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WHOLE NUMBER 1632.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

VALE BOOZE AT MIDNIGHT TONIGHT

Curtain Goes Down for King Alcohol in Three Great Northwestern States With Coming of the New Year

Portland, Ore., Dec. 31.—At one minute past 12 o'clock tonight 2,100 saloons will go out of existence and the three big states of the Pacific northwest will enter the "dry" column.

Prohibition, or near-prohibition, takes effect in Washington, Oregon and Idaho simultaneously, increasing the total "dry" area in the United States by nearly 40 per cent.

During the last month the stores of liquor in the hands of saloons and wholesale houses have practically disappeared. Much of it was sold to those who heeded the admonitions of big banners in front of every "family liquor store" to "Stock Up For the Drought."

Hot Time Tonight

Today many saloons in every city throughout the northwest are dismantled but, nevertheless, they are prepared for the biggest night's business in history. Tables in the big cafes of Seattle, Portland, Spokane and Tacoma were at a premium, and preparations were being made to uncork the last few bottles of champagne.

"Wets" and "drys" alike point out that neither Washington nor Oregon will have real prohibition. The laws of these two states are practically the same, and allow the shipment into the state of liquor in small quantities. Idaho's law, on the other hand, is what the prohibitionists call "drum tight."

Fight Ahead for Idaho

The Idaho "drys" still have a hard fight before them. They failed to have prohibition written into their constitution by vote of the people. Instead the legislature passed a prohibition law. The "wets" now have this law before the United States supreme court on appeal, but meanwhile the district attorneys, sheriffs and police in every county and city in the state are preparing to clamp down the lid at the stroke of twelve tonight.

Portland, Dec. 31.—The saloon's last day in Oregon was not a very wet one. Today Portland was already so near dry that the transition tonight will make little difference, as far as the general public is concerned.

There is an actual famine of strong drink. The few quarts remaining sold for twice their normal price. Some householders who stocked up early took advantage of the high prices and unloaded some of their bonded goods to the saloons.

Beer flowed rather freely today. There is plenty of it in kegs, but bottled beer has been an unknown commodity for a week. The prospect this morning was that tonight's crowds will be drinking nothing but beer.

A few saloons stopped selling whiskey altogether. Most of them responded to the calls for whiskey, but the bartenders themselves would not guarantee the article they served. Detectives haunted saloons, frequently sampling the wares to see that the saloonkeepers, in a burst of last day enthusiasm, did not make their deceptions vile enough to be unlawful.

The owners of two retail liquor stores spent last night in the county jail for selling burnt sugar and water for port wine. Authorities expected more complaints of this sort when

(Continued on page 4)

SCHMIDT FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER FOR DYNAMITING

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—Found guilty of first degree murder, M. A. Schmidt, alleged accomplice of J. B. McNamara in the dynamiting of the Times building in 1910, faced life imprisonment today.

He can not be hanged, as the jury entered a plea for clemency in its verdict, fixing the penalty at life.

Judge Frank Willis announced that he would sentence Schmidt Monday, but at the time the case will be continued until January 12 at the request of the defense, which will ask time to prepare arguments for a new trial.

The verdict against Schmidt was found on the first ballot, all jurors voting "guilty of murder in the first degree." It took two ballots to fix the penalty.

Schmidt received the shock with calm. Olaf Tveitmo, San Francisco labor leader, his face flushed scarlet, sprang forward as court adjourned and Schmidt was taken back to jail, while Katherine Schmidt, his sister, wept. Tveitmo cried, "Send word to Lincoln Steffens that the golden rule is off. There will be a 10 years war in Los Angeles. They shall pay for this."

In jail today Schmidt refused a formal statement. All he would say was:

"It's all in a lifetime."
He visited with his sister and one of his attorneys, Job Harriman.

All eyes are now turned on David Caplan, Schmidt's co-defendant. He is to be tried next. Today he ridiculed a report that he has made known his willingness to confess. He said he had nothing to confess, and that the battle was just beginning.

MAY BUILD BOX CARS FOR THE RUSSIANS

Portland, Dec. 31.—Bids for the manufacture of one thousand box cars for the Russian government are being submitted to several northwestern contractors, according to a report which Twohy Brothers of Portland today refused to confirm or deny. The cars, it is said, are to be delivered in Seattle.

CALL LEGISLATURE OF CALIFORNIA IN SPECIAL SESSION

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Governor Johnson announced today that he would issue within 24 hours a call for an extra session of the California legislature to convene January 5, at 2 p. m.

In a statement issued, the governor gave his reasons for calling the extraordinary session, and declared it should not require more than four days nor cost more than \$10,000. The legislature will take up, with a view to repealing, the primary registration statute passed by the last legislature, which has thrown the election laws of the state into chaos. The proposal to utilize the California building at the exposition for the state normal school, and additional legislation for the continuance of the San Diego exposition will also come up.

PAROLED OREGON CONVICT FIGHTING IN TRENCHES

(By United Press Leased Wire.)
Salem, Dec. 31.—A parolee from the penitentiary on condition that he report each month to District Attorney Ringo is not very irksome to John Schulz, convicted a year ago of assault with a dangerous weapon. Today the district attorney has a report from Schulz, dated "somewhere in France," where he is wielding dangerous weapons with the full sanction of the law.

AUSTRIA BACKS DOWN AND MEETS U. S. DEMAND

Reply to the American Protest Over Sinking by a Submarine of the Ancona Without Warning Disperses the Clouds, and Complies, in a General Way, With the Requirements Imposed by the United States Government

POINTS IN UNOFFICIAL VERSION ANCONA REPLY

- + Austria has ordered punishment of her submarine commander, as demanded by America.
- + In effect, granted disavowal of the torpedoing and agreed to reparation for lives lost.
- + Concurred in the principle that enemy vessels, unless they flee or resist, shall not be destroyed until persons aboard are rescued.
- + Refused responsibility for deaths due to panic among the crew.
- + Desires to maintain friendly relations.
- + Leaves the way open for further negotiations, but on comparatively minor points.

Washington, Dec. 31.—There will be no break with Austria over the torpedoing of the Italian liner Ancona, with loss of American lives. The danger of a severance of diplomatic relations is past. Austria in her reply to the second American Ancona note has "substantially complied" with the administration demands.

This was the official view today following receipt of unofficial versions of the note, handed to Ambassador Penfield at Vienna. This view lacks only President Wilson's final approval after he reads the official reply. Further negotiations in the case are probable, but only on minor points, for Austria has met the chief issues demanded by America.

A wave of relief swept over the state department following publication of the unofficial text today. The official text was expected before night.

As repeatedly forecasted by the United Press, Austria in her reply has shown a desire to make severance of diplomatic relations impossible. Moreover, the reply bears out the report of Carl W. Ackerman, United Press staff correspondent at Berlin, saying that Austria would meet American demands and go as far as possible to preserve the existing peace between the two countries.

In effect, the reply granted America's specific demands for disavowal

of the torpedoing, for punishment of the commander, and for reparation. There was elation because she even went so far as to give assurances for the future conduct of her submarine warfare according to the principles of international law.

It was held she did this in the following, quoted from the unofficial text:

"The Austrian-Hungarian government can positively concur in the principle that enemy private vessels so far as they do not flee or offer resistance, shall not be destroyed before the persons aboard are rescued."

This is the most important Austrian concession, even more definite than any yet secured from Germany in the Lusitania case. This comes direct from the Austrian government and applies to all enemy ships, whereas in Germany's case her only pledge is Ambassador von Bernstorff's note applicable only to "liners."

President Wilson is not expected to insist to the point of an open break upon a specific and definite disavowal. Officials believe that Austria substantially disavowed the torpedoing by admitting that her commander erred in torpedoing the Ancona while passengers were still aboard, and by ordering punishment for his act. Austria's refusal of responsibility for deaths due to panic among the crew, as quoted in the unofficial text, is not regarded as important, nor as an evasion of the disavowal demand. Officials do not expect any hitch or quibbling over the demand for reparation for lives lost. Austria's liability will be arranged in personal conferences between Secretary Lansing and Charge d'Affaires Zwiadenek. Further, officials are gratified at Austria's unexpected willingness to pay without proof of whether the lives were lost in the shelling or torpedoing or through the negligence of the crew should there be difficulty in establishing just how some came to their deaths.

The probable effect of Austria's answer on Germany in the Lusitania case is regarded as important, and it is hoped that the Austrian compliance now clears the way to similar German action.

New York, Dec. 31.—Publication of the Austrian reply in the Ancona case sent up some stocks three points today on the most active trading in weeks.

ALL REPUBLICS OF AMERICA PLAN TO FORM A DEFENSIVE ALLIANCE

(By United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, Dec. 31.—Creation of a defensive alliance that would put the power and resources of the 21 American republics behind the Monroe doctrine, it became known today, is the real purpose behind the proposed convention among them. While ostensibly this convention is for settlement of boundary disputes, and while Secretary Lansing would not discuss the broader proposition, delegates to the pan-American Scientific congress declared that such a movement is on foot. It will prove, they said, the most powerful alliance in the history of the world. Included in suggestions made for the alliance are:

- Creation of standing armies, the size of each to be determined in the convention, and subject to call for the defense of any one republic.
- Creation of navies along similar lines.
- Promulgation of a code of laws for regulation not only of boundary disputes, but also to deal with commercial, industrial and financial matters.
- An agreement that no one will make an offensive or defensive treaty with any government outside the western hemisphere.
- Establishment of a court from representatives of the subscribers to the pan-American alliance, to settle all disputes.
- Establishment of an international police force, distinct from the regular army and navy, to put down revolutions when the court decides such outbreaks are not supported by a ma-

BRITISH CRUISER NATAL SUNK WITH 300 MEN ABOARD

London, Dec. 31.—Three hundred and twenty-five men aboard the 13,660-ton British cruiser Natal, sunk by an internal explosion in a harbor yesterday, have not been accounted for. Four hundred were saved. The admiral's announcement of her sinking said merely:

"The British cruiser Natal was sunk by an internal explosion in a harbor."

Details as to what harbor or the reasons for the explosion were not given.

The Natal, 480 feet in length, with a 73-foot beam, was built in 1903. Her speed was 30 knots an hour, and she carried six 9.2 and four 7.5 inch guns.

Immediate investigation of the sinking has been ordered. The government withheld news of the disaster for nearly a day in order that it might ascertain the number of survivors. It is believed that many, if not all, of the survivors were on shore at the time of the explosion and owed their lives to this fact.

FORD PEACE EXPEDITION IS IN COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen, Dec. 31.—The Ford peace expedition arrived here today on the last lap of their journey. Business Manager Plantiff is trying to charter a vessel to take the delegates to The Hague, but it is probable, however, that the party will accept the Stockholm mayor's invitation to return to Stockholm for their peace conference. The managers have abandoned all hope that Germany will permit the expedition to cross that country to reach The Hague.

GREECE SENDS ANOTHER PROTEST TO THE ALLIES

Berlin, Dec. 31.—Greece has sent a second protest to the allies on account of their work of fortifying Saloniki, said an Athens dispatch today.

ENGLISH CABINET CONSIDERS BILLS FOR CONSCRIPTION

London, Dec. 31.—Rumors today were that Chancellor of the Exchequer McKenna, President Runciman of the board of trade and Sir John Simon, secretary of state for home affairs, will resign from the cabinet because they are opposed to the government's proposals for conscription.

There was no confirmation of rumors that Lewis Harcourt, first commissioner of works, has quit the cabinet, though reports that he is to become viceroy of India are credited in many quarters. Harcourt himself is silent on the matter.

The resignations of the other three had been rumored previously, but it was believed that Premier Asquith had conciliated them. Hence, renewal of the reports caused a sensation in government circles.

Three bills have been presented to the cabinet sessions. Lloyd-George's provided not only for enrollment of unmarried men, but also for drafting married men, if necessary. The other bills were less drastic.

The cabinet met for two hours, with every member in attendance, but no statement was issued afterward.

Director John Barrett of the pan-American union had this to say concerning the proposal:

"Whatever may be the results of this war, there may be afterward little or no love for the United States and other American nations. They must stand together for eventualities."

KAISER HAS NO PROPOSAL FOR PEACE

Germany Ready to Consider Any Proposition From Her Enemies, But Content to Continue War, Says Official

By Carl W. Ackerman.

Berlin, Dec. 31, via Sayville.—The foreign office today took official cognizance of the Wolff News agency's Zurich dispatches, quoting Germany's possible peace terms, when Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein, special adviser, denied emphatically that Germany is maneuvering for peace.

"Our military, financial and economic condition is such that we can just as well make peace as to continue the war," said the baron. "Which of these possibilities becomes a fact depends not upon us, but upon our opponents. As the chancellor said, we will consider every proposal which is made, but as for ourselves, we have no propositions at present."

The baron, who had just conferred with Foreign Secretary von Jagow, continued:

"We have not made up our minds about any peace. The government is anxious to express clearly and distinctly that it had nothing to do with the contents or publication of the Zurich article. It is not our custom to express our opinions in a round-about way in the neutral press."

He said this applied equally to reports frequently started in America from alleged German sources.

"The chancellor stated details of our positions concerning peace in the reichstag December 9. We still hold the same view, and we shall not change it, despite the shouting which may arise in the foreign press."

Glendale Man Passes Away

Cleveland Weaver Holtz, of Glendale, died of tuberculosis early yesterday morning at the home of his father, E. F. Holtz, in Glendale. The young man was twenty-three years old and of rugged physique, but recently fell a victim of rapid tuberculosis and all efforts to check its inroads failed. He spent some time in southern California, but failed to improve. Mr. Holtz was well known as Glendale's star left-handed pitcher. He was single, but members of his family now living are his parents and three brothers. He was buried today at the Glendale cemetery.

MEN INDICTED AS PLOTTERS TO FIGHT EXTRADITION

(By United Press Leased Wire.)
Washington, Dec. 31.—Former Congressman Fowler, H. B. Martin and Herman Schulteis appeared before U. S. Commissioner Taylor today and gave \$5,000 bonds for their appearance in New York in connection with indictments charging them with being anti-ally plotters in Labor's National Peace council.

Congressman Buchanan of Illinois, also under indictment, agreed with the department of justice that he will go to New York Tuesday to plead and will give bail there. It is understood that Fowler, Martin and Schulteis will fight extradition. Their hearing is set for January 20.