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

ARMED MERCHANTMEN TO FIRE ON DIVERS AT SIGHT

No Chances to Be Taken By American Freighters When They Come Across German Submarines in the Barred Zone, According to Statement

Washington, Mar. 10.—American armed merchant ships will be empowered to fire upon German submarines upon sight. The state department made this plain today, in declaring that neutral ships can presume that there will be no visit and search by German submarines, inasmuch as Germany has served notice on the world that she would disregard that mandate of international law.

That statement means that when the American ships venture forth they will take no chance with the German vessels.

Sight of a German submarine will be sufficient to justify American gunners in turning loose the power of their guns.

This interpretation, given officially, brought the possibility of war extremely near.

Germany has declared that she has spoken her last word, that she will go ahead with her submarine warfare.

By firing first, American merchant

ships will lose immunity from attack by the submarines, according to the view of an international law expert here. This means that the bars are down, he said, and that real fighting may be anticipated, unless Germany changes her avowed views and shows leniency toward American ships.

If that is true—and the government has no official reason to doubt it—it is taken officially to indicate sooner or later a clash between a submarine and an American armed merchant vessel is inevitable.

The navy department today screwed the censorship lid on the question of armament. While anticipating that newspapers, press services and cable offices will heed its request to withhold armament and sailing news, it took the added precaution of secrecy from within.

The navy department request is that news of American ship sailings, or arrivals, insofar as the trans-Atlantic area is concerned, shall be withheld.

SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES NOT A UNIT IN BACKING UNITED STATES

Buenos Aires, Mar. 10.—If the United States is planning to seek concerted action among all American republics to cleanse the American hemisphere of German activities—as reported in Washington dispatches today—she is likely to be rebuffed hotly.

A majority of the Latin-American republics will resent such a plan.

From a reliable source here, it was learned today that the Argentine government would be inclined to make "hot answer," if the United States "offers advice" regarding German plotting.

Pan-American unity is not visible from this viewpoint of South America. Several republics are distinctly pro-German.

Some are pro-ally. Most of them are not pro-United States.

With the exception, possibly of Brazil and Bolivia, Argentina's position on the general question of American matters is held by officials here to represent substantially the attitude of the other Latin-American republics.

And Argentina, it will be recalled, was the republic which most unceremoniously rebuffed President Wilson when he asked world neutrals to follow the example of the United States in breaking relations with Germany. Argentina "regretted such extreme measures" in her note, which was drafted by Dr. Diego Molinari. He was likewise the author of the further message to the United States, announcing that Argentina's mind was made up, and implying that it would not be changed by North American pressure, which was enclosed with the formal note.

President Froeyen personally revised both communications.

North Americans here believe Dr. Molinari to be anti-United States—mainly because he was secretary of the pro-Mexican committee here opposing American intervention in Mexico.

But the fact is, Dr. Molinari's views may be taken as typically Latin-American. He believes the United States, perhaps unconsciously, seeks to use Latin-America to her own advantage.

Brazil and Bolivia are considered exceptions to the general Latin-American view. Brazil is believed to be looking for an excuse to seize German merchant ships in her harbors.

Bolivia has declared her "solidarity" with the United States. But she is thought in South America to be "under the thumb" of North America.

The question whether the United States is going to support Bolivia in her ambition for an outlet to the sea is of acute interest in Peru, Argentina and Chile. These nations cut Bolivia off from the Pacific and the river Plata.

Brazil has always been pro-North American. She always, however, has been pro-German, too, except for a few recent expressions attributed to the influence of Ray Barbosa, liberal party leader, and the William J. Bryan of South America—except that he is not a peace advocate.

Chile has been advertised in New York and London dispatches as having supported the United States and expressed sympathy for the entente allies in protesting against the German submarine blockade. The best South American judgment is that her "protest" was as perfunctory as Argentina's "regrets."

Chile has no direct war interest, except that the conflict increases demand for her nitrates. As these are bought and paid for before leaving Chile, no South American can believe Chile is worrying much about the German blockade.

There is no question that Chile is somewhat pro-German and somewhat anti-United States in her sympathies. As for the A-B-C combination, it has now gone up. It never signified much.

Peru has now been heard from. She expresses the opinion that the United States will not have to enter the war. A Lima dispatch says the Peruvian press "enthusiastically eulogizes the literary and diplomatic merits of the recent note."

Uruguay, which objected to the German submarine note and consequently was proclaimed a vigorous supporter of the Wilson policy, surprised South America by saying little in her note.

Colombia is sufficiently anti-United States, on account of the Panama canal affair never to lend much moral support to the latter until compensated for her loss.

Ecuador has a comparatively new administration, which is an unknown quantity. As a general proposition, however, South Americans think she

NO DISSOLUTION OF RAILROADS

Southern Pacific and Central Pacific Win Suit Brought by Federal Government

New York, Mar. 10.—The government suit to divorce the Central Pacific railroad from the Southern Pacific railroad has been won by the railroads. J. P. Blair, general counsel for the Southern Pacific, announced this afternoon.

"This suit was instituted in the United States district court for the District of Utah in February 1914," Blair said. "The claim was made that the ownership by the Southern Pacific company of the Central Pacific, violated the Sherman law and also violated what are known as the Pacific railroads' acts."

"Judge Hook wrote the main opinion, Judge Sanborn a concurring opinion, and Judge Carlin a dissenting opinion."

San Francisco, Mar. 10.—The decision involving the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific was made in the suit of the government to divorce, or "unmerge," the two companies. It is believed the government will appeal immediately to the United States supreme court from the decision.

According to reports received here Federal Judges Hook and Sanborn handed down the decision, and Judge Carlin dissented.

When told of the decision today, W. F. Herrin, chief counsel for the Southern Pacific, said:

"It was the government's contention that the Central and Southern Pacific were competitors and that, therefore, their control and management under one ownership was in restraint of trade. Now the court has found that this charge was not fact and has dismissed the government's petition."

Had the court decided in favor of the government, it would have meant the "unscrambling" of about \$500,000,000 in stocks.

ANOTHER NEW R. R. PLANNED IN NORTH

San Francisco, Mar. 10.—A conference between Louis W. Hill, of the Great Northern railway, and J. M. Hannaford, president of the Northern Pacific, at Hill's residence in Monterey, will end today.

The conference is said to have been called to discuss the building by the Great Northern-Northern Pacific of a railroad from Gray's Harbor to Port Angeles, with ferry connections at Victoria and Vancouver.

The report of the new project was brought to this city by Miles Earles, brother of Michael Earles, Seattle lumberman, who comes from Port Angeles.

Four surveying parties are now in the field, it is understood, and the proposal is to build 30 miles of the new road this summer.

The proposed line will open up the largest body of virgin timber on the continent. The road will also shorten the passenger line between Portland and British Columbia and the project may be a part of the Hill plan for a new coast line from the north to San Francisco.

COMMERCIAL CLUB MEMBERS ARE ELECTED

LOCAL ORGANIZATION PAYS OFF LAST INDEBTEDNESS SATURDAY

THE ANNUAL ELECTION MONDAY

Application of 23 Business and Professional Men Acted Upon by Trustees

At the meeting of the trustees of the Commercial club, held last evening, all outstanding bills against the club were ordered paid, and for the first time in many years the organization will enter upon its new year Monday freed from all debts and with money in the treasury. The club also received the applications and elected to membership in the club the following named persons: Carl Williams, Clyde E. Niles, C. E. Farnsworth, Frank C. Braunwell, Amos Williams, Benj. M. Collins, H. H. Wardrip, Geo. S. Barton, J. N. Johnston, W. S. Maxwell, J. B. Caldwell, A. B. Cornell, H. H. Basler, C. F. Nutting, Rev. L. M. Hooser, J. F. Burke, H. D. Norton, Dr. J. O. Nibley, Herman Horning, Frank F. Mettschan, Chas. C. Hunt, F. E. Woods and E. H. Richard.

The committee appointed some time ago to suggest changes in the plan of organization will present an amendment to the constitution and by-laws changing the name from the "Grants Pass Commercial Club" to the "Chamber of Commerce of Grants Pass." This change was authorized by the club as its regular meeting in January. This and the election of officers of the club will come up in the business meeting to follow the banquet Monday night.

The club has been notified that J. W. Morris, of Portland, a member of the motor association of Portland, who is touring the state organizing branch associations, will be here at the meeting. Highway Commissioner Adams will also be here, and the two gentlemen will speak at the banquet, and music will be supplied by the Commercial club orchestra.

SAVAGE ARMS PLANT DAMAGED BY FIRE

Utica, N. Y., Mar. 10.—The Savage arms plant here, where Lewis machine guns are made for the entente allies, was damaged early today by fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin. An investigation has been started.

The fire was discovered in an oil house and was extinguished by employees.

GOVERNOR HI JOHNSON TO RESIGN MONDAY

Sacramento, Mar. 10.—Hiram Johnson is to resign as governor of California next Monday, his resignation to be followed by his retirement from the executive chair in a few days," according to a story in an extra edition of the Sacramento Bee, a strong administration paper, this afternoon.

APRIL POPULAR MONTH FOR WAR IN AMERICA

With the exception of the war with Great Britain in 1812, every big war in which the United States has been involved started during the month of April.

The war of revolution began against England, April 19, 1775, at Concord, and Lexington.

The war with Mexico was declared April 24, 1846.

The Black Hawk war, the greatest conflict with Indian forces, began April 31, 1831.

The civil war began with an attack on Fort Sumter, April 12, 1861.

War on Spain was declared April 21, 1898.

PATRIOTISM TO WIN IN THE HOUSE

United Front to Be Shown When Lower Branch of Congress Organizes

Washington, Mar. 10.—What promised to be the bitterest house organization fight of recent years, probably will crumble beneath urgent patriotic considerations. While leaders today made partisan claims as to how the body would be shaped in the coming extra session, they confessed that they will not check vital business by political bickerings.

Republicans and democrats alike said it is far better to have a coalition organization, if necessary, than to stand before the world in this crisis as a nation divided from within.

As matters now stand, the house has one more republican than democrat, with several independents holding the balance of power.

Both sides court the favor of that power. And while everything will be done to align these men with one or the other party, it seemed likely today that republicans and democrats will shape their organization course jointly, should it seem a futile fight to obtain this favor.

While house leaders are working hard at the organization problem, the senate has confirmations and the Colombian treaty as the chief business of the special session. Leaders say the treaty cannot be ratified at this time, hence it may be that the senate will have one or two weeks to consider the treaty before the house convenes.

SENATE TO ADJOURN EARLY THIS WEEK

Washington, Mar. 10.—The special session of the senate will adjourn Tuesday or Wednesday.

Senator Chamberlain said today that members of the senate were practically unanimous in a desire to get away from Washington for a breathing spell before returning for the extra session April 16.

Senator Fletcher also predicted an end by Wednesday.

"We have eight nominations to confirm and the Colombian treaty to ratify," said Chamberlain. "I believe these things will be attended to Monday or Tuesday. I do not look for any opposition to any of them."

Included in the nominations is that of Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the president's aide and physician, whose promotion to medical chief of the navy with the rank of rear admiral has been bitterly opposed.

While the steering committee refused to announce its list until it is presented to the senate Monday, it was learned this afternoon that the following new assignments have been made:

Judiciary—King and Wolcott.
Military—McKellar.
Naval—Brussard, Gerry, Trammel and Walsh.
Privileges and elections—Wolcott and King added.
Rules—James, Brussard, Underwood, Owen.
Immigration—Ransdell.
Printing—Thompson.
Banking and Currency—Hendricks.
Appropriation—Smith of Arizona, and Hardwick.
District of Columbia—King and Trammel.
Finance—Jones of New Mexico and Gerry.
Foreign relations—Thomas.

No changes were made in the interstate commerce committee.

Republicans, by the gain of two in the membership of the senate, are entitled to the chairmanship of two additional committees. The committees will be announced later.

TO PUBLISH RECORD OF DEALING WITH GERMANY

United States to Issue "White Book" Giving History of the Plots and Intrigues Through Which Attempts Were Made to Embroil U.S. in Trouble

Washington, Mar. 10.—As an aid to allying pan-America in a move to crush German intrigues on this continent, the government is preparing a record of Germany's sinister moves. It is still to be decided in what manner it will be utilized for this purpose.

The "white book" will trace a story of plots that ranged from blasting munitions works to stirring country against country in war on this continent. It will show how the long hand of the German foreign office stretched forth to create discords in the new world that should keep the United States embroiled at home and make it impossible for her to deal with Germany abroad. Spy plots hatched in Wilhelmstrasse, with the whole world as a sphere of action, will be recorded that South America may know the baneful influences at work to disrupt these nations.

The work of former Ambassador von Bernstorff and his clever spy aides will be recounted. The "white

book" will show the details of how Germany planned to cripple shipping, align Mexico and Japan against the United States; how she played on Latin-American pride in an effort to sway the old chief, Carranza, into an era of conquest stretching north and south of his domain.

It will tend to show how Peruvian navy men were bribed. It will trace the operation of plots to blast the Panama canal, thus striking a vital strategic blow at this country.

It will reveal the full plot to create an Indian uprising using this nation as one of the chief headquarters; and it will recount the individual exploits of such men as Wolf von Igel, Fritzen, Boy-ed, von Papen and many more.

And while the state department does not reveal its full plans, presumably the new and startling document will be put forth to this nation as a spur to national patriotism—a warning to a country which some authorities designated privately as "drunk and proud of it."

TRIAL OF SEATTLE'S MAYOR ON A BRIBERY CHARGE BRINGS SENSATIONS

Seattle, Mar. 10.—Sensation followed sensation swiftly today in the cross-examination of Logan Billingsley, bootlegger king, in the booze graft conspiracy trial of Mayor Hiram Gill, Chief of Police Beckingham, Sheriff Hodge and City Detectives Peysler, Pollman and McLennan.

First came the declaration by Billingsley that his attorney, George Vandever, who has been a close friend of the mayor's for a number of years, made all preliminary arrangements for the city's compromise with the Billingsley brothers, and told Logan not to offer Gill less than \$7,500 when he went to the mayor for incriminating evidence surrendered to him on August 30.

Then came with startling abruptness the revelation that Billingsley went to Portland October 14, 1916, with a woman not his wife and registered at the Oregon hotel as "Clay Allen and wife." Clay Allen is United States district attorney here in charge of the Billingsley prosecution. He said Allen was one of his aliases.

That Billingsley and his brother

had held at least three conferences in the night at the office of Mayor Thompson of the national guard, with Police Sergeant Putnam, of the dry squad, at which evidence was gone over, was also alleged.

The Vandever charge was brought out by Attorney Tucker before he completed his cross-examination on behalf of Mayor Gill. The next two startling bits of testimony were brought out by Attorney Fulton on behalf of the chief of police.

Sandwiched in between the finish of Tucker's examination and that of Fulton, which was still in progress at noon, came that of Attorney Bell, representing Hodge.

Billingsley said his contributions of \$1,050 to Hodge's campaign fund when the latter was running for governor in the primaries last fall and his loan of \$500 to him, were made without any promise or agreement.

That the government is counting on other witnesses to sustain its charge against Hodge was indicated. No mercy was shown Billingsley by Attorney Tucker and Attorney Fulton in their handling of his examination.

COMMANDEER ENGINE TO CATCH YEGGMEN

Umatilla, Mar. 10.—Commandeer a switch engine, a posse headed by former Mayor Starcher, early today chased two alleged safelovers half a mile down the railroad tracks and captured them.

The yeggmens were surprised just after having dynamited a safe in a grocery. They fled along the tracks. Starcher and three others boarded the locomotive and went in pursuit. As the engine overhauled the fugitives, they tried to run down the embankment, but three of the posse leaped from the speeding locomotive and overpowered them. They refused to divulge their names.

Starcher was recently defeated by his wife in the mayoralty race.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clarke, of the Queen of Bronze mine, Waldo are spending a short time in the city, stopping at the Josephine.

THE FREDERICK VIII ARRIVES AT CHRISTIANIA

Copenhagen, Mar. 10.—Former Ambassador Count von Bernstorff, on board the Frederick VIII, arrived at Christiania, at 1:30 this morning, according to official word received here today.

Christiania was covered with ice and snow and the Frederick VIII arrived in the midst of a violent snow storm.

Several hundred Germans were gathered at the quay to welcome the former ambassador as the Frederick VIII was shunted into her dock. The first words Count von Bernstorff heard from the greeting throng was "Deutschland uber alles," sung by the welcoming crew as they swarmed aboard the ship.

The German minister to Norway went aboard shortly after her arrival for a visit with Count von Bernstorff.

Passengers reported most violent snow storms during the voyage from Halifax. All of them were exhausted from sea sickness brought on by extraordinarily rough weather.