

# Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

No. 1 Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Newspaper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service

VOL. VII, No. 184.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 2064.

## GOVERNOR IS WELCOMED BY GRANTS PASS

STATE'S EXECUTIVE SPENDS DAY IN ROUND OF ENTERTAINMENT AND SPEAKING

### MAKES TWO STRONG ADDRESSES

Proud of Oregon's Response in National Crisis and Appeals for United Action

Southern Oregon put on one of her characteristic smiles of welcome to greet the state's executive yesterday.

The governor spent the morning in a visit to the sugar factory and chatting with numerous friends among the business men of the city. He was entertained for luncheon at the Twoby club.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the governor attended a meeting of all the city's school children gathered in the opera house. In a splendid talk he told the children of the great crisis which the country is facing. He told of the meaning of the flag and the freedom for which it stood. Not only were those who went to the front to fight, to be commended as patriots, but those who did their bit at home, including the children who worked a garden and helped the nation feed its armies, were deserving of highest praise.

The children sang the Star Spangled Banner, and America, and the governor was so pleased with the way the latter song was sung, he asked them to repeat a verse of it. "Some time ago," said he, "I heard some German children singing their national air, and I said then that I hoped American children would sing their country's songs with as much evidence of meaning what they said as did the little Germans—but I want to say to you little red-blooded Americans that you have those Germans badly beaten."

The children's meeting was under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher association.

Following the talk to the children, Governor Withycombe was taken in hand by 75 young ladies of the Girls' Honor Guard and given a 20 mile auto ride circling Tokay Heights and down the lower valley and back. In his address at the Chamber of Commerce, the governor referred to this ride as "the gem of many, many en-

(Continued on Page 4)

## ROOSEVELT FORCE IS UP TO PRESIDENT

Washington, May 15.—The Roosevelt division amendment is now a clause in the selective draft bill.

House and senate conferees today wrote into the measure the amendment offered in the senate by Senator Harding, Ohio, which authorizes—but does not direct—the president to raise a volunteer force of picked troops, the presumption being that they will be led into France by Theodore Roosevelt.

The conferees will report their agreement in both senate and house today and both branches of congress are expected quickly to acquiesce in the report. The bill should go before the president for his signature or veto some time tomorrow, unless there is another unexpected hitch.

The general army staff is said to favor a veto, as it now stands, but it was pointed out there is nothing in the bill which makes it compulsory that the president should raise the divisions authorized. He may avoid the section entirely if he desires.

## DRY FIGHT WILL BE PUSHED HARD

Many Congressmen Determined Nation's Grains Shall Not Be Wasted in Liquor Making

Washington, May 15.—The fight for "war prohibition" has only started in congress. Striking from the Gregory espionage bill late yesterday of the Cummins' partial prohibition amendment was done merely on the grounds that the measure, as it stood, was unconstitutional, and did not properly belong to the spy bill.

The dries today are determined to force prohibition as a war measure and several bills are awaiting introduction. The next effort will be made in an attempt to add a prohibition clause to the food conservation bill. Falling in that, the dries will put up a separate bill and demand action.

Many senators friendly to this legislation, voted against the Cummins' amendment yesterday, because they thought it out of place. They will favor adoption of a measure similar to that offered by Senator Gronna, which would conserve all food during the war by prohibiting their use in manufacture of liquors of any kind. According to present plans, the authority for shutting off these foodstuffs used for making beverages, will be left to the discretion of the president.

## HOME RULE NEARS REAL SETTLEMENT

London, May 15.—Premier Lloyd-George will transmit terms of a settlement of the Irish question devised by the government to Irish leaders tomorrow. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar-Law announced in the house of commons today.

Although the government has devised proposals which it thinks will effect settlement of the controversy, those in touch with the situation today said it was not certain the proposals would be acceptable to the Irish nationalists. But they look to an ironing out of the difficulties by further concessions on both sides when the government's plans have been made public.

## RELATED REPORT OF LOST VESSEL

New York, May 15.—Ninety lives were lost on April 24 in the torpedoing of the 7,782-ton British liner Abooso, off Fastnet, according to stories of passengers here today from Europe.

The ship was torpedoed without warning. Forty-six passengers were lost and 44 of the crew. The Abooso was unable to stop her engines after the torpedo struck and the hull smashed into three of the life boats, crushing those aboard or drowning them. She was bound from Nigeria to Liverpool.

More than a week ago the London Chronicle printed a story demanding to know why the British admiralty concealed the torpedoing of a "certain big ship" with a "loss of more than 70 lives." The Chronicle probably referred to the Abooso.

## ITALY AGAIN STARTS GENERAL OFFENSIVE

Rome, May 15.—Italy's general offensive is apparently well under way. The official statement from the war office today declared:

"From Tolmino to the sea, our artillery fire was intense. Our infantry attacked and made progress in the Piava area, on the slopes of Mount Cucco and, on the hills to the west of Gorizia and Verolobizza."

## RUSSIANS SENSE PERIL IN DIVIDED AUTHORITY

Delegates Representing Soldiers and Workmen Becoming Cooler Headed and Reconsider Matter of Coalition Government, also Selection of Strong Leader

Petrograd, May 15.—With free Russia crumbling in the blaze of a too-fervid flame of democracy, the executive committee of the soldiers' and workmen's delegates began to see the peril of the situation. The committee reconsidered its vote of last week, when coalition in government with the duma members was rejected. The vote of 23 to 22 was held indecisive and it was announced a meeting of the entire delegation will be held tonight, when the same question will be passed upon by all two thousand representatives of the soldiers and workmen now here.

At the same hour what is left of the provisional ministry will meet at the home of Prince Lyoff, premier, to discuss some form of coalition which may yet save Russia from disintegration.

Tomorrow, the provisional leaders, as a last desperate measure, will dispatch Foreign Minister Milukoff to the battle front. His mission is to meet with the soldiers, to plead with them to show a united front to the enemy and stand firm for the republican government at home.

These steps show the seriousness of the situation and the courage with which the duma leaders, now fully awake to the peril, are fighting to avert disaster. Milukoff was the man who was recently attacked by the soldiers' and workmen's committee in Petrograd for his statement approving compacts with the allies entered into by the old autocratic regime. A storm was raised against him by representatives of

the workmen. He goes to the front presumably to face his enemies, or at least his accusers, and strive to win them back to unity of action.

Today, with Petrograd a buzzing hive of rumors, a few of the cooler heads of the leaders were discussing the possibility that the move which might save new Russia would be a return, in part at least, to dictatorial methods—a despot raised by the people themselves to exercise control specifically lodged with him by the people. The newspaper Retch made the suggestion. Some elements agreed that a strong man might by force restore complete order.

"I am afraid we are returning to the old regime, where power did not carry responsibility—and if so, the same thing will happen to such an organization as happened to the old regime," was a phrase from a speech by former Minister of War Gutchkoff, frequently quoted today. Gutchkoff made the declaration in a speech yesterday to soldiers' delegates explaining his resignation.

The provisional council today issued another appeal to the army to fight vigorously against the enemy, declaring Germany and her imperialistic rulers are seeking to destroy Russia. The appeal warned against continuing to fraternize with enemy soldiers. One instance was cited where a German officer, disguised as a common soldier, accompanied his men to the Russian lines for a fraternal meeting and obtained valuable information from Russians seeking brotherhood with the enemy.

## WAR DEPARTMENT EXPLAINS PLAN FOR NATIONAL WAR REGISTRATION

Washington, May 15.—The war department today made the following announcement regarding the registration of citizens liable to draft:

"The war department wishes to impress upon the people that there is only one day for registration. All males between the designated ages must register on the day set. The fact that five days were allowed for the placing of the necessary blank forms in the hands of the registrars appears to have misled some headline writers. One day only—the day

fixed in the president's proclamation—will be devoted to registration.

"The war department is gratified by the spontaneous response of uncompensated expense in carrying on the work of registration.

"One father in offering to serve as registrar, writes: 'I have two sons in the guard and one in the regular army, but I want to do my own little bit.'"

"This is typical of hundreds of letters. All such offers properly

(Continued on Page 2)

## GERMANY BRINGS MEN FROM RUSSIAN FRONT TO HURL INTO GREAT WESTERN OFFENSIVE

Washington, May 15.—Members of the general staff of the army believe Germany is planning one of the greatest offensives even the kaiser's forces have yet undertaken. It is to be hurled against the western front.

Military men here say all signs point to such a plan. Russia, they believe, at least for many weeks to come, is virtually eliminated as a military factor. Therefore, Germany has completely switched her military plans.

The new plans already are being carried into execution. They call for thinning of the Teuton lines on the eastern front from Riga to the Baltic, and massing troops drawn away from the east front against the British-French front.

With Russian and Teuton soldiers fraternizing on the eastern front and the Russian internal situation be-

coming more and more chaotic, Germany, in not driving against the Russian lines, can better carry on her propaganda among the soldiers and in "inside Russia" as well.

In the meantime, she can well afford to release half a million or more fighting men from service to stem the Franco-British offensive and to start one of her own.

Germany, it is stated, played further good politics in deciding not to carry out the Petrograd drive General Hindenburg had planned, since to have done so might have solidified the nation against the Teuton foe. Since czarism was overthrown, they said, the German armies have not shown themselves to be a common foe and this fact has greatly contributed to the disintegration apparent almost since the birth of the Russian provincial government.

## PETAIN LEADS FRENCH ARMY

Strategist of Marne Becomes Chief of Staff in General Shift of French Commanders

Paris, May 15.—General Petain was today named generalissimo of the French armies, with supreme command of the forces in the field. General Foch, one of the heroes of the Marne, who commanded the French center at that memorable battle, was named to succeed Petain as chief of staff. General Nivelle, who has been in command of the French field forces, will have command of certain army groups.

The sweeping change in the commands of the French forces was decided on at a session of the council of ministers.

General Foch's strategy was directly responsible for the blow which eventually won the battle of the Marne and forced the Germans back from Paris in the early days of the war. With his line menaced by the German onslaught, Foch tried a new move in military strategy. He drew troops from the weakest spot in his line and shifted them to a strong section. Before the Germans could penetrate the weak spot, Foch threw his massed forces in a tremendous blow against the German flank, forcing a retirement all along the line.

## WILSON WILL USE WHIP ON CONGRESS

Washington, May 15.—President Wilson today decided to apply the whip to congress.

He is said by close advisers to be out of patience with the dilatory, lagging, dragging methods of congress during the past six weeks. He is particularly displeased with injection of wholly extraneous matters into the various pieces of war legislation, which the administration has decided after consultation must be put through if America is really to aid the allies.

The first step to speed matters at the capitol will be a series of conference with leaders of both parties and both houses. The president's closest advisers say he intends to mince no words when he talks to the legislative leaders.

## GERMANS LAUNCHING COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

London, May 15.—Germany launched a concerted counter-attack on both the French and British fronts today of such force as to suggest almost a general counter-offensive movement.

The attacks were repelled for the most part, but both the British and the French forces were compelled to relinquish insignificant bits of ground.

In the northern part of the village Haig frankly admitted British advanced positions have been "forced back a short distance."

The French official report showed a violent bombardment of General Nivelle's recently gained positions on the Chemin des Dames and a powerful German attack over a wide front near LaBouville. The assault was repulsed by machine gun fire, except in one spot, where a small advance trench was occupied.

Other attacks reported in the French war office statement indicated the tremendous scope of the German counter-offensive movement—at Flain, north of Craonne, east of Hill 108, northeast of Auberive attacks being repulsed.

## DEATH CALLS AGED DEAN OF AMERICAN BAR

OVER TAKING STRENGTH PROVES FATAL TO FORMER AMBASSADOR JOSEPH H. CHOATE

### RIPE IN YEARS AND HONORS

As Diplomat, Peace Advocate, Jurist, Orator, He Ranked Among Most Distinguished Americans

New York, May 15.—The war today has claimed its first distinguished American. As numerous leaders in European countries have died since the outbreak of the conflict, from overtaxing their strength, so Joseph H. Choate, former ambassador to the court of St. James and dean of the American bar, died at his home here last night.

The end came suddenly at 11:30 p. m., with no physician in attendance and with only the widow and Choate's daughter Mabel at the bedside. Mrs. Choate is in a serious condition.

Choate was 85. He took a leading part in New York's reception to the British and French war commissions here last week and the strain was too great. Angina pectoris was given as the cause of death.

Choate's last public appearance was with British Foreign Minister Balfour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine last Sunday. He had been with the British envoy almost constantly since his arrival here.

The last of Choate's many brilliant after-dinner speeches was made at the Waldorf-Astoria at the banquet to the allied commissioners Friday night. Yesterday morning, according to members of the family, Choate complained of feeling depressed. His physician ordered him to remain in bed. At 10 p. m., Choate—sitting up in bed—said to his wife and daughter:

"I am feeling very ill. I believe this is the end.

Physicians were summoned, but he died before they arrived. His son, Joseph H. Choate Jr., was informed of his father's illness and rushed to New York from Mount Kisco, arriving too late.

Choate was appointed British ambassador by McKinley in 1899. He also took a leading part in the peace conference at The Hague. Before becoming ambassador, Choate was a distinguished member of the American bar.

## APPROPRIATION BILL CALLS FOR BILLIONS

Washington, May 15.—Carrying an appropriation of \$3,390,964,381.22 the urgent deficiency bill was reported out of the senate appropriations committee this afternoon.

## LINER BALTIC HAS A NARROW ESCAPE

New York, May 15.—A torpedo fired by a German submarine at the White Star liner Baltic April 19 missed the great liner by a bare ten feet, according to information obtained today from travelers arriving in New York.

This was the second attack made on the Baltic in two days. The first attack was made on April 18 and the wake of the approaching torpedo was seen in time to switch the Baltic suddenly from her course. Thursday's attack was much closer, the torpedo missing by a scant ten feet. On neither occasion did the Baltic sight the U boat which fired the torpedo.