

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

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

VOL. VII, No. 142

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 2026

BRITONS ARE DRIVING LINE AROUND LENS

WEDGE PUSHED FARTHER INTO GERMAN FORCES IN FRANCE

MANY BIG GUNS ARE CAPTURED

Cities of Lens and St. Quentin, Held By the Germans Are Doomed to Fall

London, April 16.—In the face of the fiercest German opposition yet rallied against the British drive, General Haig's forces today battered their way further around Lens and pushed another wedge to within a mile and a half of the Cambrai-St. Quentin line.

"We progressed to the northwest of Lens," was the British commander's laconic comment of that point in the fighting, where British forces have straddled the famous Hindenburg line.

Haig also announced the capture of Villerat, southeast of Hargicourt. Its taking by British troops widens the wedge thrust against the main Hindenburg line of communications from St. Quentin to Cambrai on a front of approximately five miles. Villerat is five miles north of Fresnoy-le-Petit and Pontu—both already in British hands and both one and one half miles from the Cambrai-St. Quentin line.

The German defense was centering around Monchy-le-Preux.

"The German attack Saturday at Monchy," Haig asserted today, "was pressed in the most determined manner. The Third Bavarian division was again hurled as a reinforcement to the German line and ordered to re-take Monchy at all costs. Its losses, like that of other German troops, were exceptionally heavy.

"Estimate of the booty captured at Lievin and along the Souchez river is not available yet, but it was exceedingly large, including some six-inch naval guns and many thousands of rounds of ammunition of all caliber, as far as eight-inch guns."

Battle front dispatches today revealed the wild haste of the German troops to withdraw great supplies of food, ammunition and guns, out of the doomed cities of Lens and St. Quentin. Flames were to be seen in both towns from the British lines now holding the suburbs of both cities, 45 miles apart. Just such attacks as those on Monchy were to be expected from the Germans on the whole British offensive front. Unable to stem the powerful tide of the British advance at the two pivotal cities in their line, Lens and St. Quentin, the Germans were apparently concentrating big forces for counter-attacks at intermediate points.

Occupation of Dirmude by Belgian troops without opposition from the Germans, gave hint to experts here today that the Germans may be planning a retirement on a vast scale on the west front. Some believe this retreat might even carry the Germans back to the Belgian border.

Such a maneuver would greatly shorten the German line and therefore release a mass of men for defense against the smashing British and French attacks.

"Our booty includes quantities of trench mortars, bombs, grenades, truckloads of new tools, many lengths of tram lines and with trucks complete and two large engineer dumps," Haig's statement continued. "More than a third of our prisoners since the 8th were Bavarians."

Geo. C. Sabin went to Corvallis today to spend a short time with his son, Lynn, a student at the O. A. C.

PROPAGANDA FOR PEACE BY KAISER

Germany Said to Be Seeking Revival of Peace Talk, Though Will Be on Own Terms

Copenhagen, April 16.—Germany is secretly seeking to revive peace talk in all belligerent countries. She asks peace—still on her own terms—though doubtless somewhat amended. In December Germany asked peace and was refused. Now she is planning to maneuver the allies into asking her for peace.

The plan, as established from information from high sources here today, is an ambitious one and would be world-wide in its scope.

Positive confirmation of official overtures from Berlin to the United States, as reported in United Press dispatches Thursday, was obtained today. The hint came from a source from German official sources that the United States would do well to send Colonel E. M. House to the Hague for conference with German representatives.

The main intrigue, however, which Germany hopes to start a movement for peace, was apparently being effected through German official channels. Suddenly socialists in the German empire have become favored individuals. Their leaders have been assiduously cultivated by German officials. The German censorship has been unprecedentedly loosened to permit their communicating with socialists in such enemy countries as Russia. Most of these drastic rules prohibit the departure of her men from the empire and of holding of commercial transactions with enemy trenches has been raised to permit departure of Philipp Scheidemann and other socialists for conferences with socialist comrades of enemy nations.

The Russian government may not be falling in with Germany's intrigues, but certainly Russian ultra-socialists have been communicating with German socialists and some Russian radicals have left for conferences with Germans.

Germany evidently is exerting tremendous pressure through her socialists for a separate peace with Russia. That may be the main part of her peace planning. But the few feelers encountered today indicated that this as only a part of the German scheme to obtain strategic positions. It was noted in all the peace feelers that German is carefully avoiding any mention of terms.

In the meanwhile, German newspapers, in obviously inspired articles, are reiterating the fact that Germany cannot make any important concessions from the terms of the official notice about the time of von Bethmann-Hollweg's profile in December.

The Danish foreign office today formally declared Danish socialists were not participating in the supposed socialist conference.

SENATOR JONES WOULD STOP MAKING OF BOOZ

Washington, April 16.—A bill authorizing for nation-wide prohibition was introduced in the senate by Jones today. The bill would prohibit the manufacture of liquor would be prohibited.

SENATE COMMITTEE SOLID FOR BONDS

Washington, April 16.—With little discussion and no opposition, the senate finance committee today reported favorably the seven billion dollar bond bill.

The bill will be rushed through the senate tomorrow to make available the flood of gold, Senator Simpson announced.

Only three minor amendments were added to the bill as it came from the house.

PRES. CARRANZA SAYS MEXICO IS NEUTRAL IN WAR

STATEMENT BY REPUBLICAN CHIEF DETAILS ATTITUDE IN WORLD STRIFE

FIRST MESSAGE IN 3 YEARS

Disputes Statement of Former Secretary Knox of Request Made for Intervention

Mexico City, April 16.—Mexico is neutral. The capital today received with satisfaction the long expected statement by President-elect Carranza of the nation's attitude toward the world war since the United States is in.

The situation had grown tense. Nobody knew what stand Carranza would take until he started to read his first presidential message to the first constitutional congress Mexico had in three years.

Every chair in the diplomatic boxes was filled when Carranza entered the chamber and began to speak. A hush fell on the brilliant and lively scene. He spoke for four hours, from two hundred typewritten pages of manuscript; and the diplomats listened carefully for some indication that the now-famous Zimmerman note proposing war on the United States by Mexico, Germany and Japan, had borne fruit.

The first chief's speech was a detailed outline of his position with regard to the United States, dating back to the usurpation of power by Huerta.

In his lengthy recital of Mexican-American relations, Carranza took occasion to deny statements by P. C. Kacox, formerly American secretary of state, that Carranza had once asked America's intervention.

Members of Mexico's senate took the oath of office last night, amid impressive ceremonies and under the new constitution. For the first time in more than thirty years, the Mexican senate is now presided over by a vice-president of the republic. The new representative assembly likewise met and organized, but all congressional work was held up by lack of a quorum.

ROBBERS BREAK WINDOWS AND MAKE AWAY WITH GOODS

Portland, April 16.—The windows of five downtown shops and clothing stores were broken early today and merchandise taken valued at several hundred dollars. No one saw the robber, who must have had an automobile or wagon to carry his loot.

BRAZILIANS CHEER A DEMAND FOR WAR

Rio de Janeiro, April 16.—Fifty thousand Brazilians today cheered enthusiastically an inflammatory pro-war speech by Brazil's idol of the people—Senator Ruy Barbosa—declaring that war with Germany was inevitable.

"The situation in Brazil and in the United States is identical," Barbosa declared. "President Wilson's war message was a triumph of the people over government intrigues and German diplomacy."

Meetings all over Brazil are an indication of the war demand to which the government will be forced to yield. It was announced today that a number of prominent Brazilians had agreed to meet with representatives from Argentina to discuss the general German-South American situation.

DELEGATION FROM ALLIES NEAR NEW YORK

BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER BALFOUR EXPECTED WITHIN FEW HOURS

ENTENTE LEADERS ARE COMING

Will Discuss Plans for Co-operation With the United States in War on Germany

Washington, April 16.—Admiral Fletcher and several other officials have left to meet British Foreign Minister Balfour, Secretary of the Navy Daniels announced this evening.

Late today the state department announced officially that no members of the British or French commissions would arrive tonight in the United States. The state department is as yet without information as to when they will arrive, it was stated.

The state department announced the members of the committee that would meet the commissioners as: Brockbridge Long, third assistant secretary of state; Warren Robbins, state department; Major General Leonard Wood; Colonel R. E. L. Michie; Rear Admiral F. F. Fletcher and Commander E. F. Sellers.

It was intimated there has been a change of program since earlier information to the effect that Balfour would reach New York at 5:30 this evening. Pressed for details, an official said this afternoon that the commission would "arrive somewhere within at least thirty-six hours of Washington this evening."

The White House reception of the allied commissioners was made on the belief that the French members would arrive before Wednesday.

The conference with the president will be the first of the series of joint meetings devising aid, which America will render the allies and the extent of the United States co-operation in military and naval affairs.

One of the first questions to be taken up with the United States government by Balfour will be arrangements to subject British residents in the United States to conscription in the American army, or the option of volunteering in the British army. It became known today on unquestioned authority.

Washington, April 16.—The first formal step in one of the most important international conferences of the great war will be taken Wednesday, when President Wilson will receive Arthur J. Balfour, foreign minister of England, and members of the French commission, now en route to this country.

(Continued on Page 4)

EARLY PLANTING OF SPUDS IS ROTTING

Portland, April 16.—Thousands of acres of potatoes planted early in the northwest are rotting in the fields, due to the excessively damp and continued cold weather.

The full extent of the damage will not be known for several weeks. Many of the fields of the northwest must be re-planted, involving not only financial loss to producers but delaying the arrival of the new crop.

REICHSTAG IS SUMMONED TO MEET ON APRIL 24TH

Amsterdam, April 16.—Advices from Berlin today declared the reichstag had been summoned to meet April 24 and that Imperial Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg was expected to make an early statement on Russia.

PRESIDENT GIVES TREASON WARNING

Points Out What Constitutes the Capital Crime Against the Country and Its Penalty

Washington, April 16.—President Wilson this afternoon issued a proclamation through the state department pointing out what treason is and the penalty as provided by the constitution, the criminal code and court decisions.

The constitution provides that treason consists in levying war against the United States or in adhering to our enemies. The criminal code provides the death penalty as the maximum and not less than \$10,000 fine as the minimum. The criminal code further says any one concealing knowledge of treason is guilty of misprison or treason; it further says that treason consists of conspiracy to overthrow the government, levy war against it, oppose its authority, delay execution of any laws, or seizing any United States property.

The proclamation points out the following court decisions as defining treason:

The use or attempt to use violence against the government's military or naval forces; use of any property with knowledge or intent that it shall aid the enemy; performance of any act or publication of any statements or information which will give in any way "aid and comfort to the enemies of the United States;" direction, aiding, counseling or countenancing of any of the foregoing acts; such acts are treasonable, whether done in the United States or elsewhere and whether committed by a United States citizen or an alien domicile here.

In closing, the president said:

"I hereby proclaim and warn all citizens of the United States and aliens owing allegiance to the government of the United States, to abstain from the committing of any and all acts which would constitute a violation of the laws herein set forth, and I further proclaim and warn all persons who may commit such acts they will be vigorously prosecuted therefor."

SEATTLE MAKES WAR ON THE MIDDLEMAN

Seattle, April 16.—To eliminate the middleman's profit and to reduce to a minimum the possibility of food speculation, the port commission of Seattle will utilize its enormous facilities in warehouse and storage plants in a plan which will actually bring the producer and consumer together.

Details of this powerful campaign against food speculation has not yet been worked out in detail, but in general, President Robert Bridges, of the port commission, has mapped out the following program:

The port commission, through its traffic department, to act in the same manner as the commission houses, to receive food products and then to sell them direct to grocers, butchers, fish markets, dealers of all kinds and to individuals. To place a time limit for holding any commodities in storage and to compel their sale after the expiration of such limit, thereby preventing the holding of a food for speculative prices.

Inasmuch as the public owned port plants have more than one-third the total area of all cold storage capacity in Seattle, the port commission is in a position to make its war on speculation in foodstuffs absolutely effective.

GENERAL ALEXIEFF HEADS RUSSIAN ARMY

Petrograd, April 16.—General Alexieff was today named commander-in-chief of all Russia's armies. He had been chief of staff of the army.

ARMY BILL TEST VOTE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

HOUSE COMMITTEE FAILS TO ENDORSE PLAN ADVANCED BY WILSON

FAVORS VOLUNTEER SYSTEM

Amendments Are Presented, and Measure May Not Be Reported in Week

Washington, April 16.—On a test vote the principle of the selective draft incorporated in the general staff army bill was beaten in the house military committee this afternoon by a nine to eight vote.

One member absent—Field of Kentucky—did not vote.

The vote indicated that unless sentiment in the committee changes the committee will recommend the volunteer system be given a try-out before conscription is resorted to to raise an army of 500,000 for service in Europe.

Two important amendments to the general staff bill were introduced in the committee today. They will be acted on by the committee tomorrow. One amendment, by Chairman Dent, would give the volunteer system a trial but would give President Wilson power at any time to declare the volunteer system a failure and order conscription. Another amendment by Congressman Anthony, Kansas, provides for raising the army by a volunteer system. However, a military census of military eligibles will be started at once. If, within five months the number of troops required have not volunteered, conscription will begin immediately.

Washington, April 16.—A tentative draft of the military service bill along the general lines submitted by the war department was begun by the house committee on military affairs today. The committee hopes to report the bill by the end of the week.

All the hearings were closed today, but additional data was submitted. A change in the ages of the compulsory system from 19 to 25 to 21 to 24 has been suggested in the committee, but nothing definite has yet been evolved from the hearings.

FALLING BRANCH KILLS YOUNG MAN OF EUGENE

Eugene, April 16.—A snag falling from the top of a tall tree struck Sidney LeRoy Barnes, 18, with sufficient force to fracture practically every bone in his head and many in his body and kill him instantly. He was walking through a forest, picking flowers with a girl companion.

Portland, April 16.—As if the east were preparing a welcome for invading German hosts, eleven carloads of saur kraut left Portland for the Atlantic seaboard today. This is just one shipment made by one firm. A shortage of cabbage in the east is given as the cause for the shipment.

OREGON ENLISTS MANY MEN FOR THE NAVY

Portland, April 16.—The naval recruiting district, of which Portland is the center, will probably lead the entire country in the number of men enlisted for naval service in the twenty-day period ending next Friday. The Portland station easily leads all others in the western district and is the only one in the country that is maintaining the quota of enlistments prescribed by the navy department, when the call for recruits went out on April 1.