

GERMANS AGAIN FAIL IS RUSSIAN REPORT

Long Battle of the Four Rivers Believed Ended and New Movements Under Way.

London.—Complete failure of the German campaign of the Four Rivers which has constituted a long series of battles on the Bura, Rawka, Pilloa and Nida, with heavy losses, is reported in dispatches received from Petrograd. They contradict the Berlin contention, that the German advance is progressing.

Austrian reports of a repulse of the Russians in Galicia are also contradicted by the Petrograd dispatches.

A Petrograd dispatch to Reuters Telegram company says:

"In the opinion of experts here, the battle of the four rivers, as the long series of engagements on the Bura, Rawka, Pilloa and Nida is popularly known, may be considered ended.

"Not only have the Germans and Austrians failed to advance on the Russian north and south line, roughly lying from the Vistula to Warsaw, Kielce and Pinsk, but everywhere have been repulsed with heavy losses and the attacks now proceeding may be construed as an effort to gain time, pending new operations.

"By the occupation of Kremenz, Zetse, Sereth and Radautz, in Bukovina, the Roumanian frontier, Russia not only holds the strategic railway line connecting Bukovina with western Galicia and Hungary, but is within 100 miles of Hungary over easy passes of the wooded Carpathians."

German Submarine is Conqueror.

Berlin, via wire to Sayville, L. I.—An official announcement made public through the official press bureau says:

"A German submarine boat reported by wireless to the admiralty in Berlin that it has torpedoed and sunk in the English channel off Plymouth the British battleship Formidable.

"The submarine was pursued by British destroyers but escaped unharmed."

BRITISH BATTLESHIP SUNK

Formidable Destroyed in the English Channel by Mine or Torpedo.

London.—The battleship Formidable, one of the older vessels of the British navy, was destroyed either by a mine or a German submarine. The place where the battleship sank is not given, except that it was in the English channel.

Of the crew of 750 men, only 201 are known to have been rescued.

Survivors who were landed at Brixham relate that the warship was struck about the magazine. The explosion was terrific, but the magazine was not reached. Had this also blown up, the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody.

Tone of British Press is Calm.

London.—Comment in the British press on the situation created by the American protest against interference with American shipping continues to absorb attention. Its tone on the whole is free from irritation, but there is a strong disposition to argue the question.

WESTERN GAINS CONTINUE SMALL

Paris.—The following official communication was issued:

"According to the latest advices received here there has been no alteration in the situation.

"The weather continues exceedingly bad on almost the whole front.

"From the Oise to the Meuse, on the plateau of Touvent, our heavy artillery has demolished several fortifications from which the enemy was harassing our sappers.

"Spirited artillery duels have taken place to the west and the east of Craonne. Near Ferthes-les-Hurlus we have progressed about 300 meters. Near Beaussart there has been infantry fighting, in which we have inflicted serious losses on the enemy.

"In Upper Alsace our former gains in the region of Thann have been maintained. We have bombarded a German train in the railway station of Altkirch and caused some damage on the railway between Carlsbach and Diersbach to the southwest of Altkirch.

Villa to Confer With General Scott.

Washington.—Brigadier-General Scott, chief of staff of the United States, and General Villa, commander-in-chief of the forces of the Gutierrez government in Mexico, have arranged to confer on the international bridge at El Paso, with a view to arriving at an understanding that will permanently prevent further firing into American territory by Mexican factions.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

Purchasers Would Withdraw Action.

Balem.—A tentative proposition was made to the state land board to have the state withdraw proceedings for recovery of 20,000 of the 40,000 acres involved in the Hyde-Benson dummy frauds, upon the payment of \$2.50 an acre by the innocent purchasers. The consent of the government is necessary before the state can carry out the agreement.

A report of the purchasers asserted that they had secured the school tracts in good faith, and that to push the suit to recover title would be to inflict a hardship on them. Some of the tracts have passed through several hands, it is said.

New Freight Terminal at Pendleton.

Pendleton.—Vice-President and General Manager J. P. O'Brien, of the O. W. R. & N., announces that the proposed freight terminal at Pilot Rock Junction, near the Pendleton city limits, will probably be started early in the spring, but that an actual beginning depends upon the disposal of anti-railroad legislation at the coming session of the legislature. Mr. O'Brien says that the European war is not responsible for shortage of funds with which to improve the railroad system, but that legislation opposed to the railroads, together with high taxes is mainly responsible.

Pioneer Quarry Reopens.

Newport.—Pioneer stone is once more being quarried after a lapse of 15 years and promises to develop an industry in Lincoln county which has been neglected. The last stone taken from the quarry at Pioneer was used in the construction of the Call building in San Francisco.

The product is sandstone, lighter in color than any other in the northwest and, it is said, will not deteriorate in fire. The government is reported to be considering buying this stone for the postoffice at The Dalles.

WASCO FARMER IS SHOT

Clarence Bettis Kills Ralph Brown at Kaskela.

The Dalles.—While entering the gate of his ranch home at Kaskela, Oregon, in southern Wasco county in company with his wife, Ralph Brown, a well-known stockman, was shot and instantly killed by Clarence Bettis, age 21, an employe of the man he murdered. No reason can be given for the killing. Bettis himself being unable to tell the same story twice, when he was brought to this city by Sheriff Christman and put in the county jail.

Sheriff Christman says that Bettis had evidently been drinking and believed himself a bad man. After he had shot down his employer, Bettis shot several times at Mrs. Brown, who was with her husband, returning from a party, but the bullets went wild.

Bettis immediately fled to the hills, and was not seen until 8 o'clock in the evening, when he appeared at the B. A. Marks home. He told Marks what he had done, and Marks advised him to surrender to the sheriff.

Farm Course is Conducted.

Corvallis.—Pursuing their policy of "taking the college to the people," the extension service of the Oregon Agricultural College will conduct a series of itinerant schools during the early days of the new year. They opened Tuesday, January 5, with a four-day session at Creswell, where the experts of the extension service and some of the regular instructors of the college gave demonstrations and illustrated lectures.

Endowment Campaign a Success.

Newberg.—In a fine rally that began in the afternoon and was renewed in the evening, the friends of Pacific College on Thursday completed their campaign for the \$100,000 endowment, and the gifts keep coming in. The total is now over \$115,000, and the campaign for funds will be pushed still further, as a still larger sum is greatly needed.

Seven are Indicted on Recall Fraud.

Portland.—Seven secret indictments in connection with alleged frauds in circulating petitions for the recall of Mayor Albee and Commissioners Dieck and Brewster were returned by the grand jury here. False names and addresses, said to have been written in the petitions, were the basis of the charges.

S. P. Pump Tender With Record Dies.

Eugene.—With no demerit in eight years of service on his record, Jerome Smith, a pump tender on the Southern Pacific, died here after a long illness. Eight bar medals gave him the record for the most perfect service on that line in Oregon. He had been with the company for 20 years.

LOST GEMS OF ART

Many Famous Paintings Have Mysteriously Vanished.

WORKS OF THE OLD MASTERS.

Hundreds of Portraits by Reynolds Are Among the Missing Treasures, Be- sides Masterpieces of Correggio, Titian, de Vinci and Others.

There are many famous paintings by the old masters that have mysteriously vanished. They are known to have been painted, but their whereabouts has been an enigma for several hundred years.

From time to time lost pictures come again to the knowledge of the world, as when the original of the Dutch Velasquez, the "Philip IV," was found in a Polish nobleman's castle, when the portrait of Isabel de Valois, King Philip II's third wife, by Cosmo—the original of that by Pantoja de la Cruz in the Prado—was finally identified at the Grafton gallery, to which the Gask war of Baroda had lent it; when Titian's "Perseus and Andromeda" was found by Sir Claude Phillips in the bathroom of Hertford House, and Botticelli's "Pallas and the Centaur" was identified by an English critic, forgotten and unnoticed in an obscure place in the Uffizi gallery—a queer place to see a picture in.

It is declared that no fewer than 400 portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds have disappeared. The historians of art—the "Antonino," Vasari and many an other—speak with admiration of pictures so innumerable which have passed into the limbo of the unknown that the announcement of a discovery is rarely treated with absolute skepticism, even in the case of the greatest masters. There is plenty of room for the appearance of a number of early works by Velasquez—de Buruet gives a list of them—but especially the portrait of Fonseca, which gave to Velasquez his footing in Madrid, and more particularly the equestrian portrait of Philip IV, which placed him so quickly upon the pedestal.

Of make Correggio. There is the picture of "The Boy with the Basket of Fruit" in the Prado. There is the "Boy with the Basket of Fruit" in the Prado. There is the "Boy with the Basket of Fruit" in the Prado. There is the "Boy with the Basket of Fruit" in the Prado.

And Titian (a group of whose masterpieces were burned in a great English country house, where on earth is his portrait of Isabella Gonsaga, and her son, which is known to us through the copy by Pordenone? Giorgione also. He is so rare a master—rare alike as to numbers and to quality—that the recovery of his "Birth of Venus" would be an event of the very highest importance in the world of art. The Anonimo speaks of it, but since his day no other writer, so far as experts are aware, has ever set eyes on it.

Although we have so many hundred canvases of that amazing genius, Rubens, the loss of a picture such as his "Cambyses and the Judge" is a distinct deprivation, inasmuch as it is said to have been one of his finest efforts. It was painted in 1623 for the magistrates' hall in the town hall of Brussels, and no less than 3,000 florins was paid for it.

We might spare, perhaps, the "Head of Christ," by Andrea del Sarto (painted in 1524, for similar works of his exist, but it is otherwise with his "Visitation" of the same year, if only because Andrea was a painter of great importance, historically considered—he who broke away entirely from Gothic rigidity and introduced a sentiment and a delightful sense of gaiety and sweetness that brought art home to hearts untouched by the earlier dignity and gravity which they felt oppressive.

The portraits of Terburg, again, are a delight, and a host of them exist (including not a few not unworthy of him, but really by the hand of his pupil, Koets, yet we cannot read, without regret the list of them, as well as of his exquisite subject pictures, which M. Hofstede de Groot's researches have enabled us to make. We may even regard with relative equanimity the disappearance of Nicholas Poussin's "Rinaldo and Armida." But on quite another plane is the mystery of the portraits which Leonardo da Vinci painted for Ludovico Sforza and which vanished into thin air as completely as his "Mona Lisa" a couple of years ago.

The jocund lady re-emerged into the light of day, but the Ludovico portraits are practically beyond hope—unless perchance even now, unsuspected of their identity, they are decorating the upper corridors of some great house (mine or unexplored) wealth by the back storerooms of minor dealers.—New York Press.

Casuar Used Elephants in Britain.

Tradition has it that Casuar brought elephants with him to Britain and that they contributed to his conquest of the island. Having unsuccessfully attempted to cross the Thames, Casuar built a large turret on an elephant and, loading it with bowmen and slingers, ordered them to pass the stream, whereupon the Britons, terrified at the sight of the unknown monster, fled in confusion.—London Chronicle.

Through want of enterprise and faith men are when they are buying and selling and spending their lives like fools.—Thucyd.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

The new year found all state institutions and departments, excepting those having continuing appropriations, penniless, and they will remain in that condition until the legislature comes to their rescue. It is specifically provided that money appropriated by the last general assembly may not be used after January 1, and, as a result, a number of the institutions and departments will find themselves in the unhappy position of impoverishing themselves for the benefit of the general fund.

Because of an oversight of the framers of the law providing for an interstate bridge connecting Portland and Vancouver, the state tax commission has notified the county commissioners of Multnomah county that no provision has been made in the tax levy for the payment by the state of \$62,500 interest for the first year on the \$1,250,000 bond issue of that county. Under the law the county is to provide Oregon's share of the expense of building the structure and the state is to provide the annual interest on the bonds. Just what complications will arise as a result of the oversight no one is able to predict.

S. G. Sargent, state superintendent of banks, in a supplement to his biennial report, announces that his department will turn back into the state treasury \$5221.93 of the appropriation for 1914. He also announces that if a plan now being considered to turn over all the banking business of state departments, including the filing of articles of incorporation of banks, now filed with the corporation department, to his department, it would be self-supporting. The receipts, not including the appropriation of \$10,000 for 1914, totaled \$12,455.45 or \$2,455.47 more than in 1913.

RELIC OF ANTIQUITY.

The Seal That is So Often Used on Legal Documents.

A most absurd thing connected with legal business is the little piece of red, green or blue paper or daub of sealing wax which we often place at the end of a signature to a deed, will or other important document.

It is a very small thing in size, but one to which a great deal of importance is frequently given. It is a relic of antiquity, and no plausible excuse can be invented for continuing its use.

Some of the more progressive states have practically abolished its use by legislation, which deprives it of any technical legal significance.

In others, however, it is still used with all seriousness and solemnity, and an almost magical value is given to it by dignified judges that is little less than ridiculous.

A man died years ago leaving part of his estate to another to enjoy while he lived, with the privilege of devising it at his death to others whom he might select by a writing under his "hand and seal." A writing was executed so devising the property, but it was contested by others claiming the property upon the technical ground that the paper contained no seal after the signature, and the devise was therefore void.

A wise Philadelphia judge closely scrutinized the signature and after carefully listening to the arguments of lawyers decided that at the end of the signature there was an extra scroll or flourish made with the pen with which the signature was made and that this was sufficient in law to constitute a seal.—Case and Comment.

Belaying His Jaws.

Shark stories, with some reason, are commonly received with incredulity. A well authenticated anecdote, however, is told of Dr. Frederick Hill, an English surgeon of distinction. A man fell overboard in the Indian ocean and almost into a shark's mouth. Hill, who was standing close to the rail, grabbed a belaying pin and without hesitation jumped to save the sailor. The great brute was just turning on his back to bite when Hill drove the belaying pin right through both jaws. Both men were got on board again unharmed.

"Perhaps that fellow won't want another toothpick. Has any one got a clean shirt to lend? This was my last," were the only words of the rescuer.

Putting Kindness into Him.

The benevolent old gentleman got busy when he saw four boys eight or nine years of age attack one boy of about the same age. "You mustn't, you mustn't," he said when he had lashed them off, "attack your little companion this way. What has he done to deserve such harsh treatment?"

The four boys glowered sullenly while the one boy whimpered as he thought what would happen to him when the benevolent gentleman went on his way.

"Well," said one of the four at last, "he won't join the Band of Kindness our teacher wants to get up in school!"—New York Press.

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