

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VII, No. 126.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER, 1986.

No. 10 Library Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Newspaper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service

BUSINESS MEN OF THE NATION BACK THE U. S.

COME TO THE SUPPORT OF THEIR COUNTRY IN THE CRISIS WITH GERMANY

CO-OPERATE WITH THE ARMY

Chairman of the National Defense Committee Comments on Aid of Manufacturers

Cleveland, Feb. 28.—With the German-American crisis seemingly approaching the final break, America's business men and manufacturers were hastening "to the colors" today, prepared to back Uncle Sam from first to last.

Several of the business men's committees destined to co-operate with the government quartermasters in buying supplies for the army and navy already have been appointed. Bascom Little announced today. A poll of the business interests in the country has found them standing at attention, awaiting instructions and eager to help, said Little.

Little is the man Uncle Sam has delegated to swing business into line and co-operate with the government buying stations. He outlined to the United Press today the terms and problems the United States faces now that it must quickly provide war materials. He is chairman of the national defense committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce, which has been asked through Secretary of War Baker to co-operate with the army quartermasters in the purchase of supplies.

"Unless the government and private industries get together—learn how to co-operate—the government will enter into threatened hostilities facing a tremendous handicap," said Little.

"The safety of the government lies in the widest possible production of munitions in peace time production plants. This cannot be had if the government pursues a short-sighted purchasing policy, which makes the private production of munitions undesirable business. It must be made 'attractive business.' The government should become the most valuable peace-time customer of every plant that can be educated for the national service in time of war. It should realize that once these plants have installed specialized equipment to produce munitions this equipment must be kept employed at a sufficient profit to depreciate the equipment. The government's aloofness must be changed to one of friendly interest in the success of the producer."

Little said he believed the first important step to this end would be the establishment of a centralized purchasing department, entirely apart from the administration departments of the army and navy. He deplored the theory of the present system of purchasing through eighteen widely scattered offices.

"The officers detailed for this service—distasteful to them in many cases—are men of highly specialized technical military knowledge and it is undesirable for the government to lose their services in the military branches for which they were trained, when another man with business training alone could do the buying as well," he said.

"Asked what were the plans of the national defense committee in its co-operation with the army quartermasters, Little said, with emphasis, that the committee of five business men, appointed to "sit in" with quartermasters at the eighteen government purchasing stations, would "seek not to interfere."

"We will appoint men familiar with the industries of the various

200,000 MEN TO REPEL INVASION

Regular Army and Militia That Could Be Used at Once About That Number

Washington, Feb. 28.—An American army of slightly less than 200,000 men would be immediately available in event of invasion, United States army officers say.

At the present time, the United States army totals less than 100,000 men. Of these about 40,000 are stationed in island possessions, and would not be able to repel invasion. Nearly 100,000 militiamen could be used.

To engage a German expedition on the sea, the United States has 159 war vessels, including battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats and submarines.

The navy has at present 44 submarines. Thirty-one submarines, nine torpedo boats and five dreadnaughts are under construction.

POULTRY DEALERS SUFFER FROM BOYCOTT BY WOMEN

New York, Feb. 28.—Wholesale and retail dealers in poultry on New York east side admitted today that the boycott of Jewish and Italian housewives has paralyzed the poultry market and is fast wrecking their business. They made the admission to Food Commissioner Hartigan and asked him for a conference through which they hope to obtain a compromise with the women.

BRITISH PURSUE THE FLEEING TURKS

London, Feb. 28.—British forces are giving the retreating Turks beyond Kut-el-Amara no chance to re-form their columns. The pursuit is continuing and the retreating enemy forces are being engaged on three sides. An official Mesopotamian statement revealed this additional chapter to British successes along the Tigris today.

"Pursuit of the enemy is being steadily maintained," the statement said. "On Monday our troops were engaging the enemy from three sides. Thirty miles west-northwest of Kut-el-Amara the enemy abandoned quantities of equipment and stores. The total of those taken prisoner on Sunday has reached 360. The enemy threw his guns into the Tigris river, including four 3.9-inch howitzers."

"The British gunboat Firefly, lost during the retreat from Ctesipon was captured, also one Turkish ship captured and destroyed."

"sections," he said. "They will act purely in an advisory capacity. If we find we cannot be any help—we will get out. The first thing to guard against is 'Krupp interest' in war—large amounts of private capital invested in plants which can only sell their product on a war market. The natural aim to such capital would be to create a war market."

"The way to avoid this menace is to have government-owned plants manufacturing the specialized government munitions, such as armor plate and artillery, with capacity to produce, working one shift, about one-third of the peace time requirements. This production could be more than double in war by working three shifts."

Little said the government cannot expect private concerns to manufacture as cheaply as government-owned plants, because they must provide not only a profit, but a higher rate of interest on their capital, as well as allow for depreciation and the risk of idle specialized equipment.

RETREAT OF THE GERMAN ARMY SLOWS DOWN

HAIG'S MEN STILL ADVANCE AND ARE NOW WITHIN TWO MILES OF BAPAUME

THE GROUND IS A SEA OF MUD

Teutons Are Now Offering Stronger Resistance to Forward Sweep of the British

London, Feb. 28.—Field Marshal Haig's troops are still closing in on Bapaume. They are less than two miles distant today. The German retreat apparently has slowed down considerably, and dispatches from the front today indicated strong resistance was now being encountered. In the forward sweep of the British troops.

The ground is a sea of mud from the thaws of recent weeks and stretching across this ocean of slime are miles of barbed wire entanglements.

Patrols unceasingly "feeling out" the ground in advance have not yet found indications of the lines selected by the Germans for the next stand.

UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING IS APPROVED

Washington, Feb. 28.—The senate military committee today agreed to report the army bill carrying an amendment providing for universal military training.

HOGS ARE HIGHER IN CHICAGO MARKET

Chicago, Feb. 28.—Hogs sold for \$13.55 per hundred on the local market here today. This is an advance of 20 cents per hundred over yesterday's top and the highest price ever paid on the Chicago market.

NEW HIGHWAY COMMISSION IS APPOINTED

GOVERNOR WITHYCOMBE NAMES THREE MEN WHO WILL FORM STATE BOARD

EUGENE MAN IN FIRST DISTRICT

Directors of Road Building in Oregon Provided for Under the New Law Were Selected Today

Salem, Feb. 28.—Governor Withycombe is strongly in favor of the plan to authorize a \$6,000,000 bond issue for state road building. This became known today when Withycombe announced the new highway commission personnel.

He named S. Benson, Portland, capitalist; W. L. Thompson, Pendleton, banker, and E. J. Adams, Eugene, lawyer.

With these men in charge, the governor said he felt sure the bonding plan would be successful.

BRITISH LOSSES IN FEBRUARY LIGHT

London, Feb. 28.—The official British casualty for February, issued today showed:

Killed—Officers, 506; men, 7,946. Total, 8,452.

Wounded—Officers, 881; men, 11,111. Total 11,992.

Total casualties, including 17 officers missing, 20,461.

This is one of the lowest casualty totals ever announced for any month since the war started. It is significant also that this extremely small loss comes during the month in which British forces have made the greatest gains in the whole war—through the German retreat from the Ancre and defeat of the Turks around Kut-el-Amara.

ON GUARD!



—Seibel in Albany Knickerbocker Press.

EXPECT AMERICA TO TAKE UP ARMS

English Comment on Laconia Affair Points to Drastic Action by the United States

London, Feb. 28.—England expects America to act.

Editorial comment reflected the attitude of the general public today over the Laconia. Just how America will "act" other than to adopt the armed neutrality policy outlined in the president's speech, was not suggested in the editorials, but the inference was clear that England thinks nothing short of the most drastic steps will satisfy American dignity and honor.

This belief of an irreconcilable difference between America and all Teutonic powers was strengthened today by Vienna dispatches indicating that Ambassador Penfield would receive today the answer of the Austro-Hungarian government to his recent request for a statement of dual monarchy's position on submarine warfare. Dispatches from Switzerland reporting conditions in Austria indicated this answer would be in complete support of Germany's "ruthlessness" and hinted that a break with Austria, similar with that between the United States and Germany, was close at hand.

One other thing which led Britons today to the conclusion that America will have to go farther than a mere break in relations with the Teutons, was the report from Berlin that the Americans taken prisoner on the Yarrowdale were still being held—this time on the plea of quarantine necessity.

The London Times published today a dispatch from Corunna declaring that friends of former American Ambassador Gerard, embarking there for the voyage to the United States, were anxious for his safety.

According to this dispatch, Gerard was warned by a German friend, high in the council of the empire, just before he left, not to make such a trip. The German navy, the Times said, hates Gerard, believing that for a year and a half he has prevented the full force of Germany's submarine weapon from being felt.

AMBASSADOR GERARD SAILS FROM SPAIN TODAY

Washington, Feb. 28.—Ambassador Gerard sails from Corunna, Spain today, a dispatch to the state department said.

AMERICAN FREIGHTER ROCHESTER OVERDUE

New York, Feb. 28.—There was some alarm in local shipping circles today over the fact that no word has been received from the American freighter Rochester, now eighteen days on the way from New York to Bordeaux. She is now overdue. Officers of the Kerr Steamship line, however, expressed the belief that word will be received soon.

SPUDS AND ONIONS SHORT AT FRISCO

San Francisco, Feb. 28.—San Francisco is today facing a serious shortage in potatoes, onions, butter and cheese. This became known following investigations made by the public welfare board of supervisors. The commission men and owners of warehouses were called upon to appear before a meeting of the committee today and furnish a list of all produce held in storage.

Supervisor Mulvihill reported that if any food speculators were holding stored foodstuffs for speculation, the committee would demand a grand jury investigation.

WILSON NOT TO BE GIVEN ALL THAT HE ASKED

HOUSE COMMITTEE AGREES TO FLOOD BILL WITH SOME TEETH PULLED

LIMIT PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY

Would Deny Him Use of "Other Instrumentalities" in Dealing With German Situation

Washington, Feb. 28.—The house foreign affairs committee today upheld President Wilson's request for power to meet the international situation—but with two important restrictions.

Authorization for use of "other instrumentalities" aside from guns, gunners and money was taken from the original Flood bill, thus limiting the president's authority to some extent.

The second restriction was the insertion of a provision against use of the war risk bureau to insure ships carrying munitions of war.

The latter provision may bring the whole armed ship and munitions questions into the present situation and develop an unpleasant complication when a vote comes.

Those voting against the report were Representatives Shackelford and Huddleson, democrats, and Cooper and Porter, republicans, all of whom filed a minority report.

Representative Thompson also filed a minority report.

As the house bill now stands it provides for granting Wilson guns, gunners and \$100,000,000—the guns and gunners to be used to "protect ships and citizens of the United States against unlawful attack in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas."

The three proposed amendments to strip Wilson of power to arm munition ships were voted down as a sop to the entire munition ship crowd.

The committee report provided against the using of the federal war insurance bureau in insuring ships carrying munitions.

The next step toward passage of the measure in the house is to get a rule for expeditious action. The house may wait, however, upon senate action, which is not due before late tonight or tomorrow.

The house rules committee intends to meet tomorrow, however, to report out a rule whereby "quick action, if necessary, can be obtained on the bill."

The house will doubtless pass the bill, in view of the fact that it takes away the use of the "other instrumentalities," that vague power which congress felt might encroach upon its war-making rights and give the president too great power.

Shackelford's minority report—practically a peace-at-any-price plea, closing with a prayer, said, in part:

"In my judgment, our interest counsels that we should forego our rights to navigate the high seas embraced in the war zone declared by England and by Germany, rather than to wage war to enforce such rights. However, if a majority shall hold a different view and our country shall be plunged into that insane war, then I shall, of course, stand by my country to the last dollar and the last man. May a merciful God guide us in this hour of peril."

Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 28.—A German naval plane in the northern Aegean sea successfully bombed a hostile transport ship, the official press agency announced today. The machine returned safely in spite of violent shelling and pursuit by two hostile planes.