

# 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

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## PEASANTS TRY SEIZING LAND OVER RUSSIA

THEY DO NOT WAIT FOR REFORMS PROMISED BY THE DUMA LEADERS

### SITUATION BELIEVED CRITICAL

Germany's Fine Hand Seen in Distrust and Impatience of Common Russian People

Petrograd, May 12.—Anxiety of the plain people of Russia instantly to bridge the chasm between the autocracy that was and the democracy that is to be—without careful testing put the bridge—menaces Russia today.

The friction between the duma leaders and representatives of the soldiers and workmen has long been apparent. Today, however, came word of an equally menacing point of difference.

Russia's peasants are taking things in their own hands. Pleas by duma representatives sent broadcast throughout Russia to preach the doctrines of the new plan of government and tell the ignorant peasants to wait for complete organization, are apparently falling on deaf ears.

Word indicated today that nearly 150,000,000 acres of land have been seized by the peasants throughout Russia. The peasants could not wait for the promised breaking up of vast estates under pledges that such a distribution would come soon after the constituent assembly had definitely mapped out Russia's future.

Confiscation and distribution of lands have in many sections been formally decided upon by vote of the popular assemblies. The movement has become so general throughout Russia that the German agents have succeeded in stirring up great dissatisfaction among soldiers along the front, by insinuating that unless the soldiers deserted and went home to participate in the confiscation, they would lose their share. Numerous desertions have come from this report.

The Russian workmen, too, are taking matters into their own hands. Throughout Russia workmen are placing representative officers of their organizations with various manufacturing companies, and refusing permission for any shipments without their official visa.

Minister of War Gutchkoff today issued this proclamation to the army:

"People who hate Russia are counteracting the work of the army, clamoring for the end of the war. An active campaign is progressing against discipline and obedience. Do not let

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## DRAFT BLANKS ARE SENT OUT

War Department Takes First Step in Putting Conscription Law Into Effect

Washington, May 12.—The government today took its first preliminary step toward putting into effect the selective conscription system for raising an army of one million men. Certain of speedy action by congress on the army bill, which will come up for final debate in the house at 10:30, the war department began distribution of 10,000,000 registration blanks through which all males of the nation between the ages of 21 and 30 will be card-indexed. These blanks will be sent to sheriffs and mayors of hundreds of communities. The cards contain blanks for fourteen questions—every detail the government wishes to know about its potential soldiers—and a query whether exemption is claimed.

Men who are absent from their home states will be required to procure a card wherever he may be and mail it to the county clerk at his home. Distribution of the cards is expected to be completed within a few days.

According to estimates compiled by the bureau of census, New York City alone should register 624,700 men of between 21 and 30 years inclusive; Chicago, 300,800; Philadelphia, 171,800; St. Louis, 84,900; Boston, 77,800; Cleveland, 82,600; Baltimore, 57,600 and Pittsburgh, 67,200.

The figures given by the bureau are based upon the average age of the numerical increase in population for the different cities and states since 1910, when the last accurate census was compiled.

New York state leads the country with approximately 1,068,000 men subject to selective service. Pennsylvania is next with 874,000 and Illinois third with 639,500.

The possibilities for the three Pacific coast states, compiled by the bureau, are as follows: California, 362,000; Oregon, 108,100; Washington, 217,400.

## SENATE GRANTS A PARTIAL DRY NATION

Late evening report: Washington, May 12.—By a vote of 38 to 32, the senate amends the Gregory espionage bill providing partial prohibition during the war.

Washington, May 12.—Demands for war prohibition broke out afresh in the senate today when Senator Cummins, introduced an amendment to the espionage bill to prohibit the use of grains, cereals or other edible things in the production of intoxicants.

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## ROOSEVELT WINS HIS FIGHT IN CONGRESS

By a Vote That Was Surprising Even to Friends of the Colonel. The House Army Bill Back Into Conference to Include Provision for Roosevelt Division

Washington, May 12.—Supporters of Colonel Roosevelt won an up-hill fight in the house today, when, by a vote of 215 to 178, the house re-committed a conference report on the selective draft army bill with instructions to insert the Roosevelt volunteer division plans.

The slight democratic majority in the house was overcome by a sprinkling of democrats from all over the country who voted for the bill.

By the house action, the bill goes back to conference between house and senate. House conferees are instructed to stand for the Roosevelt plan to the last. The senate originally adopted the Roosevelt plan. The house originally rejected it. The margin of 37 votes, by which the Roosevelt amendment carried, was surprising even to the colonel's supporters. No advantage for either side could be found until the roll call was almost completed, when there was a strong trend to the Roosevelt men.

The house cheered when Speaker Clark announced the vote. For the first time in many years many individuals were applauded as they voted. Speaker Clark, the last to vote, was wildly cheered when he

voted "no," as was Majority Leader Mann, who voted the same.

Miss Jeannette Rankin won loud applause when she voted to let Roosevelt lead volunteers to the fighting front. Representative Sherwood, civil war veteran, now 82 years old, also received an ovation when he voted for the Roosevelt plan.

Fitzgerald, New York, said General Pershing's brigade should be sent. To send four volunteer divisions, he said, "would be to send 80,000 men to be slaughtered." "I'm not a political friend of Roosevelt," Uncle Joe Cannon said amid laughter. "I voted against him in 1912. I do not believe he is a candidate for president. I never expect to vote for him again. But if you are afraid of him, it is more dangerous to leave him at home."

Washington, May 12.—The house decision on the army bill, referring it back to conference with instructions that the so-called Roosevelt division amendment be embodied in the bill, was reported to the senate late today. Senator Chamberlain asked unanimous consent to withdraw his report to the senate on the bill, which was granted, and the army bill was again in conference.

## WAR ON THREE FRONTS RESOLVES INTO HAND TO HAND STRUGGLES

London, May 12.—Word received late today from Haig, announces violent attack on Bullecourt which he occupies, and carries German lines over front of mile and half.

London, May 12.—Hundreds of prisoners were taken by British forces in further advances today around Bullecourt on the Arras-Cambrai road and north of the Scarpe river, Field Marshal Haig reported.

"At night and early this morning," he said, "we made attacks on the Hindenburg line in the neighborhood of Bullecourt and also astride the Arras-Cambrai road and to the north of the Scarpe. We gained our objective and took hundreds of prisoners."

Crown Prince Rupprecht is trying with almost every sort of weapon known to military science to dislodge the British grip on German positions around Fresnoy and Bullecourt. Front dispatches told of hand grenades, trench mortars, liquid (Greek) fire, boiling oil, nauseating gases, bayonets, big guns, little

guns, machine guns, rifle fire, all concentrated in a fury of attack.

All opportunity for concerted mass attack has passed at these points, according to descriptions of the deadlock received here. The struggle has developed into hand-to-hand bits of fighting while behind roar guns on both sides, pelting the lines opposite with vast quantities of shells.

It is not only at Fresnoy and Bullecourt that the Germans were striving today to stop all movement of the British. Official reports detailed mass offensive assaults at Arleux, and other points around Lens. The British grip on the coal city has been increasingly strong of late and Field Marshal von Hindenburg, with every reserve force at his command, is endeavoring—vainly, so far—and with extraordinary losses—to weaken the circle of British trenches about the town.

Dispatches from the Macedonian front today showed a desperation in the fighting there incident to the allied advance that is equaling anything seen on the western front. Despite a terrain highly unfavorable to the attacking forces, General Ser-

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## FRENCH MAKE SMALL GAINS

Fighting Continues At Several Points on French Lines Without Results of Importance

Paris, May 12.—Fighting all the way from south of Laon down to Alsace-Lorraine was detailed in today's French official statement. Gains were achieved by General Nivelle's forces in penetrating the German lines north of Besonvaux, as well as at several points in the Ammertzwiller sector of Alsace, the war office said.

Around Chemin des Dames, the artillery combat showed a slight slackening, the statement said. The French blew up a munitions depot in this section. In the regions south of Pargny and in the Champagne, west of the Cornillet woods, the same style of fighting prevailed.

Around Verdun there was an artillery battle in the region of Avocourt, but without infantry actions. "French detachments penetrated the German lines north of Besonvaux, as well as at several points in the Ammertzwiller sector of Alsace," the war office statement concluded.

## ROUTINE OUTLINED AT OFFICERS' CAMP

San Francisco, May 12.—Ten hours a day instructions, lectures in the evenings, with the remainder of the waking hours devoted to study chiefly, is the program mapped out for the student officers at the presidio training camp. Today about half of the appointees to the camp are at the presidio with 580 scheduled to enroll during the day.

Colonel Sladen, commandant of the school, today emphasized the fact that because the camp is on a strictly "make good" basis, no fraternizing between officers, instructors and students will be permitted.

## TWO NATIONS HOLD PROGRESS OF WORLD

Tokio, May 12.—It lies in the power of Japan and the United States to determine the answer upon which the future happiness and progress of the world will depend, Foreign Minister Motono declared in an unusual frank address at the banquet given by the American Society of Japan last night in honor of the inauguration of Field Marshal Terauchi as premier.

Premier Terauchi declared that the entrance of the United States into the world war had greatly strengthened the ties between Japan and America. It is imperative now, he added, that these relations be cemented more strongly than ever, and the efforts for progress by both governments and peoples be combined more closely.

## SOCIALISTS CABLE GERMAN COMRADES THAT WAR MUST SWEEP KAISERISM FROM EARTH

New York, May 12.—America's socialists sent word to their colleagues of Germany today that the kaiser and kaiserism must go; that the war against Germany must be continued by the democratic people of the world until this result is achieved. The message was cabled by the national executive committee of socialists of America to socialists in Stockholm, Copenhagen, The Hague and Bern, with request that its text be forwarded to German socialists.

The names of America's most prominent socialists were affixed to the messages—including Charles Edward Russell, J. G. Phelps-Stokes, Wm. English Walling, Rose Pastor-Stokes, and others.

## SENATE HITS CONTROL OF NEWSPAPERS

BY A NARROW MAJORITY OF ONE VOTE PRESS CENSORSHIP IS KILLED

### ESPIONAGE BILL STILL STRONG

While the President Is Given Much Power the Principal of Free Speech Is Maintained

Washington, May 12.—By a tight majority of one vote, the senate today struck from the Gregory espionage bill the censorship provision that would authorize power to control the press in any and all criticism of the government's conduct of the war and the administration's international policies. The vote was 39 to 38. Fifteen democrats lined up with 24 republicans to defeat the objectionable provision, which has caused a storm of criticism from all over the country and on the floor of both house and senate.

Senator Martin, democratic floor leader, was one of the democrats who voted against provision which Attorney General Gregory promulgated.

Disposition of the censorship feature leaves the president with no specific control over the press. Other sections of the espionage bill cover treasonable utterances and it was the contention of those opposed to the censorship that those sections will give the government ample powers to protect itself.

It is possible that later an effort will be made by the administration to secure adoption of a much-modified censorship provision, but the temper of the senate is such as to absolutely prohibit any drastic regulation of the press or interfere with the rights of free speech.

Even as it stands, it gives the president powers such as are hardly exceeded by any ruler in the world. He is authorized to issue proclamations governing the movements of all American vessels and to take possession of such vessels, if necessary. He is authorized to employ land and naval forces to prevent destruction or injury of any vessel in American waters; to prevent vessels, as resort for any one conspiring against the United States. A penalty of not more than 25 years imprisonment for any one fomenting trouble or conveying false reports about the military and naval forces of the country. It provides heavy penalties for any one conspiring against the United States, or who harbors any one whom he suspects of being a conspirator.

The president may restrain in part any armed vessel owned wholly or in part by American citizens until adequate proof is given that sailing of the vessel will in no way jeopardize the interests of the United States.

## TOLSTOY REGRETS APPOINTMENT OF ELIHU ROOT ON AMERICAN COMMISSION TO RUSSIA

Seattle, May 12.—Count Ilya Tolstoy, son of the great Russian philosopher, today denounced the appointment of Elihu Root as chairman of the United States commission to new Russia.

"I disapprove of the appointment of Mr. Root on the Russian commission," he said. "In sending him as chairman, America makes herself appear a plutocracy, instead of a democracy. That is true, but I should not think it well to show it on such a commission. The idea of sending the commission was good, but it is annihilated by the selection of Mr.

Root as its head. He will be very badly received by the Russian democrats, and instead of uniting Russia and America, I think it will have just the opposite effect."

Tolstoy is here on the last lap of his journey homeward, where he says, he expects to be "drawn into" the work of reconstructing the Russian government.

"I would like to escape that fate," he said, with a shrug of his shoulders, "but I feel it will be impossible."

Tolstoy will leave immediately for Vancouver, B. C.

## EDISON NEEDED A SHAVE MUST MAKE SACRIFICES

East Orange, N. J., May 12 — Thomas A. Edison was halted as he tried to pass an armed guard near his factory here. Part of the factory was burning, and the wizard was hastening to oversee the work of fighting the flames. "But I'm Edison," exclaimed the inventor. "Not with those whiskers," the guard replied. Edison has been so busy working on a solution of the submarine problem, he had not taken time to shave.

Washington, May 12.—What the war that America is in will mean in heartaches and in every way was brought home to a great audience that witnessed the dedication of the new Red Cross home here this afternoon. President Wilson and former president Taft both emphasized that American homes are to be bereft of loved ones, but that Americans must be real Americans in bravely standing the coming sacrifices in the interest of "freedom and democracy."