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

"LAP ORDER" CAUSE OF WRECK

Three Are Killed When Passenger Trains on the Milwaukee Collide Through the Mistake of an Employee

Spokane, Jan. 26.—Three were killed and at least three injured in a collision between two Milwaukee trains 37 miles east of Othello this morning. The dead are: George Rait, engineer of westbound train No. 17, and two unidentified hoboes.

The known injured are: Wm. A. Schulz, engineer eastbound train No. 18; D. F. Armstrong, fireman of No. 17, and John Woodward, express messenger. Both engines, the express cars, and baggage cars were smashed. No passengers were injured.

Tacoma, Jan. 26.—The wreck on the Milwaukee railroad in eastern Washington was caused, local officials of the company say today, by what is known among railroad men as a "lap order," meaning that either the dispatcher or one of the telegraphers made a mistake in the train order and sent the two heavy passenger trains head-on together.

The westbound train received orders to meet the eastbound at Roxboro. It is said, while the instructions given the engineer of the eastbound train named Serbia as the meeting point.

The trains came together at a point between the two stations where the track is fairly straight, and it is due to this fact that a greater disaster was averted. The engineers saw each other's train coming in time to put on brakes and check their momentum considerably.

Passengers on both trains were shaken up and badly bruised. The track was torn up for some distance and the passengers were transferred to special trains sent to the scene.

HORSE THIEF WANTS NO EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY

Portland, Jan. 26.—Of his own volition, Joseph Houser, 50 years old, is en route to Salem today to serve an indeterminate sentence of one to ten years for horse stealing. He did not have to go, but he does not believe in judicial clemency.

When Judge Kavanaugh offered to parole him yesterday, Houser scorned the liberty. Though protesting his innocence, he said he would not accept his liberty under a cloud.

SENATORS TO CURB RAILWAY PROBE

Washington, Jan. 26.—Senators who think the railroads have "been investigated to death," and those who believe in correction instead of investigation, are combining to prevent the general investigation of railway systems President Wilson has asked. Apparently they will be sufficiently strong to radically amend the Newlands' resolution providing such a probe. The progressive republicans from districts involved in the Rock Island and Frisco railroad scandals want direct action now.

As part of the administration plan to get an investigation, Senator Underwood, generally regarded as the real author of the Newlands' resolution, will speak before the railway men's meeting in Chicago February 4. And, it is understood, he will assure the railroads that the administration feels the time has come to treat them considerably.

PROSPERITY NOT NOW A DREAM SAY BUSINESS MEN

San Francisco, Jan. 26.—Boom time prosperity on the Pacific coast is an actuality, not a dream, said business men today, following announcement from three sources of extensions of already thrifty plants. The three plants planning increases in their equipment are: The Union Iron works here, the Pacific Coast Steel company of South San Francisco, and the Hercules Powder company of Pinole.

President McGregor of the Union Iron works is back from a conference with heads of the Bethlehem Steel company in the east, with the tidings that the concern must, and will, enlarge to keep pace with the swamping orders for more ships. Just what land will be obtained is not yet definitely known, but there is a possibility that the company will take over the Moore and Scott works. The company has \$20,000,000 worth of orders now, and is in a position, it is said, to get an unlimited further amount when it has facilities to handle the business.

Simultaneously with the Union Iron works announcement came the statement that the Pacific Coast Steel company plans to add an additional \$500,000 to its present investment and to start making structural steel on a large scale, using Chinese pig iron and California fuel oil. To this end, the contract has been closed for more open hearth furnaces. It is estimated the increased facilities will employ 150 men in addition to the 500 already on the payroll.

The third evidence of boom times came in announcement that the Hercules Powder company is ready to expend \$5,000,000 in kelp reapers, from which potash used in ammunition and fertilizer is obtained.

CONFESSES LOOT OF STATE TREASURY

Olympia, Wash., Jan. 26.—Frank W. Stone, confessed forger, and member of the graft ring which during two years looted the state industrial insurance fund of \$18,000, faced today from the witness stand a crowded court room and the man who he says originated the graft scheme and coached him in forging, and told the story of his part in the operations. Without reserve, although warned of his constitutional rights, Stone went through the recitation of his story from the time he met John F. Gillies until the frauds were discovered.

Calmly and with apparent desire to make every answer minutely accurate, the witness told of his forgeries, how the papers were filled out with Gillies; how he secured the vouchers and warrants from Gillies in the corridors of the state building.

He had been a blunderer in the matter of forging, Gillies having to constantly help him over his work, Stone admitted. In pointing out his mistakes, he several times aroused the laughter of the court, as when he said he had forgotten once which hand he was supposed to have cut off. Stone's testimony was followed closely by E. E. Heinrich, Tacoma handwriting expert, whose work is said to have done much toward bringing about Stone's confession.

THIRD PAIR OF TWINS IN PITTSBURG FAMILY

Pittsburg, Jan. 26.—A third pair of twins has arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brockie. The first were girls, the second a boy and a girl, and the third a repeater.

Washington, Jan. 26.—President Wilson received an invitation from Miss Mollie Faneher, a Brooklyn invalid, asking him to attend her "golden jubilee" February 3. On that day she will complete 50 years in bed.

NO BLOCKADE BY BRITISH AT PRESENT

England Not to Disturb Its Trade Regulations at This Time, But Will Maintain Policy Now Held Effective

London, Jan. 26.—The British government has virtually decided to standpat on its present trade regulations instead of announcing establishment of an actual blockade against Germany in parliament this afternoon, according to the majority of experts today.

Only a few newspapers clung to the belief that the cabinet will change the policy radically. The government may tighten the present regulations in some ways, but it is believed that the cabinet is against a revolutionary change.

Protests of American and Sweden against the reported plans have cooled the advocates of an actual blockade. Newspapers displayed prominently the warlike utterances of the Swedish premier, while the Telegraph and the News cautioned the government not to involve neutral nations in a controversy.

"Press freetraders," said the News, "have demanded that the government brush neutral nations from its path with a strong hand, but what would be the position of the allies if the vast resources of the United States ceased to be at their command?"

"The country may be content with the present measures, which, if slow, are sure and have hitherto been abundant, without severing friendly relations with neutral nations. We have had experience with the consequences of imperious and overbearing conduct."

Introduction of a blockade resolution by Arthur Bann was expected to open the parliamentary debate; in answer, it was expected Sir Edward Grey would deny that the present "blockade" is ineffective.

London, Jan. 26.—After a resolution for a blockade of Germany had been introduced in the commons this afternoon, Sir Edward Grey indicated that the government has no intention of declaring an actual blockade at present.

London, Jan. 26.—Debate on England's proposed blockade of Germany was formally opened in the commons this afternoon when Arthur Bann moved adoption of his resolution providing a blockade of all goods to and from Germany, as an effective measure to shorten the war.

Bann expressed the view that the United States will not interpose serious objections to the blockade proposition.

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LUSITANIA CASE STILL IN THE AIR

Wordy War to Continue Between President Wilson and Kaiser Wilhelm Before Settlement of Differences

Washington, Jan. 26.—The United States and Germany will not come to the parting of the ways in the fresh differences over the Lusitania case, German Ambassador von Bernstorff clearly indicated today after meeting with Secretary of State Lansing.

On the other hand, he declared, "the matter is practically settled. It is only a question of words, and it ought all to be settled within a few days."

Immediately after their conference neither the envoy nor the premier would say whether they had progressed toward an adjustment of the radical differences between the German and American view points, made known with President Wilson's refusal to accept the German proposals submitted to him this week. Bernstorff, however, made his "practically settled" comment some time after the conference.

It was believed that Bernstorff, in today's session, probably went far toward assuring an unequivocal disavowal of the Lusitania torpedoing, but upon which the United States firmly and unswervingly insists. The most he could do would be to insist that the Berlin foreign office make the requisite disavowal, thus receding from its position that the sinking of the vessel was not illegal. He announced that he would communicate today with Berlin, hence it was supposed he planned to urge a complete concession to American demands. That he expects Berlin to accede to this request was further evidenced by a semi-official German prediction today that a satisfactory adjustment of the whole matter will be reached by the end of next week.

The communication to Berlin, it was learned, was America's final proposal for settlement of the case. It held as an unequivocal term that Germany must admit the illegality of the torpedoing; and the state department arranged that Bernstorff might cable it at once to Berlin. In the meantime nothing further will be done in the case.

After the conference the envoy dictated a message to a state department stenographer, which presumably was the new terms to be transmitted in departmental code to Berlin. The session between the two men lasted 35 minutes.

Washington, Jan. 26.—Negotiations over the torpedoing of the Lusitania

(Continued on page 2)

WORKINGMEN OF ENGLAND PLEDGE NATION SUPPORT

Bristol, England, Jan. 26.—By a big majority, representatives of over 2,000,000 workingmen in convention today pledged support to the government.

The resolution under which this promise was given failed to mention the subject of conscription, but the new compulsory service measure is practically certain to be denounced in resolutions later.

A second resolution condemned German atrocities in France and Belgium.

POSTER CHARLTON IS DUE IN AMERICA TODAY

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, Jan. 26.—Porter Charlton, convicted in Italy of murdering his wife, the beautiful California woman, formerly Mary Scott Castle, was due to arrive here today on the liner America. A war pardon and the fact that he had already been jailed several months reduced his sentence and gave him a release in November.

DEMOCRATS WILL TALK OF REVENUE

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Jan. 26.—A preliminary survey of revenue legislation will be made in a meeting of the house ways and means committee called by the democrats for next week.

Leaders declared the conference will consider revision of the income tax, the inheritance tax and will discuss the question of taxing munitions, of creating a tariff commission in keeping with President Wilson's wishes and of continuing the present duty on sugar.

Chairman Kitchin announced that the house democrats will caucus on all revenue matters before they are reported to the house.

The proposed tax on munitions will be in the form of an excise tax, if it is levied at all. In the matter of the income tax, however, there is a strong opposition to lowering the tax exemption, though the committee is said to be unanimous on the point of increasing the surtax on larger incomes.

No revenue legislation, except possibly provision for a tariff commission and levying of more protection for the dyestuff industry is expected for several months.

AUSTRIANS ARE HEADED FOR DURAZZO

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Rome, Jan. 26.—The Austrians have occupied San Giovanni di Medua, an Albanian seaport, and are now heading for Durazzo, another port, according to dispatches today. These said that they plan to make a junction with the Bulgarians in the Elbassan region.

Part of the Montenegrin and Albanian forces defending Scutari were said to have been captured when that city was occupied by the Austrians, but the Serbs escaped and headed southward.

economic situation of the country," said a steel man today.

"The story of steel is the story of the nation," said the Press, "with the farm of the west and south, the factory of the north and east, and the lumber camp, mines, livestock range and dairy of the west all mining money for the people of America, while 20,000,000 of their fellow men strain and struggle on the battle fields of Europe."

SIX PERISH IN SEATTLE FIRE

Seven Others Are Missing, and May Have Lost Their Lives When Flames Guttled the Walker Building Today

Seattle, Jan. 26.—Six persons are known to have perished and two others have not yet been accounted for as the result of a fire which swept the Walker building, downtown here, today.

Three men leaped to their death from the fifth floor of the building when their escape was cut off by fire on the fourth floor, and firemen found the bodies of three others on the fifth floor when they succeeded in fighting their way through the flames.

After blazing furiously for two hours the fire was brought under control at 10:30 o'clock.

Fire department officials declared this afternoon that later reports indicated that only 13 laborers were at work in the building at the time of the fire. Of these five are known to have escaped. The two men unaccounted for are believed to have got out also and to have gone to the homes of friends.

Seattle, Jan. 26.—Trapped in a fire which originated in a lot of hemp on the fourth floor, three men jumped from the fifth floor of the Walker building at First avenue south and Jackson street, at 8:30 o'clock this morning, and met almost instant death. Three more are believed to have been burned in the building, although this report is unconfirmed.

The fire is still raging. The building was half unoccupied. The other half is occupied by the Bowles company, plumbing supplies. The hemp was moved into the building recently from Pier 14, which had been destroyed by fire.

CLAIMS DISAPPOINTED JAP COMMITTED HARI KARI

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Los Angeles, Jan. 26.—"Hari kari" will be the defense of Mrs. Mabel Smith, charged with murdering Etaro Iguchi, Japanese.

Mrs. Smith is scheduled to testify in her own behalf today. According to her attorney, Guy Eddy, she will deny killing Iguchi, and swear that he shot himself, committing hari kari because he saw she did not love him.

LABOR OPPOSED TO CONSCRIPTION

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Bristol, England, Jan. 26.—Opposition to the government conscription bill was reported today by delegates at the opening of the national labor conference here, but there was a difference of opinion as to the method of expressing this.

Bitter debate was anticipated over the resolution of radical members for proposing a general strike.

Wm. Crawford Anderson, a labor member of parliament, declared that attempts to make conscription "means of coercing the unionists will result not only in bitterness, but failure."

"I fear," he said, "that England is attempting an impossible task. She is trying to become a great naval, military and industrial power simultaneously. This is going to be a different world after the war. It will be a hard, bad world for labor unless labor participates in shaping affairs."

RECORD DIVIDENDS SEND PRICE OF STEEL STOCK SKYWARD ON WALL ST.

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

New York, Jan. 26.—Following an announcement of the issue of a dividend on "little steel," that stock jumped into the limelight with a bang today.

Fifteen thousand shares were sold at the opening of the exchange at from 85% to 86, as against a high of 85 1/2 yesterday.

Wall street's judgment that the country was making money having been confirmed by the common dividend, the street is expected to throw itself into a boom. The fact that the earnings of the steel corporation

in the last quarter were \$6,000,000 more than any quarter in the history of the concern was pointed to as an indication that the business of the country is greater than even the experts realized.

In answer to the argument that a violent industrial slump may be expected after the demand for munitions ceases, optimists declared that during the rehabilitation of Europe the demand for machinery and other steel and iron products will be almost as great as the present demand for munitions.

"This basic industry gages the