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VOLUME XXVII.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1915.

NUMBER 11.

NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

Further relief to Belgians from the United States is not guaranteed by the German government.

An English trawler was sunk in the English channel by a German mine. The crew of 11 men were saved.

Congress has re-convened and it is predicted that the session will hold until the gavel falls at noon March 4.

The French army is said to be advancing on the German strongholds in spite of the storms raging in that vicinity.

Plot to murder many rich men of New York City is said to have been discovered by the police department of that city.

Two Portland women, touring the Hawaiian Islands, were killed in an automobile accident by being thrown over a precipice.

Two important witnesses in the noted Los Angeles Times dynamiting case, have died, badly crippling the state's case against the two recently captured fugitives.

The press of Germany is practically unanimous in upholding the new note from America dealing with the transportation of foodstuffs by neutrals to belligerents.

Each employee of the City of Portland, is now required to keep a card index which contains the actual number of hours worked per day, enumerating the kinds of work performed, etc.

Germany, in answer to the American note, is willing to make concessions to shipping through the "war zone," reserving the right, however, of searching vessels for contraband goods.

Many Americans traveling as "horse tenders" on vessels bound for England and France, with promise of good pay and return ticket, are stranded in those countries, and are appealing to the American consuls for assistance.

The exchange of maimed prisoners through Geneva began Wednesday with the arrival of 1800 Frenchmen and 800 Germans. The transfer was made under the auspices of the Swiss Red Cross society. The soldiers traveled in special coaches, which were guarded by the military. Approximately a ton of gifts were there awaiting the unfortunates, who probably will number from 4000 to 5000 men from each country.

The bill charging manslaughter against a provincial police officer and three Canadian soldiers who last fall fired on two American duck hunters, Walter Smith and Charles Dorsch, killing Smith and wounding his companion, was dismissed by the Welland county grand jury. The shooting, which resulted in diplomatic correspondence between the United States and Great Britain, occurred on the Niagara River. After a protest had been made by Washington the Dominion government paid to Smith's relatives \$10,000 and a lesser sum was given to Dorsch.

The allied fleets have silenced the Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles.

War experts say the loss of the Dardanelles will mean the complete subjugation of Turkey.

The municipality of Berlin has decided to acquire the Berlin electrical works, which at present has the monopoly of supplying current for traction, light and power purposes. The price will be about \$81,000,000.

Governor Ferguson, of Texas, has addressed to President Wilson a communication saying continual raiding is going on along the Rio Grande border for 75 miles inland as a result of the starving condition of the Mexican people.

In the house of commons Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, made the important announcement, which was received with cheers, that Great Britain sympathized with Russia's aspirations to gain access to the open sea through Turkey.

The American submarines C-3 and C-5 have been ordered from Cristobal to Balboa to work out certain defense problems in connection with the coast artillery relating to mine laying and target practice. The submarines will be the first American fighting craft to use the canal.

The friendly relations between Japan and the United States were dwelt upon by both Japanese and Americans at the annual banquet of the Japan society in New York. Ambassador and Vice Countess Chinda and Admiral Baron Dewa, representing the Japanese government at the Panama-Pacific exposition, were guests of honor.

The Commerce commission reports that the Louisville & Nashville railroad spent millions in politics, to raise which "watered" stock was issued.

Figures compiled by the Holland postal authorities show that since the beginning of the war 864 German newspapers have suspended publication.

The London Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent says it is reported from Berlin that the German casualties in East Prussia and Poland during the last three weeks are estimated at about 200,000.

Washington Gets Hopeful Reports From Europe

Washington, D. C. — Encouraging reports from both Ambassadors Page and Gerard at London and Berlin, respectively, were received by President Wilson and his cabinet concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce from the dangers of submarines and mines, and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries.

Complete replies are not expected for some time, because the subject is still under consideration by England and her allies.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the vexatious questions already has been made known informally to the United States and a formal acquiescence is expected in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where the opinion is understood as yet to be divided on the merits of the suggestions.

Some of the leading men in the British cabinet are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restriction of supplies to Germany and more reprisals and there is some indication that when the final resolution on the American proposals is to be made the military factor will present strong opposition to them.

The exact nature of the proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of the officials both here and abroad, but each day adds information on the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed.

The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to the shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to civilian populations and not the belligerent forces of an enemy, remain unaltered.

A system is suggested whereby proof can be furnished that the supplies will be used by the civilian population.

The removal of all floating mines by Germany as well as Great Britain is proposed, this not to apply, however, to mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, pilots to be furnished to guide neutral ships through such fields as remain.

Attention is called to Germany's promise that if foodstuffs are not detained when destined to her civilian population the submarine warfare on merchant ships will be abandoned.

Farmers Not Heard in Fixing Price of Wheat

New York — Joseph Leiter, long a famous wheat operator, testified at the state inquiry into the cost of bread that the farmer had nothing to say about the price at which his wheat should be sold. That, he added, was determined at the terminal markets.

"The Liverpool exchange, which is the leading exchange of the world," he said, "usually fixes the price."

Mr. Leiter said 75 per cent of the elevators are owned either by the big wheat operators or the railroads, while 25 per cent were owned by independent or small operators and farmers' co-operative societies.

The United States has controlled the wheat prices of the world since September 1, 1914, and will continue to do so until another crop is raised, Mr. Leiter asserted.

Mr. Leiter gave it as his opinion that the "invisible supply" of wheat, or that which is in the hands of farmers and not recorded in the government report, has been a large factor in keeping down the price.

"The farmers have become the largest speculators in the country; they will hold crop after crop, sometimes for so long as four years," he said.

"In a year such as we are having we find that there is an enormous lot of wheat that isn't covered by the government records. If it wasn't for this fact the prices today would be much higher."

"There isn't anybody left in the speculative market now," Mr. Leiter said. "The speculators got out after the price passed the \$1.40 mark—the small trader was forced out and the big one was frightened out. The rise would have come much sooner had it not been for speculation."

German Success Costly.
Petrograd—"Many German prisoners," says the Russian official news agency, "have been captured on the roads toward Grodno. They are unanimous in affirming that their corps sustained grave losses, in spite of the success of the Germans in the Augustow forest, their ranks having been greatly demoralized. According to the captives, the large number of prisoners taken by the Russians at the Mogheli farm was due to the suddenness of the Russian attack and the lack of experienced German officers."

Sub-station at Umatilla Issues Report of Work

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—"Soil and climatic conditions prevailing on the Umatilla reclamation project were considered by the reclamation service to be better adapted to the production of fruit than other crops. As a result of this early decision, the land was divided into small units with a view to the development of small intensively farmed fruit and garden tracts."

The foregoing is a quotation from the report of the Umatilla branch experiment station, made by Superintendent Ralph W. Allen and issued by the Oregon Agricultural College Experiment Station under the direction of Director A. B. Cordley. The report tells further how and for what purpose the branch station was established, how it is maintained and managed, and reviews the leading features of its activities since its establishment. The report says further:

"The predominating soil type on the Umatilla project, upon which the station is located, is sand, ranging in texture from coarse to fine. Approximately half of this area is of coarse sand and the remainder ranges in character from medium to fine. The

Legislature Appropriates \$6,477,031 All Told

Salem — The appropriations of the Twenty-eighth Legislative assembly make an approximate total of \$6,477,031, or \$1,258,890 less than the preceding session. These figures are based on the actual general and continuing appropriations totals, and an estimate of \$350,000 for special appropriations.

Appropriations for the general fund total \$3,516,300, and those cared for by existing laws, millage tax and special funds total \$2,960,731. The aggregate appropriations for the 1915 session were \$7,735,921.68. Money was appropriated directly by the last legislature for the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural college, while all but three or four items will be taken care of in the future by millage tax.

While the ways and means committee gave the appropriation for the Industrial Accident commission as \$967,187, it is as a matter of fact only about \$126,000, being one-seventh of the amount collected in fees by the department.

Following are the general state appropriations:

Oregon state hospital, \$675,166; Eastern Oregon state hospital, \$905,890; penitentiary, \$202,000; institute for feeble minded, \$144,961; capitol and Supreme court buildings, \$58,650; institute for blind, \$28,213; school for deaf, \$54,987; compilation laws, resolutions and memorials of 28th legislative assembly, \$8000; industrial school for girls, \$34,200; training school, \$65,275; legislative expenses, \$65,000; special agents, \$7000; library, \$23,800; Supreme court library, \$15,612; water board, \$35,395; engineer, \$37,430; department of education, \$39,083; bounty on wild animals, \$110,000; orphans and foundlings, \$100,000; board of health, \$30,000; social hygiene society, \$15,000; Florence Crittenden home, \$7500; Patton home, \$6000; Historical society, \$12,000; tuberculosis hospital, \$53,125; state treasury department, \$35,375; executive department, \$23,700; secretary of state, \$61,000; old soldiers' home, \$31,658.75; board of horticulture, \$12,000; forestry board, \$60,000; livestock sanitary board, \$49,940; humane society, \$2000; National guard, \$155,000; completing

Mutual Fire Insurance Company Quits Business

Salem—Upon application of the directors of the company, which is unable to meet its financial obligations, Circuit Judge Galloway appointed Harvey Wells, insurance commissioner, receiver of the Horticultural Fire Relief of Oregon, with offices in this city.

Assets are estimated by Mr. Wells at \$20,000, with liabilities of from \$50,000 to \$60,000. The company absorbed the Oregon Merchants' Mutual Fire Insurance Association of Dayton, and the Pacific Home Mutual Fire Insurance company of Forest Grove in 1912. Recent large losses and the absorption of the two companies are ascribed as the cause of the failure.

The three companies had insurance aggregating about \$13,000,000. Arrangements will be made with the Pacific States Fire Insurance company to rewrite as much of this business as possible on a 10 per cent basis.

Insurance Commissioner Wells said: "The net premiums received by this company during 1914 were \$50,072 and losses incurred were \$59,976, plus an expense of about 30 per cent of the

Bank Is Ordered to Pay.

Salem — "From the whole case it appears that the defendant, through its president, deceived an ignorant old woman, who relied upon the credit of the bank, into making an equivocal contract whereby she must probably lose her money unless the defendant pays it, as in good morals it ought to do." This was the substance of an opinion by the Supreme court affirming a verdict of a Douglas county jury in favor of Elizabeth Byron against the First National bank of Roseburg.

SHIPS BOMBARD TURKISH FORTS

Constantinople to Be Taken By Allies at All Risk.

Mine sweepers clear ship channel and heaviest part of Great War is now begun.

London—Twenty-eight warships of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles Saturday and bombarded the inner forts, according to a dispatch from the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. The message adds that a battleship bombarded a Turkish camp on the Gulf of Saros.

After having completed the destruction of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles, the allied fleet of British and French warships, the greatest which has ever been in action, is now attacking the chief forts, which heretofore have stood between Turkey and invasion by the sea.

Apparently the outer forts could not withstand a great bombardment, and when they had been leveled and deserted by their defenders, men were landed from the ships to complete the work of demolition, while mine-sweepers cleared a passage for ships in the straits.

More serious work is now ahead, for the all-important fortifications at Kilid Bahr and Chanak, which guard the narrowest part of the straits, which the fleet is now approaching. There is no doubt, however, that the allied commanders have their instructions to make their way to Constantinople in spite of obstacles and have been supplied with the best means of carrying out these orders.

American Liner Captured by French Warships

Paris—A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the Channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is officially made.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam January 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton to be trans-shipped to Bremen. It was fully expected at that time that the ship would be seized on her way to Rotterdam.

Great Britain questioned the validity of the recent transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry. The Dacia touched at Norfolk February 11 and proceeded.

The Dacia was formerly a Hamburg-American freight steamer which had been used before the war in trade with Bremen and New Orleans and other Gulf ports. At the outbreak of the hostilities she was interned at Port Arthur, Tex.

The Dacia was bought on December 24 by an American and on January 4 American registry was obtained. It was then announced that she was to be used to relieve the cotton congestion and loading was begun with a cargo of cotton to be taken to Rotterdam and thence shipped to Bremen, where it was already sold.

Representations were made immediately by the British embassy at Washington, questioning the validity of the transfer of the interned vessel and it was generally understood that if she sailed she would be seized by British or French warships and taken before a prize court.

War Budget Yet Grows.

Berlin—The Federal council adopted the preliminary budget estimates, including 10,042,000,000 marks (\$2,510,500,000) for extraordinary expenditures. This amount is for carrying on the war.

The estimates of ordinary expenditures is 3,323,000,000 marks (\$83,075,000). Almost all of the amount to be devoted to the war will be raised by loans.

The Cologne Savings bank has subscribed 20,000,000 marks and the Victoria Insurance company to \$30,000,000 of the new war loan.

Cent Per Letter Urged.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Weeks, of Massachusetts, has launched a campaign for 1-cent letter postage. In a statement Senator Weeks declared: "The American people have a right to expect congress to consider enactment of general 1-cent letter postage. The government is making a large profit from first-class mail, just how much it is hard to say, but it must be nearly 1 cent on every 2 paid, and the British derived on drop letters, or letters for delivery in the same city in which they are mailed, must be even greater."

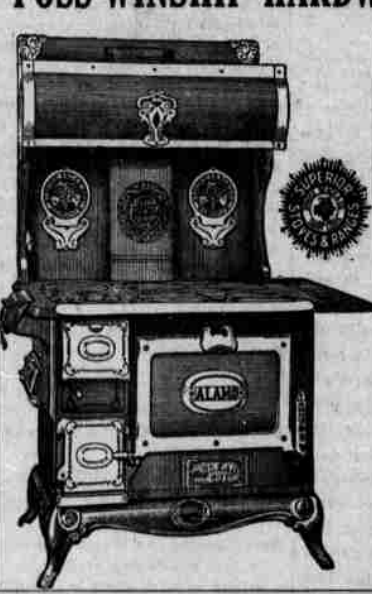
Russians Dislodge Turks.

Petrograd—Russian successes are reported in an official communication from the general staff of the army in the Caucasus. The statement says: "On February 23, on a line from Trans-Choruk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions."

German Cruiser Gets Two.

London—Lloyd's correspondent at La Concepcion, Chile, sends the following dispatch: "The steamer Skerries reports that the British bark Kid was sunk by the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich in December. The crews are at Easter Island and have refused to be taken off."

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