

# Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VII, No. 125.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 1969.

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

## ACTION OF U.S. UNPRECEDENTED SAYS HOLLWEG

GERMAN CHANCELLOR COMMENTS IN SPEECH TO REICHSTAG ON SITUATION

### POINTS TO MEXICAN EXAMPLE

Charges That Wilson Does Not Deal With Germany as With Southern Republic

Berlin, Feb. 27.—German Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg told the reichstag today that President Wilson's action in breaking off relations with Germany was "unprecedented." He characterized the method by which America terminated friendly intercourse as "brusque." He drew a parallel between President Wilson's course in the Mexican imbroglio of 1913 and the German situation after the start of the war.

The chancellor called attention to President Wilson's notification to congress in 1913 that he would "follow international usage," and put an embargo on shipment of arms to both factions in Mexico. But a year later, the chancellor said, these "usages apparently were no more considered good."

Hollweg dilated on the "countless" war material shipped from America to Germany's enemies. He referred to America's "insistence upon the right of American citizens freely to travel to France and England," but he declared the "same right to American citizens toward the central powers did not seem to be as worthy of protection and as valuable."

The chancellor found fault with the abruptness of Gerard's recall and said he did not yet know officially why America had broken relations.

Berlin, Feb. 27.—Germany's peace conditions are based on "reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantees for the existence and future of a strong Germany."

Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg so outlined them in his speech before the reichstag today.

"There is only one necessity of the day," he declared. "It dominates all questions of policy, both foreign and domestic—it is to fight and gain a victory."

"While our soldiers on the fronts stand in the drumfire of the trenches and our submarines, defying death, hasten through the seas, while we at home have no other—absolutely no other task but to produce cannons, ammunitions, food and to distribute these victuals with justice—in the midst of this struggle for the life and future of our empire, intensified to an extreme, there is only one necessity of the day. It dominates all questions of policy, both foreign and domestic—and that is to fight and gain a victory."

As to peace itself, the chancellor recalled the discussions in the newspapers, in public meetings and also in parliament. He declared that it would be premature if he participated in these debates.

"To make promises of formulated, detailed conditions in my position would be unproductive and precarious," he said.

"Hostile leaders did this abundantly," he added. "They gave extravagant assurances to each other, but they only obtained by this action, deeper implication in the war."

"Their example does not tempt me. What I could say about the tendency and also about the aim of our conditions, I have said repeatedly:

"To determine the war by a lasting peace which grants us reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantees

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## BRITISH FORCES PRESS FORWARD

Retreat of the Germans on the Western Front Said to Be Breaking Many War Records

With the British armies afield, Feb. 27.—There seems every reason to believe the present German retirement will not be ended until the Teutons reach a line approximating the front between Arras and Cambrai.

Meanwhile, the British are still pressing forward today. They are constantly in touch with the Germans—and the Germans are breaking many war records in their retreat. The British pressure is toward Bapaume and the advance is being rapidly pressed. The Germans, however, are offering stiff resistance with large caliber guns, which are evidently mounted on railway trucks, all ready for a quick get-away at the psychological moment.

Just before the Germans took flight they blew up their strongest defensive works. But this did not worry the British. A new line is being established by the British troops far back of what was the old enemy front line. I am told the Germans had many thousand soldiers and civilian prisoners working in the defensive works in the line from Arras to Cambrai for the past few weeks.

For the present moment all eyes are turned toward Bapaume. The Germans have converted the city into an underground Gibraltar and have lavished on it all the arts of modern fortress building.

### BIG TUMBLE IN PRICE OF EGGS IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Feb. 27.—Eggs took a tumble on the local wholesale market today, following unusually heavy receipts. Fresh eggs dropped from 4 1/2 to five cents per dozen, while ordinaries declined from five to six cents. Retail prices, which a few days ago were between 53 and 60 cents per dozen, have dropped to as low as 40 cents.

### NAVY DEPARTMENT WILL CONTRACT FOR NEW GUNS

Washington, Feb. 27.—Bids will be opened by the navy department tomorrow for 2,400 one-pound guns and mounts, 350 three-inch guns and mounts and several four and five inch mounts.

These guns are the type most effective against submarines and are the size guns that would be mounted on merchant ships in case congress so ordered.

### DIVER OFFERED NO AID TO SURVIVORS

London, Feb. 27.—After the Laconia's survivors had taken to the boats, the German submarine which apparently sank the Cunard liner, approached one life boat, inquired for the captain and asked the nature of the cargo. Receiving information in reply to these queries from the second officer of the Laconia, the German officer remarked that a British admiralty boat would reach the survivors shortly, and then departed without offering assistance.

Consul Frost, Queenstown reported the incidents to Ambassador Page today. Frost also reported to the embassy that the Laconia was sunk without warning and by explosion of two torpedoes.

The second torpedo was fired twenty minutes after the first had struck. In this interval of twenty minutes the first thirteen life boats were launched from the Laconia.

Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy of Chicago, were in life boat number eight.

## TWO AMERICAN WOMEN LOST LIVES ON LACONIA

Unwarned Sinking of Big Cunarder By German Submarine Results in Death of Citizens of United States and May Be the "Overt Act"

London, Feb. 27.—Two American women were among the thirteen killed in a German submarine's unwarned torpedoing of the big Cunard liner Laconia. They were Mrs. Mary (Mrs. Albert Harris) Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy.

American Consul Frost at Queenstown made this report to the American embassy here today, adding that the four other Americans aboard the ship were saved.

They were Floyd P. Gibbons, Mrs. F. E. Harris, A. T. Kirby and Rev. Father Wareing.

Mrs. Hoy and Miss Hoy died from exposure in an open boat. They were buried at sea. They were among eight who survived the two torpedoes launched at the Cunarder and later succumbed to their suffering while waiting eight hours in an open boat for rescue. Five were drowned.

Six others were reported by American Consul Frost to be in hospitals, recovering from injuries or the exposure which they suffered.

At Queenstown, 267 survivors were landed. Bantry, Ireland, reported 14 arrived there.

Thus, the total death list is thirteen, two Americans, both women. Survivors at Queenstown reported admirable discipline among the officers and crew of the liner and very little of anything like a panic. The lights went out immediately after the first torpedo struck and this caused some slight confusion.

Two torpedoes found their mark in the vessel, the first exploding at the stern and the other further forward. The weather was comparatively calm, but there was a heavy swell running on the sea.

Comment of the London newspapers today was almost unanimous in the belief that the Laconia was "a second Lusitania." London editors professed their belief that President Wilson's "overt act" had been accomplished in this torpedoing.

"If it is ignored or condoned," de-

clared the Chronicle, "what will in effect be admitted by the American government is the claim that Germany has a right to prohibit American citizens under the penalty of death from traveling to England on English liners."

New York, Feb. 27.—Six Americans of the twenty Americans listed in the crew of the Laconia, lost their lives when the big Cunarder was sunk Sunday, according to the best figures available today.

The Cunard list named two American seamen and trimmers signed when the ship left this port and the company said one or two others may have signed. Consul Frost names 15 American seamen saved. His list accounts for 14 named by the Cunard company and gives one name not included in the line statement.

A check-up of the Cunard list of Americans signed and the Frost list of survivors gives the following as missing:

H. Shepherd, fireman, New York.  
L. Donnell, trimmer, New York.  
A. Dwyer, trimmer, New York.  
F. Cleveland, trimmer, Brooklyn.  
F. Coffey, trimmer, Brooklyn.  
Wm. Hughes, sailor, Astoria, N. Y.  
The Cunard list gives the name of Benjamin Carter of New York as among the Americans in the crew. Consul Frost lists Benjamin Parker of New York as among the saved.  
Louis Darnell, survivor, listed by Frost, was not carried in the Cunard announcement regarding the crew.

### ARMY EXAMINATIONS FOR CLUB MEMBERS

Portland, Feb. 27.—Major Marcus of the Oregon National guard today advised Multnomah club members to undergo physical examinations at army or navy recruiting headquarters. He emphasized that such a course would not be for the purpose of enlisting the men or recording their names, but merely so the members themselves could have the satisfaction of knowing whether they were fit for military duty.

"THERE'S YOUR ANSWER."



—De Mar in Philadelphia Record.

## THINK "OVERT ACT" COMMITTED

Many Officials at Washington Believe Time Has Now Come When United States Must Act

Washington, Feb. 27.—Many officials here believe Germany has committed the "overt act" against the United States.

With receipt of official confirmation today that the big Cunard liner Laconia, was torpedoed without warning by a German submarine and that two American women lost their lives, President Wilson was brought abruptly face to face with the most critical submarine case since the Lusitania was sunk.

That the "overt act" which President Wilson has said "I will recognize, and so will the country recognize, when it comes," has occurred, is the opinion in many quarters here today.

That the incident, however, will not call forth a request for a declaration of war, is generally believed. It is pointed out the president wants only—at this time—money and explicit power to protect American lives and property at sea.

Some flatly called it "more ruthless and lawless than the sinking of the Lusitania, since Germany had since promised to refrain from sinking, unwarned, great passenger liners that had Americans aboard."

It is believed that when the detailed horrors that must have accompanied the sinking of the great ship are received and published in this country, many who were inclined to peace, will feel that the nation's patience is exhausted.

Discussing the sinking informally, some officials pointed to the fact that included in the dead and among those whose lives by chance alone were saved are men and women from the middle west, which heretofore had voted the majority opinion generally for every possible effort to keep peace. The president and his cabinet will have all the facts available before them when they go into session at 2:30 this afternoon.

Officials declare the situation is now in the hands of congress and that quick and positive action should be forthcoming.

### TWO MORE BRITISH STEAMERS ARE SUNK

London, Feb. 27.—The British steamers Heady and Arles have been sunk.

The Heady was a steel screw steamship of 4,953 tons. She was built in 1914. The Arles was a steel screw steamship of 3,071 tons. She was built in 1895.

### EVERY PASSENGER ON SLEEPER KILLED

Altoona, Pa., Feb. 27.—Every passenger, 19 in all, in the Pullman sleeper "Bellwood" was killed this morning when the Mercantile express on the Pennsylvania railroad, which had stopped at Mount Union for minor repairs to the brakes, was run into by a fast freight train.

At 8 o'clock this morning nine bodies were recovered, all unidentified. The engineer of the freight, A. T. Cass, of Harrisburg, and a Pullman porter on another car, received minor hurts. They were the only persons reported injured.

Chester A. Minds, coal operator and former full back on the football team of the University of Pennsylvania, is believed to have been one of those killed. It is also believed his whole family was killed, including his young wife, baby, two relatives and a nurse. They were on their way to Utica to attend the funeral of Mrs. Minds' father.

W. H. Byrd, of Merlin, was a business visitor yesterday and today.

## WILSON NOT YET AUTHORIZED TO ARM SHIPS

HOUSE COMMITTEE DEBATES ISSUE ALL DAY, AND THEN ADJOURNS

### WILL MEET AGAIN TOMORROW

President Will Be Voted \$100,000,000 to Be Expended in Protecting American Citizens

Washington, Feb. 27.—The house foreign affairs committee adjourned at 5:10 today after a ten-minute session, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, without taking action on the Flood bill, authorizing the president to arm American merchant ships.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The senate foreign relations committee, following President Wilson's request to congress for plenary powers in dealing with the German situation, this afternoon agreed to recommend that American merchant vessels, under American registry, be authorized to arm and defend themselves against submarine attack and that President Wilson be empowered to supply defensive armament fore and aft.

President Wilson is also authorized and empowered "to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate" to protect American vessels and citizens "in their lawful pursuits on the high seas."

A credit of \$100,000,000 was voted the president to be expended at his discretion in carrying out his authority.

## DEMANDS AVENGE OF LACONIA DEATHS

London, Feb. 27.—Demands that the United States avenge his mother's and sister's death, was made in a cable dispatch to President Wilson today by Austin Hoy. He requested the president to grant him permission to be the first volunteer in case an American citizen army was raised and said otherwise he expected to enlist in the British army.

Hoy cabled his employers, the Sullivan Machinery company, of Chicago, today, announcing he had taken an "indefinite leave of absence." This leave, he said, was taken in order "to carry out plans to help avenge the death of my mother and sister."

London, Feb. 27.—Dr. Albert Harris Hoy, who lost his wife and daughter in the Laconia sinking, was stricken down with grief over his loss as he talked over the telephone to the United Press office today. He was removed to his room and put under physician's care.

## FRANCE WELCOMES FREIGHTER ORLEANS

Bordeaux, Feb. 27.—Thirty thousand persons stood on the waterfront today and cheered the American freight ship Orleans as she docked. Schools and factories were closed and their students and workers swelled the welcoming throng. The crew and officers of the boat were taken through the streets in a parade to the city hall. Later a lunch was given them.