhouse a civic center. In discussing this subject Mr. Churchill says:

"In 1915, the state legislature enacted a law making every public schoolhouse a civic center, under the control of the district school board, where the citizens of the district may engage in supervised recreational activities, and where they may discuss any and all subjects which in their judgment pertain to the educational, economic, artistic and moral interests of the citizens. Lighting, heating, janitor service and the services of the supervising officer when needed, may be paid from the public school funds of the district."

"The passage of this law has done much to open the doors of our country schoolhouses to the church, the Grange, the Farmers' Union, and the Parent-Teacher association. Because these buildings were erected primarily for the use of the schools, their use has frequently been refused for any other purposes, in spite of the fact that a building for public meetings is greatly needed in every rural community, and the schoolhouses are used for school purposes only five days in the week, and then for not more than from six to nine months in the year. Thus many thousands of dollars' worth of public property has been standing idle a large part of the year and many people have been denied the social and intellectual pleasures which are so greatly enjoyed in the country districts. This economic waste will be largely done away with through the passage of this law providing for the use of schoolhouses as civic centers."

## APPLES IN STORAGE SCARCE

Of 2000 Carloads for 1916 Season 350 Remain Unshipped.

Hood River—Out of 2000 carloads of apples produced by Hood River valley last season, a yield almost twice the tonnage of any former year, only about 350 carloads remain unshipped.

The Fruit Growers' Exchange has practically cleaned out its holdings, having shipped 150 carloads. A. E. Woolpert, of White Salmon, Wash., who represents in the mid-Columbia district the Dan Wulle Co., an English importing firm, says that he has handled a tonnage of 175 carloads from mid-Columbia points, all but two of which have rolled to Eastern seaports for export.

The Apple Growers' association reported that approximately 350 carloads of extra fancy and fancy Newtowns and Spitzenbergs, chiefly the former variety, remain in local storage.

### Has 500 Cars Fruit.

Wenatchee—Shippers and dealers agree that there are in storage about 500 cars of apples in the valley. About 50 cars leave this district weekly for Eastern points, most of them back orders. Demand now is at a standstill. The holdings in the valley are well divided among the shipping agencies. It is not thought that any one has more than 75 cars.

It is thought that the movement to market will not be less than 50 cars a week, and on this basis the cleanup will be made by the latter part of April.

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## LOST ARMY ARMEN RESCUED IN MEXICO

Officers in Desert Four Days Without Nourishment.

### FOUND FAR SOUTH OF BORDER

Men Tramp 200 Miles Over Mountains in Search of Habitation Before Rescuing Party is Found

Wellton, Ariz.—Human endurance triumphed in a grueling battle with the desert of Sonora when Lieutenant W. A. Robertson, brought here late Friday by a rescue party, overtook Thursday a party searching for the two missing army aviators in the desolate region and directed them to a mountain pass where his fellow officer, Lieutenant Colonel Harry G. Bishop, lay weak and exhausted.

The searchers, obeying the aviator's directions and following his tracks 30 miles along the base of the Gila mountains, found Colonel Bishop lying in the sand, unable to walk farther, and brought to an end a search which army aviators, civilians and Mexican soldiers have been conducting in Lower California and Sonora for the two missing men.

Robertson had been four days without food or water when he came upon the searching party from Wellton, composed of E. L. Gamble, W. Probstel and S. Hovatter. Almost exhausted, his clothing burned from close contact with a camp fire he had made on the desert to keep him warm when he was not walking, Robertson was able to talk, and soon had members of the searching party following his trail back to where he had left Colonel Bishop.

The latter was found in the sand dunes near the Rosario mountains, and carried out to a place where a fire was built. He was made as comfortable as possible after something to eat was given him, while other members of the party brought Robertson to Wellton and sent to Yuma for assistance for Bishop.

The men had tramped together almost 200 miles over desert and mountain country from a point on the east coast of the Gulf of California, sharing water which they carried in an oil can taken from their abandoned airplane and subsisting on four sandwiches and four oranges.

Their supplies of food and water became exhausted, and nowhere had the men been able to find human habitation or shelter from the biting cold and drenching rain of the desert country. They continued their tramp together until Wednesday, a week after they had started from North Island aviation base at San Diego on a flight to Calexico, Cal., on which they were carried out of their course by a strong wind and failure of their compass, to register properly, and then Colonel Bishop became too weak to continue further.

### Public Buildings Bill Passes House; President Will Veto

Washington, D. C.—An omnibus public buildings bill, which President Wilson has given notice he will veto, was passed by the house, 234 to 92 late Friday. It carries \$38,000,000 for buildings, improvements or sites in cities and towns all over the country.

The bill now goes to the senate, where it will encounter determined opposition.

Action in the house followed a long and bitter debate, in which advocates of the measure defended it and opponents denounced it as "pork barrel" legislation. The final vote was not along party lines, although there were more Republican than Democratic negatives.

While the bill carries a total of \$38,000,000, Chairman Clark, of the public buildings committee, told the house this amount would be reduced about \$6,000,000 by money returned to the treasury through sales of old sites and buildings.

### Briand Defends Wilson.

Paris—By a vote of 437 to 57, the chamber of deputies has supported the government in its refusal to reply to an interpellation presented by Adrien Pressimane and 34 other extreme Socialist deputies as to why the government replied to President Wilson's note. Premier Briand took the opportunity to speak in the most cordial terms of Mr. Wilson's motives and the attitude of the Americans.