

BRITISH STEAMSHIP SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Number of Dead Expected to Exceed 300—American Consul Believed Lost.

London.—Dispatches from Cairo say that the British steamship Persia, sunk in the Mediterranean, was torpedoed without warning and sank in five minutes.

The Peninsular & Oriental company which owned the Persia, announced that 188 survivors had arrived at Alexandria.

The survivors comprise the chief officer, second officer, seven engineers, 27 seamen, 53 lascars and 59 passengers.

"The ship was struck amidships on the port side at 1:10 A. M.," says Reuters' correspondent at Cairo. "She had disappeared completely at 1:15."

"Survivors say it was little short of a miracle that anyone was saved. There was no panic. Four boats were launched with the utmost promptitude."

Robert N. McNeely, American consul at Aden, Arabia, is believed to have been drowned.

The captain was drowned. When last seen he was swimming after the liner had plunged beneath the surface.

The passengers numbered something more than 300 and there were between 200 and 300 members of the crew, so that apparently the death list will run in excess of 300.

Alexandria, Egypt, via London.—Charles Grant of Boston, one of the two Americans known to have been on board the British steamer Persia when she was torpedoed in the Mediterranean, has arrived in Alexandria. He gave the most detailed account yet received of the disaster.

"I was in the dining-saloon of the Persia at 1:05 p. m.," he said. "I had just finished my soup and the steward was asking what I would take for my second course when a terrific explosion occurred."

"The saloon became filled with smoke, broken glass and steam from the boiler. There was no panic. We went on deck as though we were at drill and reported at the lifeboats on the starboard side, as the vessel had listed to port. I clung to the railing."

"As the vessel was then listing so badly that it was impossible to launch the starboard boats I slid down the starboard rail into the water. I got caught in a rope which pulled off a shoe, but I broke loose and climbed on some floating wreckage."

"The last I saw of the Persia she had her bow in the air, five minutes after the explosion."

WASHINGTON REGARDS SITUATION CRITICAL

Washington.—President Wilson returned to Washington from Hot Springs, Va., to take personal charge of the nation's foreign affairs in the new crisis brought about by the sinking of the British steamship Persia with a loss of at least one American life. The situation is regarded in official circles as being the most serious to confront this government since the submarine operations of the central powers began.

After a brief conference with President Wilson, Secretary Tamm issued the following statement:

"The president and the secretary of state are taking every means possible to obtain the cold facts in this grave matter and will act just as soon as the information is obtained."

The administration is depending largely on the inquiries which Ambassador Penfield has been instructed to make at Vienna and the information which consuls are gathering elsewhere, to establish the nationality of the submarine which is said to have sunk the Persia and to develop the facts in the case generally.

AUSTRIA ASKS FOR TIME

Envoy Promises U. S. Full Satisfaction if Submarine Sank Persia.

Washington.—Baron Zweigenthal, charge of the Austrian embassy, called on Secretary Lansing and asked that judgment on the sinking of the Persia be withheld until all the facts were known, and expressed his belief that a final explanation would be satisfactory. He also sought any available information for the benefit of his government.

Baron Zweigenthal also assured Secretary Lansing that if it were proved that an Austrian submarine had sunk the Persia, his government would give full reparation and satisfaction.

Kaiser Admits Peace Envoys. Copenhagen, via London.—The German government has granted the Ford expedition permission to travel to The Hague through Germany by special train.

GOVERNOR HAMMOND



W. S. Hammond, Governor of Minnesota, who died suddenly while on a visit in Clinton, La.

OREGON'S SUNDAY BLUE LAW VALID

Portland.—The old Sunday blue law of Oregon, is valid and not in contravention either of the state or the federal constitutions.

Three United States judges so agree in a sweeping opinion handed down by United States District Judge Wolvert, which upholds the law in every particular wherein attack has been made on it in the federal court.

The opinion denies the prayer of the Brunswick-Balke-Collender company, manufacturers of billiard and pool tables and bowling alleys, for a permanent injunction restraining district attorneys and sheriffs of 25 Oregon counties, Multnomah county being one, from enforcing the law.

SOUND CITIES FEEL QUAKE

Tacoma, Seattle and Olympia Are Shaken.

Tacoma, Wash.—Two distinct earthquake shocks, felt in every part of Tacoma, took place shortly before 5 o'clock Saturday.

The shocks were quick and sharp and more like an explosion. Buildings shook and trembled and in some cases persons ran out of their houses to see what had happened.

Olympia, Wash.—At 4:50 o'clock a severe earthquake shock was felt here of about 30 seconds' duration. No material damage has been reported.

Seattle, Wash.—An earthquake shock was felt here Saturday afternoon, beginning at 4:53 o'clock, continuing about 10 seconds, followed by lighter tremors. No damage was done.

Another British Ship Sunk.

London.—The British steamship Glenlyne has been sunk. The Glenlyne had on board about 130 persons, passengers and crew. All, with the exception of three Europeans and seven Chinese were landed. So far as is known, no Americans were on board.

Associate Justice Lamar Dead.

Washington.—Joseph Rucker Lamar, associate justice of the supreme court of the United States, died at his home here after an illness of several months. He was 58 years old and had been on the supreme bench five years.

\$3000 Is Taken by Two Robbers.

Chicago.—Two men entered the office of St. Luke's hospital, pointed revolvers at Miss Mary Tobin, the cashier, and escaped with a tin box containing \$3000.

Japan Orders Fleet to Suez.

Tokyo.—Announcement is made by the Jiji Shimbun that a squadron of Japanese warships will sail for the Suez canal, presumably to protect Japanese shipping.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.
Wheat—Club, 95c; bluestem, \$1.01; red Russian, 95c; forty-fold, \$1.00; red 85c, 95c.
Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17.50; alfalfa, \$17.
Butter—Creamery, 26c.
Eggs—Ranch, 34c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, 25c; valley, 16c.
Hops—1915 crop, \$8@12c per lb.
Seattle.
Wheat—Bluestem, \$1.00; club, 95c; red Russian, 93c; forty-fold, 95c; tifo, 84c.
Barley—\$26.50 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$18 per ton; alfalfa, \$17 per ton.
Butter—Creamery, 26c.
Eggs—35c.

CONGRESS IS FACING FOREIGN PROBLEMS

Extended Hearings on Subject of National Preparedness Are Contemplated.

Washington.—Congress reconvened Tuesday to begin consideration of momentous legislation confronting it before the holiday recess little was accomplished beyond organization and extension of the emergency war revenue law.

During the preliminary two weeks there were assurances on every hand that foreign relations incident to the European war and the subject of preparedness for national defense would be the dominating features of a session fraught with far-reaching possibilities.

The military and naval affairs committees of both houses have been studying the national preparedness program during the recess. House committees plan to work on these at once, and public hearings, which probably will extend for a long period, are contemplated.

The revenue situation also will command immediate attention. Representative Kitchin, majority leader and chairman of the ways and means committee, plans to call his committee together without delay to take up this problem. Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee, also contemplates frequent meetings of democratic members to study fiscal problems. First to be considered will be an amendment to the war revenue law. Involved in this are issues likely to provoke wide divergence of views, among them the suggestions to tax gasoline automobiles, horsepower and steel products, and a stamp tax on bank checks. Amendment of the income tax and an inheritance tax also are to be regarded seriously.

Land Leasing Is Reported Favorably.

The house public lands committee voted to report favorably on the administration's general leasing bill for coal, phosphate, oil, gas, potassium and sodium products on public lands. The coal lands under this bill will be leased in tracts of 2500 acres at a royalty of two cents per ton for coal mined and 25 cents per acre the first year, 50 cents the second, third, fourth and fifth years, and \$1 per acre for the continuance of the lease. Railroad companies may take one lease for each 200 miles for their own use, and municipalities may lease 640 acres for obtaining a municipal supply of coal. Similar provisions apply to phosphate, potassium and sodium lands. Oil and gas lands will be leased in tracts of 640 acres at 10 per cent royalty and \$1 per acre for the land. The proceeds will be turned into the reclamation funds.

Alliance of American Republics.

Creation of a defensive alliance that would put the power and resources of the 21 American republics behind the Monroe Doctrine, it became known, is the real purpose behind the proposed convention among them. While ostensibly this convention is for settlement of boundary disputes and from preventing munitions from reaching revolutionary states, and while Secretary of State Lansing would not discuss the broader proposition delegates to the Pan-American Scientific congress declared that such a movement is on foot.

Director John Barrett of the Pan-American union had this to say concerning the proposal:

"Whatever may be the results of this war, there may be afterward little or no love for the United States and other American nations. They must stand together for eventualities."

State May Handle Parishables.

After consulting for several days with Attorney General Gregory and members of the Federal Trade Commission, Harris Weinstein, California state market director, left for California to invite all producers of perishable farm products in that state to give the state market commission a monopoly of routing and directing carloads of the products for the eastern markets.

While not having any formal approval from the federal officials for his plan, Mr. Weinstein said they had found no defects and he was confident the state could do without question that which individuals acting separately or through private organizations could not do.

The plan provides for warehousing crops and financing them through favorable loans in New York. Moreover, it proposes a campaign to get an enormous business in the United States and South American markets.

The decision given him may have an important effect on other combinations of a similar nature throughout the country. Dried fruit men, however, will not be the only ones who will benefit by the proposal, for the commission plans to embrace all forms of agricultural men.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Mrs. Martha Hill, a pioneer of 1847, is dead at Independence.

Building operations in Salem during 1915 totaled approximately \$200,000 in value.

The road levy in Lane county for the coming year will raise approximately \$110,000.

The supreme court has held Portland's jitney ordinance constitutional, reversing Circuit Judge Bagley.

Farmers adjacent to Salem have received \$12,000 in the last month from a Portland firm for the sale of 1100 bogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Adams, of Scappoose, died Sunday within 11 hours of each other, as the result of a gripe.

"Pay-Up Week" will be celebrated in Newberg February 21-26 by merchants in an endeavor to collect long standing bills.

The Oregon workmen's compensation act was held constitutional by the supreme court in a decision upholding Circuit Judge Galloway.

A good roads conference is to be held at the Oregon Agricultural college January 3 and 4 under the direction of Professor G. V. Skelton.

Henry Tillery, veteran of the Mexican war of 1846-1848, died at his home at Ballston, Polk county, December 29, after an illness of a few days.

Oregon has sent more horses to Europe in the past year than any other Pacific coast state, according to buyers for the allies and for Germany.

By written opinion and stipulation, the Oregon supreme court last year disposed of 381 cases, while a total of 420 transcripts were filed in the same period.

With the close of the year, only 11,500 automobile owners of Oregon were equipped with the new license tag for 1916 as required by law before they can be legally operated.

Twelve members of Company M, Oregon national guard, Salem, qualified as expert riflemen last year, with a score of 210 or better out of a possible 350 on all ranges.

Announcement of the annual conference of county fair officials to be held January 5 at the Oregon agricultural college, Corvallis, has been made by the state department of education. Bids have been opened by the Clatsop county court for clearing, grading and paving four and one-half miles of the Columbia river highway between Columbia beach station and the West ranch.

Assistant State School Superintendent H. P. Carlton was elected president of the reorganized State Teachers' association. Principal George A. Briscoe of Ashland high was chosen vice president.

Letters handled at the Portland post office during 1915 numbered \$6,800,000, of which \$2,900,000 were sent out, the remainder being received. The total is an increase of more than 2,000,000 over 1914.

Mrs. Frances Ellen Jane Hare, 104 years old, is dead at Astoria. She leaves seven children, 23 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. She was a descendant of the Davenport family of Virginia.

Receipts of the state banking department totaled \$17,526.04 and disbursements \$17,110.33, leaving a balance of \$415.71 and members traveled a total of \$6,194 miles in attendance upon their duties in 1915.

Preliminary estimates of the output of metals from Oregon mines in 1915 by the United States geological survey show material increases over the figures of 1914 in both gold and copper, and slight decreases in yield of silver and lead.

After being out five hours the jury in the Rosa Merio murder case at Hillsboro returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter against Mrs. Merio. Mrs. Merio shot and killed her husband, Joseph Merio, at Santa Rosa, October 4.

Representative Hawley has announced appointments to the Annapolis naval academy as follows: Lloyd Harris, Oregon City, principal; Howard L. Lamar, Tillamook; Miles Gamill, Medford and William S. Kinney, Astoria, alternates.

Governor Withycombe received an invitation from Joseph H. Choate, honorary president of the National Security League, to represent the Pacific coast at a congress of the league to be held in Washington, D. C., January 20 to 22. He declined.

James J. Hill has sent \$50,000 to Albany college as promised, making \$255,000 the college possesses in permanent interest-bearing endowment funds. A fund of \$105,000 will be raised to erect the first building on the new college campus.

According to a report just issued by Chief Forester Henry S. Graves for the fiscal year of 1915, more than half of the timber sold from all the national forests in the country has been taken from the Oregon forests. Of the total, in rough figures, of 1,000,000,000 board feet sold from the national forests, Oregon forests have contributed \$45,000,000. The value of the Oregon timber sold is rated at \$1,425,000.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

\$12,703,713 Feet of Lumber Shipped.

Astoria.—During the year just closed 1249 vessels with a tonnage of 1,711,268 tons entered at the Astoria custom house, while 1264 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,732,963 tons cleared for domestic and foreign ports. According to the records in the Astoria custom house 355 vessels loaded at the mills in the lower Columbia river district during the year 1915, and their aggregate cargoes amounted to 223,426,797 feet of lumber. In addition to these, four rafts containing 24,000,000 feet of logs and piling were towed to California, making the total lumber shipments by water from the mills in this district 247,426,797 feet. In the same 12 months 265 vessels loaded 65,276,946 feet of lumber at the upper river mills, giving a grand total of 312,703,743 feet as the amount of lumber shipped from the Columbia river in cargoes and rafts during the year just closed.

Trains Crash Head on Near Roseburg.

Roseburg.—Northbound Southern Pacific freight train No. 232, operated by Engineer Henry Ryan and Conductor Howard Weichler, of Roseburg, crashed head on into southbound local freight train No. 229 a few feet north of the high trestle spanning the Umpqua river near Winchester. Glen Patrick, fireman on train 229, was caught between a derailed box-car and the locomotive, necessitating the amputation of his left arm between the elbow and shoulder.

BRIEF WAR NEWS

The principal American demands in the Ancon case—punishment of the submarine commander and assurances regarding the future conduct of submarine warfare on merchant vessels—have been met in Austria's reply.

Russia's campaign in Bessarabia continues to be the most important visible war activity. From the Pripes to the Roumanian frontier, over a front of at least 300 miles, a huge Russian force with a great appearance of confidence is hurling sledgehammer blows at the opposing force, which, according to all accounts, totals at least one and a half millions of men.

Meanwhile in the south of the Balkan peninsula the entente allies continue their expectant attitude toward a threatened attack, although Greece seems mainly occupied in making various diplomatic protests, having followed up her polite protest to the entente allies against the arrest of the consuls by an equally polite protest to the central powers against their aeroplanes flying across Greek territory in a raid which killed a Greek shepherd and a few sheep.

GRANT LAND TAX REGULAR

Douglas County Wins Suit for \$17,541 Delinquent Taxes.

Roseburg.—Holding that the acts of the tax-collecting officers of Douglas county were regular in every particular, Judge Hamilton rendered a decision in which he held that the Southern Oregon company was liable for the payment of delinquent taxes in this county amounting to \$17,541 and covering a term of five years.

Judge Hamilton holds that the "tax, being properly levied, is a lien against the land, a definite charge, not against the individual owner, but against the land itself."

Under the decision Judge Hamilton is of the opinion that the delinquent taxes will have to be paid. The same ruling would also apply to the delinquent taxes due from the Oregon & California grant lands in this county for the years 1913 and 1914, and totaling \$186,763, although the latter was not a party in the case at issue.

If sustained by the higher courts, this decision means that Douglas county eventually will recover \$204,304 of delinquent taxes from these two corporations. Coos and Lane counties are in a similar situation to recover almost equal amounts each.

Government Starts Land Suit.

Portland.—A suit to set aside the patents on 43 claims of timber land in Baker county, comprising several thousand acres, which the government maintains were secured irregularly by employees of the Oregon Lumber company, for that company, was brought to trial in the federal court here Monday. Patents to the 43 claims were secured in 1900 and a suit was instituted in 1912.

Public Market a Success.

Eugene.—The success of the public market in the small city has been demonstrated by the Eugene public market, established four months ago, according to C. J. Hurd, marketmaster, who asks the city to enlarge the market again. There are now 26 stalls in the market. In the beginning there were but 22. The sheds were erected by the city on the petition of the Lane County Grange, which has the management of the market.

Forty-Four Eligible for Parole.

Salem.—Forty-four men serving sentences in the Oregon penitentiary were eligible for parole because of the expiration of their minimum sentences with the first of the year. At its meeting this week the parole board will act on the eligibles and make its recommendations to Governor Withycombe.

JUDGE LAMAR



Photo by American Press Association. Joseph R. Lamar, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who died after a long illness.

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can consular officer brings up in the European capitals the familiar query as to what the United States will do now. Dispatches from English correspondents pictured the sinking of the Persia as a particularly aggravated case, owing to the fact that the ship was not only hit without warning or opportunity for the passengers to escape, but was also hit in a most vital part, so that she sank almost immediately, the whole time from the launching of the torpedo to the disappearance of the liner being only five minutes.

SHORT NEWS NUGGETS

Seattle under the new prohibition is the largest "dry" city in the world outside of Russia.

Seven states, Colorado, Iowa, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Arkansas and South Carolina went dry January 1.

A. L. Ringling, oldest of the Ringling Brothers, veteran circus man, died of heart disease at Baraboo, Wis., his home. He was 63 years old.

Charles A. Fleming was unanimously elected mayor of Spokane, succeeding Charles M. Fassett. The motion was made by Commissioner Argall. The entire council was reorganized.

Prohibition in Portland, Ore., wiped the slate clean of 23 saloons, four wholesalers and rectifiers, 15 wholesalers, 15 grocer liquor licenses, 10 grill liquor licenses and three brewery licenses.

Governor Winfield Scott Hammond, of Minnesota, died suddenly in a hotel at Clinton, La., from a stroke of apoplexy, which physicians said apparently had been superinduced by a recent attack of ptomaine poisoning. He died before physicians could arrive.

Ford Arrives Home.

New York.—Henry Ford, who led the peace expedition which left here December 4 on the steamship Oscar II for Copenhagen, in the hope of bringing about a conference of neutral nations that would end the war, arrived here on the steamer Bergensfjord. He confirmed cable reports that his return had been hastened by illness.

Y. M. C. A. To Form Army Reserve.

New York.—One hundred members of the East Side Branch of the Young Men's Christian association have enrolled in a company for military training. This is the first step in a plan initiated by this branch to have the more than 500,000 Y. M. C. A. members throughout the country formed into an army reserve.

DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CAR

The gasoline consumption is unusually low.

The tire expense is reasonable, because the size of the tires is right for the weight of the car.

The motor is 30-35 horsepower
The price of the car complete is \$785
(F. O. B. Detroit)

Walther-Williams Auto Company
AGENTS
The Dalles, Oregon