

NEUTRALITY POLICY OF U. S. ANNOUNCED

Markets Are Open to World
and to Prevent Shipments
Would Show Partiality.

Washington.—The United States government issued a lengthy defense of its interpretation of the rights and duties of a neutral in the European war.

After answering 18 specific charges and calling attention to the fact that the United States has promptly taken to task Great Britain as well as Germany and every government which in any way has infringed upon the rights of this country, the letter concludes with the following declaration on the much-discussed question of exportation of war munitions:

"These in this country who sympathize with Germany and Austria-Hungary appear to assume that some obligation rests upon this government, in the performance of its neutral duty, to prevent all trade in contraband, and thus to equalize the difference due to the relative naval strength of the belligerents. No such obligation exists; it would be an unequal act, an act of partiality on the part of this government, to adopt such a policy, if the executive had the power to do so."

"If Germany and Austria-Hungary cannot import contraband from this country, it is not, because of this fact, the duty of the United States to close its markets to the allies. The markets of this country are open on equal terms to all the world, to every nation, belligerent or neutral."

Bryan Evades Belgian Consul Issue.

Secretary Bryan made public the text of the note from Germany annulling the exequaturs or certificates of authority of neutral consuls in Belgium, and issued a paraphrase of the American government's reply.

While the German note considers the exequaturs of neutral consuls to have "expired," the American government takes the view that they merely have been "suspended." In this way the Washington government avoided committing itself to the question of whether or not the sovereignty of Belgium had expired with the German military occupation.

May Require Employees to Quit Union.

Employers may require employees to renounce union affiliations as a condition of employment, the supreme court of the United States held. The decision was made in a suit over the so-called Kansas coercion statute, which holds it unconstitutional, and, according to Justice Day, laws on like lines in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin and in Porto Rico are invalidated with the Kansas law.

Senate democrats in caucus reached final agreement on the administration ship purchase bill and adopted a resolution making it a party measure. Three democrats voted against the resolution, but the vote later was made unanimous.

75 Cars of Oats Seized.

New York.—Seventy-five carloads of oats, designed for foreign shipment, have been seized by the federal authorities on the ground that the grain was adulterated within the meaning of the food and drug act.

This action was announced by the department of agriculture with warning to grain shippers and dealers that adulterations of grain will no longer be tolerated.

By the mixing of low-grade barley, weed seeds, dust and water in shipments of grain, the department says, shippers and dealers have been able to realize huge profits.

Thaw is in New York Tomb Again.

New York.—Harry K. Thaw again is in the Tombs, brought here from Boston, his only stop over on the way from New Hampshire. He was locked up in the prison which he left almost seven years ago, when he was committed to the state asylum for the criminally insane at Matteawan, following his acquittal of the murder of Stanford White on the ground of insanity.

Capitol at Salem Saved From Blaze.

Salem, Or.—Oregon's historic statehouse was endangered for a time Sunday by a fire which started shortly before 5 o'clock P. M., following an explosion of oil in the central heating plant, just outside the basement of the capitol. Quick work by state officials, state employees and the Salem fire department soon had the blaze under control.

Iceland is in Dry Column.

Copenhagen.—The parliament of Iceland, 34 of whose members are elected by popular suffrage, has passed a measure forbidding the sale of alcoholic liquors.

GERMAN CRUISER SUNK BY BRITISH

Two Other Cruisers Are Badly
Damaged and Attack on
Coast Frustrated.

London.—An attempt by a German cruiser squadron to repeat the attack recently made on Scarborough, the Harbours and other British coast towns was frustrated by the British patrolling squadron.

In a running fight the German armored cruiser Bluecher was sunk and two German battle cruisers were seriously damaged.

The official report issued by the press bureau gives the following account of the engagement:

"Early this morning a British patrolling squadron of battle cruisers and light cruisers under Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty, with a destroyer flotilla under Commodore Tyrwhitt, sighted four German battle cruisers and several light cruisers and several destroyers steering westward and apparently making for the English coast."

"The enemy at once made for home at high speed. They were at once pursued and about 9:30 A. M. action was joined between the battle cruisers Lion, Tiger, Princess Royal, New Zealand and Indomitable on the one hand, and the Derflinger, Seydlitz, Moltke and Bluecher on the other. A well-contested running fight ensued. Shortly after 1 o'clock the Bluecher, which had previously fallen out of line, captured and sank."

"Admiral Beatty reports that two other battle cruisers were seriously damaged."

German Massing Troops at La Bassee.

London.—Dispatches from the battle line in France and Flanders indicate that the Germans are massing troops in the neighborhood of La Bassee, evidently in preparation for a new struggle between Ypres and Combray and the allies are further strengthening their forces all along the lines in northern France and in Flanders. For the past 24 hours it has been give and take, each side admitting minor reverses offset by minor successes.

2 VESSELS THOUGHT SUNK

British Battle Cruiser Also Lost in
Sunday Battle, Says Report

Berlin, via Rome.—Meagre unofficial details available here concerning the naval engagement in the North Sea Sunday indicate that torpedoes may have been responsible for the sinking of the German armored cruiser Bluecher and a British cruiser.

One German cruiser was hit by a shell but was able to remain in the firing line. Submarines apparently did not participate in the battle. It is understood the weather during the engagement was clear.

Rear-Admiral Hipper commanded the German squadron, and Captain Erdmann the Bluecher.

"According to the information available one British battle cruiser and one of our armored cruisers, the Bluecher, were sunk. All other German ships returned to port."

Germana Call Men of 50.

Amsterdam, Holland, via London.—A telegram received here from Berlin sets forth that in the province of Brandenburg, in which Berlin is located, there have been called up for medical examination the 50-year-old untrained men of the landsturm.

These are men of the 1886, 1887 and 1888 classes.

BOMBS DROPPED BY RIVAL AIRMEN

London.—While German airmen were dropping bombs on Duxford, one of which damaged the American consulate, two British aviators paid a visit to Ghent and Zebrugge and succeeded, at Zebrugge, in damaging a submarine and killing or wounding the crews of the guns mounted on the mole to prevent attack from the sea on that new German base.

The British official report says that apart from the breaking of the windows and the smashing of the furniture of the American consulate, "no particular damage was done" at Duxford. It makes no reference whatever to a Paris report that six persons were killed and others wounded, and it is therefore not known whether this report covers completely the attack of the German airmen, who, according to unofficial dispatches, dropped as many as 80 bombs on the French port.

Germany Seizes Wheat.

Berlin, via Amsterdam to London.—All stocks of wheat have been seized by the German government according to the official statement in order to safeguard the bread supply until the next harvest.

RESUME OF WORK OF STATE LEGISLATURE

Bills So Far Introduced Indicate
That Strict Economy
Plan Will be Followed.

Salem.—When the legislature began the third week of the session all the important measures of general interest, such as prohibition legislation, taxation amendments, the appropriation bills, consolidation of boards and commissions, highway legislation, changes in election laws, still remained to be passed upon.

The senate gave evidence of a desire for economy when it voted to abolish the state decennial census, repealed the law carrying an appropriation for the naval militia and to abolish the state accountancy board.

The house also passed a census repeal bill and it is expected that the two houses will concur on one measure and withdraw the other.

A measure abolishing the state immigration commission, which has been costing \$25,000 a year, passed both houses.

What is also regarded as in line with the economy policy was the action of the house in passing the Schuebel bill providing that all but an excepted few of the state funds be placed in the general fund. Advocates of this measure claim it will result in a considerable annual saving to the state.

A further manifestation of the intentions to save money was displayed in a comparatively small way when the house passed the Weeks bill providing amendments to the registration laws, that will obviate the necessity of mailing election pamphlets to more than one voter in the same family. This, it is expected, will save one-third the expense of printing and mailing election pamphlets every two years.

The prohibition question doubtless will demand much attention from the house this week. The committee on alcoholic traffic will be ready to report out the Committee of One Hundred's bill aimed to make effective the prohibition amendment to the constitution adopted by the people last fall. The report will be favorable to the bill.

A standard for boxes or baskets for strawberries, blackberries, loganberries, raspberries and other berries is prescribed in a bill introduced by Senator Day. It also prescribes a standard hop measure.

Representative Lewis, of Multnomah county introduced a bill in the house, providing for the pensioning of peace officers. In brief the bill provides that peace officers shall pay in a fund to be kept by the state treasurer 1 per cent of their salaries, and that if any officer is disabled he shall draw \$30 a month while incapacitated, and if killed, his widow shall draw a pension of \$30 a month during her life; and if he does not leave a wife, but leaves children, they shall draw this sum until they reach the age of 16 years.

Senator Farrell's bill for the cutting of salaries of various state and county employees is before the senate. It provides:

"On and after July 1, 1915, and extending for a period of two years, the salaries of all officials and employees who are at present receiving salary of \$3000 or more shall be reduced uniformly 20 per cent, and the secretary of state and the county clerks of the several counties shall draw warrants in accordance with this act in the payment of salaries."

Representative Anderson, of Wasco county, has introduced a bill in the house providing for repeal of the law requiring a medical certificate "as additional requisites to issuance of a marriage license."

Legislative lobbyists were put on the run by the house. The Schuebel anti-lobbying bill was passed, after a warm discussion, by a vote of 48 to 12.

Members of the legislature from eastern Oregon are going to insist on a liberal appropriation for bounties on coyotes.

Representative Stanfield of Morrow county has introduced in the house a bill exempting banks from liability to a depositor because of the refusal to pay a check through mistake, unless the depositor shall prove himself damaged.

Stimplicity marked the entry of Oregon's first woman state senator to the state capitol. Neatly, but not elaborately dressed, with a black veil shading a pleasant but firm face, Miss Kathryn Clark, of Glendale, Douglas county, passed into the building at the front entrance and found her way into the senate chamber.

By a vote of 14 to 12 the senate declined to memorialize congress to call a constitutional convention to amend the constitution so that the United States should have entire control of the suppression of polygamy. Senators voting against the proposal declared that it was a gratuitous insult to a state that had discarded the practice of Mormonism.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

A camp of Spanish-American war veterans has been organized at Hillsboro.

Portland's sixth annual automobile show opened at the armory Saturday night.

The Oregon State Federation of Labor convened Monday in Salem, T. H. Murchard presiding.

E. J. McClanahan of Eugene has been reelected president of the Oregon State Poultry association.

Temporary organization of the Lane County Jersey Breeders' association was effected at a meeting at Eugene.

The district forester at Portland reports that in the season of 1914 there were 1200 fires in the national forests of Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

After a shut-down of several months the big mill of the J. H. Chambers Lumber company, of Cottage Grove, has resumed operations with a full crew.

Blasius Graesser, who shot Elmer Bacon, a 16-year-old boy, on January 4, was found guilty of manslaughter by a jury at Salem, after a deliberation of six hours.

J. W. Groshong, of Albany, was elected president of a newly organized Hopgrowers' Association of Linn and Benton counties, and Roy Newport, also of Albany, was elected secretary.

William D. Scott, general manager of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway died at his home in Portland. The end came after repeated attacks of heart failure that brought about complications.

Portland's population is 275,725, or a gain of 5208 in 1914, according to estimates based on the number of names that the new city directory will contain when it is issued February 25 by R. L. Polk & Co.

Ex-Governor West during the last 30 days of his administration conditionally pardoned 59 convicts, six of them murderers, and two convicted of manslaughter, according to records on file in the statehouse.

No fatal accidents were reported to Labor Commissioner Hoff during the week. The total number of mishaps was 35, and 12 occurred among employees of railroads, while 8 victims were employed by sawmill or logging companies.

John Johnson, of Portland, aged about 50 years, was found dead by his brother Albert, between Tualatin and Mulloy stations, in the southeastern part of Washington county, death having resulted from a shotgun wound near the heart.

T. J. Williams, chief of police of Roseburg, was acquitted by a jury in the state court following a hearing on a charge of assaulting George Church, a socialist. Mr. Williams' arrest was the outcome of an L. W. W. outbreak which occurred Saturday night.

J. Y. Richardson, chief auditor of the state accounting department under the administration of State Insurance Commissioner Ferguson, has announced that the cost of auditing the books of the various counties, Multnomah not included, was \$19,381.

The skeleton of a large whale which drifted ashore just north of the mouth of the Siuslaw river last summer is to be taken to Eugene. James Fullerton, of Eugene, is at Florence to superintend the work and says the skeleton will be put together on the university campus.

The total road mileage in Oregon is 27,433 miles. Of hard surfaced road there are only 25 miles, of which Jackson county has 15, Clatsop has 6, Multnomah 3 and Tillamook 1. The total mileage of macadam road is 962 miles, of gravel road 3745 miles, of plank road 232 miles and of earth road 32,683 miles.

State Veterinarian Lytle, who is secretary of the Livestock Sanitary board, announced that the department had expended \$25,125.89 of the appropriation for two years of \$50,000. The expenditure was for 18 months. Cattle tuberculosis inspection numbered 13,321; mallein inspection, 2311, and sheep inspected, 400,000.

With every appointment and feature in accord with the occasion, The Dalles business men entertained the officials of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company at an elaborate banquet at Hotel Dalles Saturday. The affair was a token of appreciation of what the railroad heads have done for The Dalles.

Four singers from the Oregon Agricultural college will leave Corvallis this week for an extended tour of the east as the guests of the Santa Fe railroad. The quartet will appear first at San Francisco, and from there will journey east as far as Chicago, giving concerts en route and singing on the de luxe trains on Santa Fe lines. The tour will last about four weeks.

The total amount of the fees received by the automobile department of Secretary of State Olcott's office for the year ending December 31 was \$77,593, as compared with \$54,873 in 1913 and \$42,084 in 1912. The motor vehicle registrations totaled 16,347, motorcycles 2598, dealers 110 and chauffeurs 1838. In 1913, 13,957 motor vehicles and motorcycle registrations were made.

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