

Rogue River Courier

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Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

REPORT TWO MEN LOST IN THE SNOW

Commodore Fleming, a Mail Carrier of West Fork, and Tom Rilea, of Oregon City, Searched For By Party

Report came to the local forestry office on Christmas day that Commodore Fleming, mail carrier on the route between West Fork and Agness and Tom Rilea, of Oregon City, were missing, and supposedly were lost on the divide between Mariel and West Fork. The last learned Monday night was that a searching party was organized at Mariel to commence a search for the missing men this morning. Since then all the telephone lines have failed, and today no word has come from down-river points.

Fleming, the regular mail carrier from West Fork, left Friday morning on his trip for Agness. A little later Rilea, who had come from Oregon City on the train, left over the same trail for Agness, going to visit his parents during the holiday season. His father is postmaster at Agness. Fleming arrived at Agness Friday night but no report of Rilea after he left West Fork has been received. Saturday morning Fleming started back over the trail with the mail for West Fork. He arrived at Mariel, on Mule creek, all right, and from there started out over the divide. On Monday night no further report had come of him, and at Mariel preparations were being made to prosecute a search for him.

Friday morning after both Fleming and Rilea had left West Fork over the trail, the man who carries the parcel post packages left for the long hike to Agness. He reached the top of the divide, about nine miles from West Fork, but found conditions so bad, with a deep, soft snow, that he concluded not to continue and turned back. At the time he turned back the tracks of both Fleming and Rilea continued on into the mountains.

Today the wires leading into West Fork, and to Mule creek and Agness have been down, and nothing is known of the day's developments. If Rilea has been out since he left West Fork he is now on his fourth day in the wilds. Fleming being three days out from Mariel. Ordinarily Fleming makes the trip from one end of his route to the other in a day without trouble, covering the 59 miles with pack mules and saddle horses. From Mariel to Agness the trail follows along the river at too low an altitude to be troubled with snow. The 23 miles from Mariel to West Fork is over the divide between Curry and Douglas counties and the snow often reaches a depth of many feet. There is not a house on that portion of the trail, though the forestry department has suggested that the mail contractor should build a cabin on the divide in case of just such an emergency as is now present. Both Fleming and Rilea are strong, resourceful men, and unless accident befalls them, they will no doubt come out all right, the heavy snow no doubt having made travel so difficult that they were obliged to camp out in the open. Rilea was formerly connected with the forestry service.

Supervisor Macduff of the forestry forest, has attempted to get into communication with his rangers on the lower river all day, and has sent a message through Crescent City to be forwarded from there to Gold Beach and so up the river. By sending a man to the Mule creek station he hopes that the forestry department's telephone line can be put into

WOULD MAKE ALL STATE OFFICIALS NON-PARTISAN

Seattle, Dec. 26.—A whirlwind finish is on today to secure 10,000 signatures still needed for the initiative bill to make the state non-partisan in all except national elections.

Councilman Erickson, president of the state league, has issued a call for 200 volunteers to circulate the petitions on downtown streets and public markets as well as in the residential districts. The signatures must be obtained by Thursday night. Should the campaign be successful, and the total necessary, 40,000 names obtained, the legislature will be compelled to act upon it.

The legislature meets January 7, and favorable action by it would mean that Washington would be the first state in the union to elect its governor and legislature and all the other state and county officers without reference to party affiliation.

S. S. MARYLAND IS REPORTED SINKING

New York, Dec. 26.—The steamship Maryland is reported sinking about 150 miles off Sandy Hook, according to wireless messages picked up here.

Four vessels are now on their way to aid her. The steamship Savannah, the cutter Acusnet from Boston, the cutter Seneca from Newport, and the cutter Mohawk, which picked up the distress signals at sea.

Wireless messages said the engine room of the Maryland were rapidly being flooded. There are two steamships in the maritime register named Maryland. One of these is a British vessel of 3,962 tons and the other is an American vessel of 1,899 tons. The latter was last reported on December 23, leaving Philadelphia for Liverpool or London. This is believed to be the ship in distress.

The other Maryland is owned by the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad, and when she left port Sunday for New London she carried a cargo of miscellaneous merchandise. She last reported her position as 75 miles east of the Five Fathom bank lightship. Because her wireless was weak no message giving cause of disaster could be interpreted at wireless stations here. The position reported, however, is latitude 39, longitude 87, is in that region where allied shipping was recently raided by the German submarine U-53.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 26.—Fear of a bread famine increased here today when there were additions to the ranks of striking bakers. The situation, as to settlement of the strike, remained unchanged today.

PREPARE TO RESIST VILLISTA ATTACK

El Paso, Dec. 26.—Reinforcements of all available de facto troops are being hurried south to Chihuahua City today in preparation for an expected attack by Villistas. Government troops under General Gonzales have started south and part of the garrison is here.

United States agents have stated that General Murguia wired his brother-in-law to send all the troops available to strengthen the Carrancista forces at Chihuahua City, as a large body of Villistas south of there was reported advancing northward.

Agents are also aiding in the search for the two men or bring information concerning them.

FILPESTI IS STORMED BY GERMANS

Roumanian Village Captured By the Teuton Troops After a Hand to Hand Conflict With Many Prisoners Taken

Berlin, Via Sayville, Dec. 23.—German and Austro-Hungarian troops stormed at the point of the bayonet the tenaciously defended village of Filpesti in Roumania, today's official statement announced.

The statement read: "During engagements in the Great Wallachian plain and on the edge of the mountain south of Rimnicul-Sarat during the last few days 5,500 Russians have been taken prisoners. 'Yesterday an often-tried German division, with annexed Austro-Hungarian battalions stormed at the point of the bayonet the tenaciously defended village of Filpesti on the railroad from Buzeu to Braila and on both streets of the village, and captured the strongly entrenched Russian positions."

Perograd, Dec. 26.—Evacuation of the Roumanian town of Filpesti after it had been set on fire by artillery shells, was admitted in today's official statement. Enemy attacks along the line from Lechkotianka to Filpesti had been repulsed with great losses, the statement said. Fighting has been very desperate around Filpesti. The attacking forces along the whole line were heavy.

In the Moldavia (Roumania) valley, at Kasso the Roumanians by a daring attack regained heights which they had lost yesterday.

Paris, Dec. 26.—Active artillery action Christmas night on the Somme front on the Leblons regions was reported in today's official statement.

ENTENTE ALLIES NOT LIKELY TO BE SUITED WITH GERMAN PEACE TERMS

Washington Dec. 26.—Hasty examination of Germany's reply to President Wilson's peace suggestions, as contained in despatches from Berlin, led one of the foremost administration officials today to state his belief that the entente allies will not be satisfied to meet the Teutonic proposals.

This official declared he is strongly of the opinion that "the proposals would be unsatisfactory to the entente allies insofar as hope of arranging a peace conference at this time is concerned."

He expressed the view that the allies would not consent to a peace meeting based on any such answer as was given in the brief reply by Germany. He held that Germany had directly dodged the request of the United States for something specific in the way of peace terms.

The German answer squared with Ambassador Bernstorff's recent statement that Germany is willing to state her terms at a round table session.

Preliminary examination indicated to administration officials that the entente allies will be unwilling to join such a session unless they can get something more definite on which to operate.

All officials expressed frank pleasure over Germany's very immediate response to the president's note. They declare it "argues well," since it means Germany obviously went immediately to work on her answer.

While many admittedly were disappointed at the absence of specific terms asked for, they pointed out that any peace discussions at this

TWO PATROL BOATS SUNK BY RAIDERS

Austro-Hungarian Destroyers Raid Straits of Otranto, and Ront Fleet of Enemy Ships Says Vienna Report

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 26.—Four Austro-Hungarian destroyers made a successful raid in the Straits of Otranto, sank two patrol boats and, on the way back, routed six enemy destroyers of superior type and speed, a Vienna official statement declared today.

On the night of December 23-24, the statement said, "four Austro-Hungarian destroyers, on a raid in the Otranto straits, sank two armed patrol boats after artillery combat.

"On the way back," the statement continued, "at least six hostile destroyers of greater size and speed, evidently of the Indomito class, blocked the way of our squadron. A violent artillery combat ensued.

"One of the hostile destroyers was set afire and three others were several times hit at short range. The enemy's sea forces, among which there was one vessel of stronger, unknown type, were routed.

"Of our destroyers, one received two hits in the funnel; another was hit on the superstructure. Our losses were one man dead, none wounded."

SEND SHELLS AS XMAS GIFTS TO THE ENEMY

Paris, Dec. 26.—Active artillery action Christmas night on the Somme front on the Leblons regions was reported in today's official statement.

AUTO AND 8 MEN ROLL DOWN HILL AT MACKIN GRADE

With its load of eight men from the Greenback and Copper King mines in the Grave creek district, a heavy Speedwell automobile belonging to the managers of the Copper King rolled off the grade near the Mackin ranch, two miles from Leland Sunday morning, and seven of the occupants were more or less seriously injured. The men were en route to Leland to take the train for Grants Pass where they were to pass the Christmas holidays. In ascending the grade near Mackin's, the rear wheels of the auto skidded on the narrow roadway. The machine was brought to a standstill by the driver, but slipped over the grade and rolled to the bottom of the 60-foot embankment. It turned completely over four times in the downward plunge, and the men were distributed along the hillside, only one of the eight staying with the car during its wild plunge, and he was the only one of the eight to escape injury.

Homer Iman was the most seriously injured. One of his shoulders was broken and the other dislocated. Arthur Swind, the car driver, suffered a broken shoulder and Sam Ragonosch had a broken collar bone. Earl Tennahill was severely bruised and A. C. Saylor had a number of teeth loosened. Joseph Syphers and George Hyde suffered painful bruises. Messrs. Swind and Syphers, who were connected with the Copper King mine, were taken to the hospital at Glendale. The others were brought on to this city on the Southern Pacific and the injured are being cared for at the hospital and at the Palace hotel.

There was a fall of about six inches of snow upon the ground where the accident occurred, and this acted as a cushion to save the men from injuries that might have been much more severe. The car is a wreck.

WEDDINGS NUMEROUS IN CHRISTMAS SEASON

Portland, Dec. 26.—Christmas week was a busy one for the marriage license clerk of Multnomah county, Oregon, and Clarke county, Washington, across the Columbia river, where Vancouver, the Gretna Green of Portland, is located, over 50 couples having been married the past few days.

Yesterday a prospective bridegroom telephoned Clerk Coffey of the local license bureau, asking that he come to his office and issue a license. Evidently something went wrong, as Coffey kept a lonely vigil for several hours, only to discover that his wait had been in vain.

GERMANY'S ANSWER DOES NOT PLEASE

Washington, Dec. 26.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's peace note does not augur for "very rapid advance in the progress toward peace," British officials at Great Britain's embassy said, when shown the text of the United Press despatch. These officials said:

"There is nothing new in the message, nor does it answer the president's or Lloyd-George's request for specific definition of terms."

The suggestion that the question of an organization to prevent wars cannot be considered until peace has been established, and met with disfavor at the British embassy. This was the only suggestion of the kind which was made in the message. It was pointed out that any peace discussions at this

REPLY MADE BY KAISER TO WILSON

Germany Ready to Meet Belligerents, But Plans For Prevention of Future Wars Must Await End of This One

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 26.—Germany today proposed a meeting of belligerents in her answer to President Wilson's peace note. Her formal reply to the American peace suggestion was made in a note handed to United States Ambassador Gerard at Berlin and, at the same time, the American diplomatic representatives at the capitals of the other central powers—Vienna, Sofia, Constantinople.

The note also hints that "the great work of prevention of future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of nations," and declares "when this moment shall have come," Germany will be "ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States at this exalted task."

The German note holds the "most appropriate road to reach the desired result, is an immediate meeting of delegates of belligerent states at a neutral peace."

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 26.—Germany today handed to United States Ambassador Gerard, for transmission to Washington, Germany's answer to President Wilson's recent peace note.

American diplomatic representatives at Vienna and Constantinople were also handed the same reply. The text reads:

"The right minded suggestions made by the president of the United States of America, in order to create a basis for the establishment of lasting peace, has been received and considered by the imperial government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the president's communication."

"The president points out that which he has at heart and leaves open the choice of road."

"To the imperial government the immediate exchange of views seems the most appropriate road in order to reach the desired result. It therefore begs, in the sense of its declaration, made on December 12, which offered its hand for peace negotiations to propose immediate meetings of delegates of the belligerent states at a neutral peace."

"Also the imperial government is of the opinion that the great work of prevention of future wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of nations."

"It will (namely the German government will) when this moment shall have come, be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States at this exalted task."

The answer finishes with the usual terms of international politeness. The text as transmitted over Sayville wireless, by the official press bureau in Berlin, does not contain any peace terms. Whether this is the entire text of the note not made clear in the wireless despatch.

SPOKANE HAS TOUCH OF BELOW ZERO WEATHER

Spokane, Dec. 26.—Spokane citizens awoke this morning to find a six-inch mantle of snow covering the city and surrounding country and the weather intensely cold. At 8:00 eight inches of snow had fallen and the thermometer registered eight degrees below zero with the mercury still dropping.