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

PROPOSAL OF PEACE SENT TO ALLIES

America, Acting For Central Powers, Forwards Text of Teuton Terms For Ending War to Seven Nations

Washington, Dec. 14.—America's first step toward carrying out the wishes of Germany and the central powers as their diplomatic representatives in entente allied capitals, was taken today.

Within a few hours after receipt of the official text of the Teuton peace proposal, which was almost identical with the text carried in press despatches, Secretary Lansing at the president's order, despatched it to London, Paris, Petrograd, Tokio and to the provisional capitals of Roumania, Serbia and Belgium.

The United States represents Germany in Belgium, Russia, England, France, Japan, Serbia and Roumania. She represents Austria-Hungary in the same countries. She represents Turkey in England, France and Japan.

The German proposal to her enemies was sent without any suggestion by the president.

This action completely fulfills the request of the central powers on the United States. In this connection it was learned this government has instituted a series of "confidential soundings" in all belligerent capitals, to determine, if possible, the disposition of the various governments toward consideration of peace at this time. The first returns from these inquiries are expected to come from American Charge Grew at Berlin—confidential information amplifying the proposal made by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, in the reichstag Tuesday.

When the United States speaks in behalf of peace, she will be "concerned to see peace assume an aspect of permanence, and bring some assurance that peace and war shall always hereafter be reckoned part of the common interest of mankind," the president believes.

Representatives of two neutral nations, Switzerland and Spain, made messengers for Germany for her peace terms, called today on Secretary Lansing. They stated they had just received the text of the German note.

The state department said officially that the allies would undoubtedly understand that the United States is willing to transmit any reply to Germany.

It was stated on highest authority today that the president's mind is

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20 LIVES LOST IN MINE EXPLOSION

Weir City, Kas., Dec. 14.—Twenty miners were killed and seven injured by the explosion in the Mayer mine No. 9, Reedy and Ryan, 12 miles west of here yesterday afternoon, it became known here today.

Although the explosion occurred yesterday afternoon, definite details as to fatalities could not be learned until today. A combination gas and powder explosion is believed to have been the cause.

Those killed were either buried, burned or suffocated. Most of the dead were foreigners, living at Stone-City. It is not known definitely how many were in the mine at the time of the explosion, but it is believed sixty.

THE CABINET OF AUSTRIA SAID TO HAVE RESIGNED

Amsterdam, Dec. 14.—Resignation of the Austrian cabinet was announced in despatches received today from Vienna. Alexander Spitzmeuller is to attempt formation of a new ministry.

If the Austrian cabinet has resigned, it has attained the unique record of lasting for a shorter period than any ministry of recent years in any European country, unless it be Greece. Dr. Ernest von Koerber, who succeeded to the premiership on the assassination November 1, of Premier Stuerghk, formed a cabinet on that date.

HARVEST OF JACK RABBIT CROP NOW IN PROGRESS

Portland, Dec. 14.—A new industry—the "jack rabbit business"—is in sight in Oregon. Thousands of jacks have appeared in the interior. Many ranchers are killing them, collecting five cents a head bounty from the state, selling the remains to butchers at \$5 a dozen and preparing the pelts to be made into rabbit fur hats.

SLINGSBY BABY NOT HEIR TO WEALTH

London, Dec. 14.—Curly-headed little "Teddy" Slingsby, for months buffeted between wealth and nameless poverty, was sent from the portals of the house of lords today, held by that body to be a penniless foundling of the streets of San Francisco and not the young English gentleman that his parents have claimed him.

The house of lords, upon presentation of the case of "Teddy" dismissed the appeal from a court of appeals decision that he is not the legitimate son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. R. Slingsby and heir to a Yorkshire estate. The respondents in the case were unheard.

A court of appeals ruling handed down last March established "Teddy" as a foundling against the claims of Mr. and Mrs. Slingsby, who maintain they are the parents of the boy, and that the child is rightful heir to the \$500,000 estate of his alleged grandfather, the late Rev. Charles Slingsby, who willed his estate to "The first male heir" born to any of his children.

Lord Loreburn, in handing down the decision, held the identity of "Teddy" had been proven, as well as the transfer of the child from Lillian Anderson, a San Francisco school girl, to Mrs. Slingsby. He expressed regret at the pain the decision must cause "Gallant Commander Slingsby," now in the service of his country.

In 1915 the child was established as legal heir of the Slingsbys by the court of probate and divorce. Two younger brothers of Slingsby maintained the child was the son of Lillian Anderson and was adopted by the Slingsbys that he might inherit the Yorkshire estate.

Advertisements, alleged to have been inserted in San Francisco newspapers by Mrs. Slingsby, seeking a new-born male baby, were evidence.

HOUSE COMMITTEE IS FOR DRY NATION

Washington, Dec. 14.—The house judiciary committee today reported favorably a bill for nation-wide prohibition, reported the women's suffrage bill without recommendation, and reported favorably a bill for a nation-wide food investigation.

U. S. SUBMARINE H-3 IN THE BREAKERS AT EUREKA

From Unexplained Causes American Diver Went Aground Early This Morning, and Fate of the Crew Is in Doubt, Though Life-Saving Crew Is Making Heroic Effort to Bring the Men Ashore With Line and Breeches Buoy

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 14.—The rescue of the 20 or more men who were aboard the submarine H-3, which went aground off here today, began shortly after 3 p. m. today. The line which had been shot across the boat's stern was made fast at 3 p. m. and a breeches buoy was rigged up to bring the twenty or more men ashore.

By signals, members of the crew told those on shore that two of their number had been severely injured when the boat rocked and pitched in the surf. They also declared that the entire company had a narrow escape from asphyxiation. Chlorine gas was generated in the interior of the submarine and the men escaped its effects only by huddling by turns in the conning tower. The battery room, where the gas was generated, was isolated and closed off.

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 14.—The Eureka coast guard crew this afternoon got close enough to the submarine H-3 to shoot a line over her. At 12:55 p. m., however, the line was still lying across the vessel's stern and nobody on board had appeared to pick it up or make fast. This caused the belief that the crew are injured. The tide is coming in and hope was expressed that the vessel will be washed ashore and left when the tide recedes.

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 14.—Fears for the safety of Lieutenants H. R. Bogusch and E. F. Zemeke and the crew of the United States submarine H-3 were expressed this afternoon following the running aground of the little diver just outside of Humboldt bay.

At 12:45 p. m. after the craft had been buffeted and rolled by the sea for several hours, the belief was expressed by persons watching the ship from shore that her superstructure was being broken up. At that hour the H-3 apparently caught fast in the breakers where she ran during a dense fog was being tossed about helplessly in the surf like a floating log.

At noon, for the second time since

9 o'clock, the fog which has enveloped the scene, lifted slightly and the dim outlines of the H-3 could be seen. The fact that the diver had serious engine trouble when at Astoria Tuesday and had not been able to repair it yesterday, indicates that the engine may have gone dead during the early morning fog, causing her to drift upon the breakers.

Exactly what happened to the submarine has not yet been ascertained. The vessel was discovered in distress shortly before 10 a. m. today by a little girl who was walking on the shore about two miles north of the entrance of the bay. A shoal runs out into the bay at this point for a considerable distance with deep water on either side. The submarine was in the angle formed by the north side of the shoal and the beach. The girl reported the situation to the Samo offices of the Hammond Lumber company and the tug Relief was started out. Simultaneously the submarine tender Cheyenne wireless-ed that the vessel was in distress and asked for immediate help, but gave no particulars.

The Relief and the Cheyenne are standing off shore away from the spot where the submarine is located, evidently being unable to get in closer.

At 11:40, the fog, which had lifted temporarily, dropped down again, and the submarine was lost to view. Many reports were current among the big crowd on the beach, but none could be confirmed. One was that bits of wreckage had been washed ashore, including parts of the submarine's rail. The Cheyenne at 11 a. m. made a daring attempt to reach the diver. She ran in past the first line of breakers but evidently fearing disaster soon withdrew out to sea.

The H-3 has a displacement of 430 tons and a cruising radius of 11 knots of 2,500 miles. Her engines are 800 horsepower. She carries four torpedo tubes and is 157 feet long, with 17 foot beam. Her normal complement of two officers and 18 men.

BRITONS RIDICULE THE PEACE PLAN

London, Dec. 14.—Germany's peace proposals are due to the fact which interned neutral correspondents in Berlin have not been allowed to indicate, that during the last few weeks grave internal dissensions have arisen, owing to the food shortage and the reign of terror.

Moreover, relations have been greatly strained between the various German and Austrian states and also with Turkey.

The Prussian government also has learned that the British empire will during 1917, put forth an effort, equal at least, to that of Germany in 1914 and 1915, and from the point of view of guns and shells, three times that of Germany at this period of the war.

The proposals have been received here with contempt.

We are gratified that the American senses of humor and justice have seen through this bluff. France, Russia, Italy and little Belgium are firm as Plymouth rock.

PEACE MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED

Washington, Dec. 14.—Germany's peace proposals reached the state department overnight. Secretary Grew, of the Berlin embassy, transmitted with the note a confidential memorandum for the president and secretary of state to be used as guidance for them in dealing with the peace subject.

The peace message came in state department code and was deciphered in the early morning hours. Both the terms and memoranda were ready for Lansing's consideration when he arrived at his office today.

Duplicates of both messages were forwarded at once to President Wilson.

The proposals were immediately forwarded to the belligerents involved, in accordance with Germany's request.

Salem, Dec. 14.—Oregon has a new county today. Governor Withcombe split Crook county, naming part of it Des Chutes. The town of Bend will be made the seat of government.

DAILY WAR COST TO ENGLAND NOW IS \$27,907,700

London, Dec. 14.—England took steps today for further financing of the war and to provide more men for the battle fronts.

With announcement of Germany's peace terms only 48 hours old, the Lloyd-George government made its formal appearance in the house of commons, and Andrew Bonar-Law, chancellor of the exchequer, asked for a new vote of credit of \$1,948,000,000.

In addition a supplementary estimate was issued providing for an additional one million men of all ranks for the army, raising the total estimate for the year to five million.

The new chancellor of the exchequer announced that, with the new vote of credit, the war to date will have cost England the staggering total of \$18,759,240,000 by the end of the present fiscal year.

England is spending approximately \$27,907,700 a day in her warfare now.

One other hint of far-reaching reforms contemplated by the Lloyd-George government was given in Bonar-Law's statement that creation of two new ministers—of food and labor—was contemplated. He explained to the commons that Lloyd-George, the new premier, was under doctor's orders not to see visitors now, not having recovered from his illness.

The other feature of today's noteworthy session of the commons was answering of queries by Lord Robert Cecil, new minister of blockade, asserting that it was the new government's intention to enforce rights of belligerents with as little irksomeness to neutrals as possible. He also announced that the cabinet was formulating demands on Greece, with a view toward clearing up the situation there.

PRES. WILSON MAY OFFER SERVICES

Washington, Dec. 14.—Should Premier Lloyd-George next Tuesday express to parliament and the world a willingness to at least discuss Germany's peace terms, President Wilson will offer his services in the situation, his closest advisers said today.

On the contrary, if the new British premier continues his policy of fighting to a "knockout," as he recently expressed it to the United Press, the president probably will keep aloof, or limit his expression to a hope that the German plans may develop into a serious consideration of a proposal for peace soon.

Those close to President Wilson emphasized the possibility of a world guaranty of peace arising from present developments through an international peace enforcement league. Unofficial indications of allied attitudes to date have not been encouraging, especially French Premier Briand's warning against Germany's overtures, as a source of possible "poisoning" of the public mind.

"The president will be sure that something definite and final is possible before taking any step in peace negotiations," one official close to Wilson said today.

"You may count on it that there will be nothing precipitate—nothing that does not carry with it some assurance of success. And it must be a peace that will stick."

LITERACY TEST BILL

PASSED BY THE SENATE

Washington, Dec. 14.—The immigration bill with literacy test attached, was passed by the senate by a vote of 64 to 7 today. The president once vetoed the bill because of the literacy clause.

WATER IS CRY OF THE LAND OWNERS

Committee of Five Members Is Elected to Proceed With Formation of Southside Irrigation District At Once

The meeting of the land owners having holdings under the proposed southside ditch, held at the assembly room of the Commercial club this afternoon, was well attended and much interest in the question was manifested. C. H. Demaray, who has been chairman of the citizens' committee that has been working upon the project, presided, and C. H. Woodward was made secretary.

The early discussion showed the sentiment to be strongly in favor of the organization of the southside district, and co-operation with the upper district in the building of an adequate ditch. A committee was elected by the land owners to act in the matter till the district election could be held and a board of directors elected as provided by law. The committee elected by the land owners is as follows: G. A. Hamilton, Florens Brettmayer, Benton Borough, M. Kjalach and N. Boynton.

This committee is representative of the various parts of the territory that will be included within the district. A resolution was adopted expressing the sense of the land owners represented at the meeting as in favor of immediate action toward the formation of the district and the bringing of water to the lands within it, and the committee was instructed to proceed along that line.

STANFIELD CLAIMS SPEAKERSHIP OF OREGON

Fendleton, Dec. 14.—With 31 votes necessary to elect, Robert N. Stanfield asserted today that he was assured of 37 ballots for the speakership of the Oregon house. Stanfield is representative from Umatilla county.

Portland, Dec. 14.—Contracts for 200 Union Pacific freight cars have been awarded Twohy Brothers of Portland, it was learned today. Work starts at once.

SANTA ROSALIA IS CAPTURED BY VILLA

El Paso, Dec. 14.—Villista forces have again captured the town of Santa Rosalia, south of Chihuahua City, according to a report reaching United States authorities here today. Only meagre details of the capture have reached the border early today. The town was garrisoned by about three hundred Carranzistas.

Also continuous skirmishing is in progress between government forces and the bandits along the Mexican Central railway line near Orita, 30 miles south of Chihuahua City, where the line has been cut. A detachment of General Murguia's troops engaged a small party of Villistas near Orita, defeating them, according to announcement by the Mexican consulate here.

From all reports available today, it is believed the main body of bandits under Villa is still massed along the Mexican Northwestern railway near Chihuahua City, while skirmishing about the capital is kept up by roving bands of Villistas to harass and prevent the reopening of communication with the south.