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

## KAISER ASKS UNCLE SAM TO EXPLAIN

### Wants Definition of Defensive Armaments, and Report Is That Germany Is Preparing to Yield the Point

London, Feb. 25.—Germany's reply to the American refusal to accept her armed merchantman decree, now on route to Washington, asks the United States to define defensive armaments, according to an unconfirmed Amsterdam message today. The reply should reach Washington within a few days.

Officials here take the reported German query as indicative that Germany does not want a break with America and is preparing to yield.

According to the Amsterdam message, Foreign Secretary von Jagow asks what size gun America deems necessary for defense of merchantmen, in view of her contention that these ships have the right to arm strictly for defense. In this way it is thought Germany hopes to force the state department to define defensive armament and to embarrass belligerent ships entering American ports with large guns.

It is believed that the query is intended to prolong negotiations between the two nations until the excitement in Germany over the decree subsides. Then it is presumed Germany will find a graceful way to extricate herself from an awkward position.

The Amsterdam report has tended to upset the English forecast that Germany intended to defy the United States.

## BANDITS MAKE RICH HAUL FROM N.P. TRAIN

(By United Press Leased Wire.)  
Tacoma, Feb. 25.—More than \$64,000 in negotiable paper and registered mail sent from Tacoma alone was obtained by the bandits who held up the eastbound North Coast Limited of the Northern Pacific railroad near Covington and rifled mail pouches, it was learned today.

Dr. D. H. Bell told the post office officials that in one of the sacks of mail taken was \$3,600 worth of negotiable certificates of deposit that he had sent to a bank at Kenmare, North Dakota. It is reported that \$300 worth of bond coupons, sent by a local bank, were in one of the stolen pouches.

Post office Inspector Barclay has several deputies working on the robbery and checking up parcels and letters contained in the registered mail sacks.

E. C. Blanchard, general manager of the Pacific division of the Northern Pacific railroad, said at noon today that no word had been received from the company's special agents who are out with the posses searching for the bandits.

A report was received at the sheriff's office this afternoon that posses searching for the robbers had traced them to Maple Valley, 10 miles northeast of Ravensdale. The posses have several bloodhounds to help trail the bandits.

## HUMAN FLESH IS THE IDEAL FOOD

Madison, Wis., Feb. 25.—Human flesh, considered from the standpoint of proteins and digestibility, is the ideal food, Dr. H. C. Bradley told University of Wisconsin physiology students.

## RAIDER MOEWE IS STILL MENACE TO GREAT BRITAIN

Teneriffe, Feb. 25.—The German commerce raider Moewe harried British commerce off South America between January 16 and February 19, according to the captain of one of the victims which arrived here today.

The captain said that the whereabouts of the Moewe had been a mystery but that between the dates mentioned he had cruised between South America and the Brazilian island of Fernando de Noronha.

The Moewe encountered the 4,636-ton British steamer Flamenco while the latter was heading for Valparaiso. This vessel tried to escape and was wrecked for help, but she was overtaken and sunk by two shots. One seaman was drowned and two were wounded.

The captain of the unnamed victim also related that the Moewe took the British steamer Cordbridge into the mouth of the Amazon, transferred her coal and then sank her.

The Moewe has been reported to be the raider which captured the Appam, recently taken into Newport News, Va., as a prize. It was thought, too, that she was responsible for taking the British steamer Westburn, which was brought into the Canaries this week and later taken out within the three-mile limit and scuttled.

## ADVISES TRANSFER OF SHIPS TO PACIFIC

Washington, Feb. 25.—Transfer of reserve ships of the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific coast was suggested by Congressman Stephens of California to the house naval committee today.

Admiral Winslow, Pacific fleet commander, said, however, that this is inadvisable at present, and he expressed the desire that the Atlantic fleet be kept intact.

He was in favor of improving navy yard facilities on the Pacific coast and he thought the Puget Sound yard should be better prepared, though he regarded it as questionable whether the nation should spend money on the Mare Island yard.

"Wouldn't you favor sending a board of officers to the coast to locate a new yard, if one is established?" asked Stephens.

"Yes," answered the admiral. Winslow said that 48 submarines for the Pacific coast would not be excessive, and he counseled construction of larger types than now are used. He did not believe that the Mare Island yard could be developed into a first-class yard, as when it was selected "there was no idea of the large ships we would build eventually."

## PLAN TRIP AROUND THE WORLD IN THE AIR

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—An air trip around the world is planned to start from here within the next four months. Porter H. Adams, of Boston, is here today arranging for construction of a \$170,000 hydroaeroplane, in which he, DeLoyd Thompson of the Aero Club of America, Donald W. Douglass and a navy representative, probably Lieutenant H. B. Douglass, plan to make the flight.

The itinerary given by Adams is: San Francisco to Honolulu, Manila, China, Port Said, Spain and then across the Atlantic to Boston.

The airplane will carry seven passengers and will be 188 feet wide and 85 feet long, with eight motors.

## LOST 14 POUNDS THROUGH ILL-TREATMENT

New York, Feb. 25.—Mrs. Jean Frazer Henry asked a divorce on the ground that she had lost 14 pounds in eight months as a result of her husband's ill treatment.

## SIX MORE TOWNS FALL TO ARMY OF CROWN PRINCE

### Berlin Reports That the German Drive Against Verdun Is Continuing, and That Thousands of Prisoners and Much Booty Have Been Captured Along the Eight-Mile Front Before the Beleaguered French City

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

London, Feb. 25.—Though Paris officially reported today that the violence of the German drive against Verdun was diminishing, the Berlin official announcement told of the capture of six more villages, and thousands of prisoners along an eight-mile front before the city.

At some points the German crown prince's men are within two miles of their coveted goal. Not only have the French wings been driven back but the center, too, has been forced to a point within six miles of the city.

It is a trail of blood the Germans are leaving. Distorted corpses of the best fighters of France and Germany and thousands of wounded are the battle's harvest.

Berlin said the French losses had been particularly heavy and the Germans lost only what might be expected from the magnitude of the struggle.

The Paris communique, while claiming to have checked the Germans for "the time being," virtually admitted, as Berlin said, that the Germans had taken Champ Neuville, Beaumont, Ornes and the farms and villages between, including Cotellette, Marmont and Chambrettes.

General Joffre, French commander-in-chief, has taken personal direction of the French defense. Paris hails this enthusiastically, as meaning a sure turn of fortune.

The apparent contradiction in the official statements—Paris telling of a check and a lull in the infantry and artillery battling, and Berlin reporting fresh gains—was probably due to the fact that the Paris statement is later. The Berlin statement probably covered events of the early night, after which, as Paris said, there were no infantry attacks.

In addition to revealing appalling losses, Berlin claimed 10,000 prisoners had already been taken, together with much booty.

## HAWLEY ASKS THAT MINING STATION BE ESTABLISHED AT GRANTS PASS

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Feb. 24.—Representative Hawley has taken up with the department of the interior the question of locating a mining experiment station in Oregon. He is urging the location of such a station in the vicinity of Grants Pass.

He says he finds there is a disposition to concede one of the stations to the northwest. He also finds that the policy will be to select sites not so much with a view to assist merely the leading mining districts, where large corporations are operating, but to help in the development of other promising districts, for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

He is urging that the southern Oregon district is the one in the northwest offering the best field. He pointed out that army engineers favor development of a harbor at Crescent City, Cal., to which point a railroad is headed from Grants Pass, and that the greatest needs of the southern mining belt are transportation and smelting facilities.

At present ores have to be sent to Puget sound for smelting. The plan is to secure a smelter at a convenient point, and with relation to the fact that there is a large limestone cliff on the road to Crescent City from

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Berlin, Feb. 25.—Fortified French villages and farms, including Champ Neuville, five miles north of Verdun, have been stormed and captured in the German drive for Verdun, said an official statement today.

Prisoners taken in the drive now number 10,000. Towns taken are Champ Neuville, Beaumont, Cotellette, Marmont, Chambrettes and Ornes, east of the Meuse on an eight-mile front.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The offensive of the German Crown Prince Frederick William against Verdun shows signs of a slackening, the war office announced today. There were no attacks last night and the artillery firing was less violent.

The French artillery is now holding its own along the 25-mile front before Verdun and there is every indication that the giant German offense has been checked, temporarily at least.

The French are organizing new positions behind Beaumont and the heights east of Chaynevill, not far from Verdun.

## LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR SLAYING COUSIN

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Baker, Feb. 25.—James Macomb will be sentenced to life imprisonment tomorrow for killing Leonard Goul, his cousin, November 18. After deliberating 25 minutes, a jury last night convicted Macomb. He pleaded insanity.

## ENGLAND GETS ANOTHER PROTEST FROM THE U. S.

Washington, Feb. 25.—A protest against British seizure of Germans from the Chinese Mail liner China (American) while en route from China to San Francisco, was forwarded by the state department to England today.

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Feb. 24.—The purpose of the mining station would be to bring to that field expert advice as to smelter construction, treatment of ores and modern methods of mining. At one time the forest service objected to a smelter because of damage to forests and crops from fumes of the plant. F. G. Cottrell, chief of the bureau of metallurgy, is said to have conquered the fume nuisance and converted it into an asset by making arsenic from the product of the smokestacks and at the same time deriving potash in merchantable quantity from the refuse of the furnaces.

Mr. Hawley is asking the department to send Dr. Cottrell to Oregon and have these processes explained. He thinks the mining industry will take on great activity if the mining station goes in. The ore of the section have a copper base, but carry good quantities of gold and silver. He has been informed that the department will not take up the question of location until after congress at this session has made the stations themselves a sure thing by appropriating the amount authorized for their construction. The appropriation will be carried as an item of the sundry civil bill.

## BILL WOULD MAKE TRAVEL ON ARMED VESSEL ILLEGAL

Washington, Feb. 25.—Immediately upon the convening of the senate today, Senator Gore introduced his bill making it illegal for Americans to travel upon armed vessels of the belligerents during the war, and also a resolution providing for a warning to them to refrain from such travel.

A resolution by Senator Jones of Washington, requesting President Wilson not to sever diplomatic relations with any nation and not to place America in a position where she could not honorably avoid war, was tabled.

Senator Jones' resolution recited that inasmuch as the honor of the nation is not in the custody of one man, but in the custody of the people, it is the president's duty to present to congress details of complications that might lead to war before taking an irrevocable position.

Senator Stone disposed of discussion of either the Jones or the Gore measures by insisting upon tabling them for a day.

Tension marked the senate proceedings, and Stone twice refused to allow unanimous consent to discussion of bridge bills, fearing that the talk might veer to the international situation.

## MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE FOR UHL

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 25.—That Adolph Uhl, San Francisco millionaire, was traveling at a terrific rate of speed when the machine he was driving struck and almost instantly killed Miss Bess Smith at Walsworth street and Oakland avenue last night, was the declaration of Captain of Detectives Walter Peterson, who announced today that if the family of the dead girl fails to prosecute the wealthy automobilist he himself will carry on a charge of manslaughter with which Uhl is now charged.

Peterson and a corps of detectives by investigation today found that the car, after striking the girl, dragged her body for 130 feet before the mangled form was torn loose from the machine and that 160 feet in all were required to bring the machine to a stop. Police autos traveling at the rate of 25 miles an hour were brought to a stop in a 30 feet width with only one brake in use.

Uhl today stated that he was not driving his car at a fast rate and that he did not see the girl until after she had been struck to the pavement.

Chicago, Feb. 25.—After its sensational slump yesterday, wheat advanced sharply today in the early trading. The market seemed confident. May wheat sold at 119 1/4.

## RIVAL LAND GRANT BILLS ARE ARGUED

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Feb. 25.—To support their opposing bills in the California-Oregon land grant cases, Senator Chamberlain and Congressman Hawley appeared today before the house public lands committee.

Chamberlain said his measure gives the railroad everything that it can legally claim, yet passes agricultural land into cultivation and secures for the people proceeds of valuable timber. He doubted the power of congress to convert the land grants into a forest reserve because a settlement right was conferred by the granting act.

On the other hand, Hawley said that congress is powerless to resume the title but must dispose of it through the railroad.

## PRESIDENT FIRM IN HIS STAND

### Arguments of Conference Committee Fail to Swerve Him, and Cabinet Supports the Executive in Policy

Washington, Feb. 25.—Arguments of house conferees on the German situation failed to swerve President Wilson today from his stand that the German armed merchantman decree transgresses international law and that Americans ought not to be warned from such vessels.

After nearly an hour's session with Speaker Clark, Majority Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the house foreign committee, there was still a disagreement between the president and congress as to the decree. The upshot of the session, however, was no action was to be taken by congress today, at least.

President Wilson emphatically told the conferees that he would not budge from his plan of insisting that Germany recognize every American right.

Just as positively, Speaker Champ Clark replied that the house is overwhelming in favor of issuing a warning.

Following the conferees' conference an epochal session of the cabinet was scheduled to consider the German problem.

Senator Stone's letter announcing his view that a warning should be issued to Americans not to travel on armed belligerent merchant vessels elicited another letter from the president last night, in which he adhered to the decision that while he would try to maintain peace, he would do so only if the honor of America was upheld.

Stone announced, however, in his letter that he would try to prevent an outbreak in the senate on the subject of issuing a warning.

The Stone letter followed a reported disagreement between him and President Wilson in their Monday night conference. Stone said he had revealed the president's position in so far as he could without violating confidence. This position showed the president to be firmly for insistence upon the rights of Americans to travel on armed ships.

For the present the house will take no action, the conferees said. It is not believed that members will evolve their decision before next week. In the interval Germany's reply to the American position will undoubtedly be at hand, so that the president will have an opportunity to determine his further action, which undoubtedly will have a bearing on the position congress takes.

In leaving the conference, Speaker Clark, besieged by newspapermen, said:

"I told the president what the sentiment of the house is. Senator Stone's letter and the president's reply are the last word on both sides of the question. When the house members read these letters they will determine what the situation is."

While the conferees admitted that neither side had succeeded in changing the convictions of the other, they said they had promised the president their utmost support in preventing summary action on the part of the house.

Upon reaching his office at the capitol, Speaker Clark elaborated his previous statement, saying:

"There is a rumor that Germans will postpone operation of their decree to the middle of March or the first of April. I am just guessing at this, but if it is true, it will give more time for consideration. If they post-

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