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VOLUME XXVII. ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1915. NUMBER 9.

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Nebraska legislature passes an anti-tipping law.

Forty airmen raid four towns in Belgium held by the Germans.

Germany notifies United States that relations with that country are "strained."

After six weeks deadlock the Illinois legislature has elected an avowed "wet" speaker.

The embargo put on potash by Germany is seriously affecting American fertilizer manufacturers.

Pawn shops and loan sharks are to be regulated if a bill passed by the Oregon legislature, becomes a law.

It is reported from Paris that the French troops have retaken two miles of German trenches in Champagne.

German government increases price of potatoes in order to conserve the food supply, which is admittedly growing short.

British steamer is blown up and sunk off the coast of Cape Antifer, by two internal explosions. Large number of the crew lost their lives.

Fearing death at sea from German submarines, the officers and crew of an oil tank steamer, leaving San Francisco for England, have made their wills.

Oregon senate passes ultra "dry" bill in half hour, one member dissenting. This is said to be the most drastic Prohibition measure of any state in the Union.

A prize crew of three officers and 16 men was placed on board the American steamer *Wilhelmina* at Falmouth. The *Wilhelmina* is loaded with foodstuffs bound for Germany.

A Dunkirk dispatch says a life buoy inscribed U-12 has been found on the shore at Zuydote, near Dunkirk. It is thought to have belonged to a German submarine, which possibly met with disaster.

Judge Gatens, of the Circuit court of Multnomah county, Oregon, says he "cannot assume ecclesiastical powers" in opening the Taylor-street church in Portland, which is closed by a dissection in the Methodist congregation, but if the property is not used for church purposes, it will be subject to taxation.

A dispatch from Bagdad says that in an engagement between the advance guard of the Turkish left wing and British infantry and cavalry, the British withdrew, leaving 17 men dead. The dispatch adds that the right wing of the Turkish army succeeded in advancing as far as the woods near Kono. The Turks, it is asserted, captured 500 camels. Only five Turks were wounded.

The relations between Greece and Turkey apparently are becoming more strained. Although Turkey has offered reparation for the insult to the Greek military attache at Constantinople, it is reported that the Greek minister has left the legation in charge of a secretary, being dissatisfied with Turkey's attitude. The Turkish minister has also left Athens. This is believed in some quarters to be the first step in the rupture of diplomatic relations between Greece and Turkey, which are said also to have been affected by the Albanian invasion of Serbia.

Canada increases tax for war purposes.

A San Francisco woman has started a jitneyette—for women only.

England declares that more stringent action will be taken against German trade.

Russians in East Prussia are reported retreating before the German forces.

Two hundred and twenty thousand Serbs are now fit for service in the European war theater.

Commissioner Dieck, of Portland, has inaugurated a demerit system against city employes who are negligent about paying their personal bills.

Five hundred workmen employed in the auto-truck body building department of the Theodor Kundts plant, of Cleveland, O., went on strike.

German financiers have been summoned to a conference in Berlin with the finance minister, who considers that a new loan of \$1,250,000,000 is required for the continuance of the war, says a dispatch from Amsterdam.

Man tailors in session in Chicago, declaring that economy in dress is necessary, limit \$1005 yearly for clothes, which includes eight walking suits, four overcoats, one full-dress suit and six pairs of trousers. By the same decree women should use only \$250 yearly.

Relief workers find that the Belgians especially enjoy the American brand of "pork and beans."

President Wilson in a lecture before the National Council of Boy Scouts, advised them to develop character by serving others.

The British government has capitulated at last to the insistent demand for more news from the front. Prime Minister Asquith promised that arrangements would be made to publish communications from Sir John French, the British commander-in-chief, twice weekly.

SHARP WARNING IS SENT ENGLAND AND GERMANY

Washington, D. C.—Publication by the State department Friday of the texts of the notes sent to Great Britain and Germany, respectively, revealed that both countries had been warned in most emphatic terms against menacing the vessels or lives of American citizens traversing the recently proclaimed sea zones of war. Germany was advised that the United States "would be constrained to hold the imperial government to a strict accountability" for such acts of its naval authorities as might result in the destruction of American vessels or the loss of American lives, and that "if such a deplorable situation should arise," the American government would "take any steps that might be necessary to take to safeguard American lives and property."

To Great Britain the United States pointed out "the measure of responsibility" which would seem to be imposed on the British government "for the loss of American vessels and lives in case of an attack by a German naval force." If England sanctioned the general misuse of the American flag by British vessels, and thereby cast doubt on the valid character of the neutral ensigns.

The two communications were presented respectively to the British government by Ambassador Page and the German foreign office by Ambassador Gerard. They were prepared by Counselor Robert Lansing and revised by President Wilson and Secretary Bryan after consultation with the entire cabinet.

The British, Spanish and Brazilian ambassadors, who happened to call at the State department, received copies of the notes, as did the ministers of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, who especially requested them. The documents created something of a sensation among the diplomats generally because of what some regarded as their drastic implication.

Neutral Envoys Approve Uncle Sam's Protests

Washington, D. C.—Reading of the official texts of the two notes from the United States to Germany and Great Britain developed Saturday an intense interest among officials and diplomats in the question of what would be the nature of the replies from the two belligerent governments.

That Great Britain would give assurances of no intention to sanction the general use of neutral flags by British merchant ships was the belief of many officials. The widest sort of speculation based on a variety of conceptions of Germany's plans in waging a submarine war on merchant ships was heard as to the probable response of the Berlin foreign office.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, declined to discuss the note to Germany, as he had received no advice from Berlin concerning it, and the British embassy also was silent.

What excited most attention in congress and among diplomats, however, was the serious tone of the notes, even though qualified by polite terms of diplomatic usage. The determination of the United States government to have the American flag used only by ships entitled to fly it and the warning that Germany would be held to a "strict accountability" if American lives or vessels were lost in the attacks on merchant vessels in the sea zones of war were practically the sole topic of discussion in executive and congressional circles, as well as among the ambassadors and representatives of belligerent and neutral nations.

While there were no authorized expressions, it was evident that the neutral diplomats in general gave both notes their approval because of the identity of interests of their governments and of the United States in the circumstances.

Less "Uplift" Is Wanted.

Indianapolis—Henry Lane Wilson, ex-ambassador to Mexico, speaking here before the Columbia club, said:

"There will be no hope for Mexico until either the present administration reverses its policy in entirety or until a new administration, committed to less uplift, but more genuine practical advice and assistance in the way of intelligent evolution, comes into power."

Mr. Wilson said it was not his purpose "to question the intention or patriotism of the President, but the performance of the administration."

West Getting Big Orders.

Aberdeen, Wash.—Two orders for barrel staves, the value of which aggregates \$57,500, and which will take more than 70 cars to carry them to the East, have been received within the last few days by the Western Cooperage company. The first is from the Chicago headquarters of the Armour Packing company, and is for \$50,000 of lard barrel stock. This order alone will make 60 carloads of staves. The other order is for \$7,500 worth of short barrel staves and comes from a New Hampshire firm.

Unfit To Be Exchanged.

Berlin—The first exchanges of disabled prisoners of war under the plan of Pope Benedict were arranged through the Berlin embassy. One hundred and forty-six British prisoners unfit for further service will leave Germany February 16, and Great Britain will release 107 Germans. The exchanges apparently are not on a numerical basis, but all those who are disabled will be included within the scope of the order eventually.

KAISER SUMMONS U. S. AMBASSADOR

Gerard to Confer With Emperor On American Notes.

Choice of Friendship of Two Nations Seems Offered—Situation Very Delicate.

London—The German emperor, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from The Hague, has invited the American ambassador to Germany, James W. Gerard, to a conference at eastern headquarters.

Washington, D. C.—A situation of the utmost delicacy for the United States has arisen in relation to the European war. Its character is indicated by the request of Emperor William that Ambassador Gerard in company with Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German chancellor, shall come at once to his headquarters in the eastern theater of war.

This request is equivalent to a command. Mr. Gerard and the chancellor will go without delay. Mr. Gerard has been equipped with the proper instructions, approved by the President. These instructions are in line with the principles laid down in the note to the German government protesting against the enforcement of the German "war zone" decrees.

What results will follow from the audience which the emperor, surrounded by his troops, will grant to the American ambassador, no one in Washington knows. It will be a dramatic setting for the conference. Within the armed camp of a marvellously efficient military power will be the diplomatic representative of the United States, who realizes that the regular army of his country comprises only 80,000 men. This force constitutes only two army corps.

Bill to Aid Oregon Goods Is Approved

State Capitol, Salem—The senate judiciary committee by unanimous vote decided to report favorably on a bill by Senator Bingham which, the members say, will aid the manufacturers of the state and relieve the unemployed situation to a large extent.

Manufacturers and organized labor leaders, who appeared before the committee, were a unit in urging adoption of the bill, which provides a differential of 5 per cent in favor of Oregon concerns in the letting of contracts for public work and the purchase of materials and supplies for public use.

Senator Bingham explained that under the bill county courts, boards of county commissioners, school boards, city councils and all other public bodies and commissioners charged with the letting of contracts for public work may accept bids of Oregon concerns which do not exceed by more than 5 per cent the bids quoted by competitors of other states.

D. M. Dunne, director of the Manufacturers' association, said the passage of the bill would aid employers by keeping their plants in operation and employes by providing them with work.

Belgian Socialists Give Aid to Needy Countrymen

London—The organization of the Socialist party in Brussels is doing splendid work in alleviating distress, according to a report from the American Commission for Relief. It has two bakeries, employing 185 men, with a possible weekly output of 220 tons of bread. At present they are baking and distributing about half that amount. Their bakeries are not allowed to sell for money, but for every ounce of flour they receive from the commission for relief they turn in a coupon signed by the head of a Belgian family saying he has received the bread.

"When a man makes application for help," said the Socialist secretary, "we ascertain his business and if possible how many of his family are dependent on him and how many have trades of their own. If it is possible for him to do work that will assist the commission for relief we let him pay for the coupons by doing that work."

For example, if a man is a shoemaker we let him make boots that are turned in to the commission. This particular form of work is, however, becoming impossible on account of the failure of the supplies of raw material of all kinds. The number of the unemployed among the many weavers, bookbinders, miners, etc., in Brussels and the country at large is increasing enormously.

Flood Reservoirs Asked.

Denver—The Kansas legislature asked the Colorado legislature to join in a memorial to congress, petitioning the National government to construct a series of dams and reservoirs east of the Rocky mountains to impound all flood waters. The Kansas memorial has already been sent to congress. The memorial proposes an appropriation to be used in the construction of a series of canals, ditches and reservoirs. The two-fold benefits of the project, would be the reclamation of the land and the prevention of overflow of the rivers.

Kaiser to Control Oats.

Berlin—The Bundesrat has decided to appropriate all the domestic stocks of oats, with the exception of seed oats, and the grain necessary for fodder for horses. The order became effective February 16. The Bundesrat also raised the maximum price of oats by 50 marks (\$12.50) per metric ton.

DOINGS OF OREGON'S LEGISLATURE

A Brief Resume of Proceedings of the People's Representatives at the State Capital, Bills Introduced, Passed, Rejected, Etc.

House Passes New Bank Bill Except Rise in Salary

State Capitol, Salem—Shall the salary of the state bank examiner be increased from \$3000 a year to \$4000? After an hour of snappy debate the house decided that it shall not. With the exception of this detail the house accepted in every particular the banking committee's bill revising the state banking laws to conform with the new Federal reserve act.

Under the provisions of the bill state banks will be placed in position to become members of the Federal reserve system if they so elect. One change in the present law will prohibit state banks from investing any of their assets in the capital stock of any corporation with the exception of that of the Federal reserve bank at San Francisco.

All state banks acting as reserve agents need carry only 15 per cent of their total demand deposits and 5 per cent of their savings deposits in reserve. The present law places this limit at 16 per cent in cities of less than 50,000 population and at 25 per cent in cities of more than 50,000. No state bank or trust company can be approved as a reserve bank unless it shall have an unimpaired capital and surplus of \$75,000 or more.

The state bank examiner under the new law will need to examine those banks that are members of a regularly organized clearing house association but once a year. Other banks will be subject to the existing semi-annual examination, however. It is assumed that the clearing house banks will be under constant inspection by the clearing house examiners.

With these few changes in the existing law state banks will be enabled to become members of the Federal reserve system without any trouble or inconvenience.

Bill to Aid Oregon Voters to Register but Once.

State Capitol, Salem—House bill 191 providing for permanent registration was passed by the senate without argument. The law provides that as long as an elector resides in the precinct in which he registers and votes at one election held throughout the county within the biennial election period ending November 30 following the regular biennial general election, he shall not be required to register again.

If the elector fails to vote as stipulated he shall re-register or notify the county clerk in not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days after the regular November election that he resides in the district from which he registered and requests in writing that his name remain on the register of electors.

Trading Stamp Bill Dies.

State Capitol, Salem—By agreeing to the indefinite postponement of Representative Forbes' bill to levy a heavy tax on trading stamps, those members who are opposed to the use of trading stamps in the state are centering their efforts on Representative Tom Brown's bill which probably be up for final passage soon. The mail of every member of the legislature has been flooded for the last few weeks with letters from constituents who represent either side of the question. The bill promises to arouse considerable debate.

Road-Merger Act Passed.

State Capitol, Salem—By provisions of Senator Hawley's bill passed by the house the Southern Pacific company will be enabled to proceed with the consolidation of its subsidiary companies, plans for which already have been completed by the railroads affected. The bill amends the present law so that one road may own and operate a competing line. The Southern Pacific plans to consolidate the Portland, Eugene & Eastern, the Corvallis & Eastern, the Salem, Falls City & Western and several other minor roads it owns for the purpose of reducing expenses and promoting efficiency in operation.

District Road Plan Loses.

State Capitol, Salem—One more road bill was defeated in the house, but another is on its way. By a vote of 41 to 17 the house defeated Representative Sam Brown's bill to provide a system of state, county and district co-operation in road-building. The measure carried a half-mill tax levy and it was this feature to which the house seemingly took objection. The good roads enthusiasts are not discouraged, however, and have prepared another bill to be submitted through the roads and highways committee.

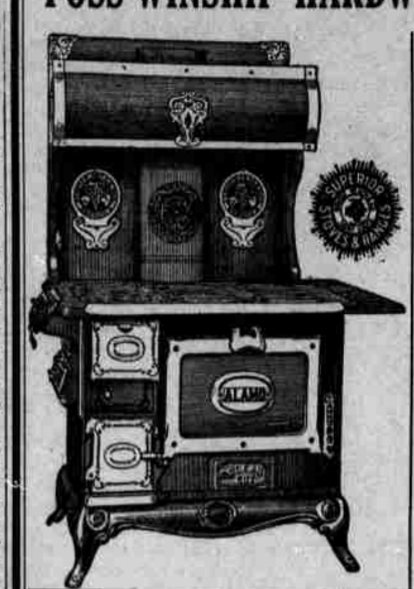
No-Party Bench Act Is Out.

State Capitol, Salem—Representative Tom Handley has consented to the indefinite postponement of his bill providing a non-partisan judiciary. The measure had been endorsed by the State Bar association. The attorneys in the house generally favored the bill, but they were opposed to passing it at this session, for the reason that the people defeated a similar measure at the recent election.

Fair Display Wanted in State.

State Capitol, Salem—Senator Day has introduced a bill providing for an appropriation of \$17,500 for returning the Oregon exhibit at the Panama-Pacific Exposition to this state and making a permanent display of it.

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