

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

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\$6,750,000,000 IS ASKED FIRST YEAR
Will Issue Bonds for Five Billion and Allies Will Borrow Three Billion.

Washington.—President Wilson's policy, outlined in his address to congress, of paying America's war bill, so far as possible, while the war is being waged, leaving a minimum debt to posterity, was reflected in a virtual decision by leaders in the house and senate to raise 50 per cent of the first year's expenditures by taxation.

Under this program congress will be called on to raise war revenues of \$1,750,000,000 through new and increased taxation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. This is exclusive of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, authorization for which will be sought.

The total demand upon the financial resources of the country during the first year of war, under this program, would be \$6,750,000,000. Of the bond issue, \$3,000,000,000, it was definitely stated, would be loaned to the entente allies.

The facilities offered by bankers and others who have asserted that they would place their services free of charge at the government's disposal to aid in making the bond issue a success will be accepted. Assistance also will be sought of federal reserve banks, national banks, state banks, insurance companies, private and investment bankers and of every governmental agency, such as the internal revenue offices and the postoffices, in floating the issue.

The terms of the bonds are yet to be decided on, as well as the denominations, but it is likely that there will be little change in the plan to issue them in denominations as low as \$25. Once the authorization is granted, it is placed that the big issue will not be placed before the investing public in one lump sum, but will be issued from time to time as the money is needed.

Creation of a general munitions board was announced by the Council of National Defense. It will be headed by Frank A. Scott, a Cleveland manufacturer, and will be charged with supplying the army and navy with munitions and equipment. One of its chief functions will be to decide between the country's military and its industrial needs.

The board's establishment puts into the hands of a group of army and navy officers and industrial leaders virtually the same task given the British minister of munitions.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEVERED BY AUSTRIA
Washington.—Austria-Hungary, ranging herself unreservedly with Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States, precipitating a situation which generally is expected here to lead to war.

Baron Erich Zwiadinek, the Austrian charge, asked the state department for passports for himself, his staff and the Austrian consular force in this country, and simultaneously American Minister Stovall reported from Bern that Austria had announced the break in relations to the American embassy in Vienna.

Immediately the treasury department ordered the seizure of all Austrian merchant ships in American harbors.

TO ARREST FLAG INSULTERS
Warning Against Desecration of National Emblem by Aliens Issued.

Washington.—A warning against desecration of the American flag by aliens has been issued by the department of justice. The following notice was sent to federal attorneys and marshals:

"Any alien enemy tearing down, mutilating, abusing or desecrating the United States flag in any way will be regarded as a danger to the public peace within the meaning of regulation 12 of the proclamation of the president, issued April 6, 1917, and will be subject to summary arrest and confinement."

Ammunition Factory Blows Up.
Chester, Pa.—An explosion in the plant of the Eddystone ammunition corporation, at Eddystone, Pa., near here, is reported to have killed 50 to 150 persons. Several hundred are said to have been injured.

Garden Demonstration Train.

This Friday afternoon and evening the exhibit cars of the Garden Demonstration Train will be open to the public at Wasco from 3 to 6 and from 7:30 to 9:30. Prof. Bouquet of the Agricultural College, will speak on Vegetable Growing at the Wasco High School at 2:30; at 3:30 a Home Canning Demonstration will be put on in the passenger car attached to the special train.

The evening program will be in the Wasco opera house, beginning with a talk on Food Preparation at 7:30; at 8:15 a talk on Vegetable Growing, and at 9 o'clock a talk on Poultry Raising will close the series.

This tour is being conducted jointly by the Union Pacific System and the Agricultural College as an answer to President Wilson's appeal to have every one do their best to help their country in this crisis in the nation's history. It is conducted as a Food Preparedness Campaign for those who have charge of the growing crops, both in field and garden. The appeal to raise a bumper crop would be good advice any year, but has unusual force at this time, when there is a world-wide shortage of food due to millions of producers being engaged in warfare. The shortage has been felt in our own country in the form of increased prices that in some cases were becoming unbearable. Every body who will give attention to growing food crops this year will be doing as much for his country, under these circumstances, as the soldier, providing he farms and tills to the best of his ability and with a determination to raise a bumper crop.

Commission Designates Highway.

Irrespective of whether the state road bonds carry, Oregon will have a designated system of state roads, made formally by the State Highway commission at its session just held. The designation was required by the government as a condition to Oregon's participation in the benefits of the federal road building act. The government representatives were present with the commission when the designations were made, and concurred in same, subject to approval by the authorities at Washington.

All the roads designated in the pending road bonding act were designated by the commission and formerly adopted as part of the system of state highways. In addition to those roads, such other roads were designated as were required to make the state system more complete and fair, so as to connect all the counties with thru lines of travel.

If the bonding act fails of election the funds available, it is estimated, would permit improvement of the main trunk lines in the most populous parts of the state during the five years. There would not be enough money for any paving on these. The roads to the remote sections would have to wait indefinitely. They would remain on the map as designated highways until funds were available for their improvement which might be many years, except as the county voted the money for the principal part of the cost of improving same.

Should the bonds pass, the commission will have money to use on every designated road in every county. This would mean that every designated road in every part of the state would be put in a travelable condition during the five year period, much of it surfaced, and from 500 to 600 miles of highway paved, as against no paving and all the current funds being expended on the trunk highways to the neglect of roads connecting with the remote sections.

A dollar's worth of road for a dollar's worth of expenditure is assured at the hands of the State Highway Commission which is charged with disbursing the funds raised from the proposed \$6,000,000 good roads bonds.

PENETRATE GERMAN LINES ON WIDE FRONT

British Storm Villages in New Offensive From Arras to Lens.

London.—British troops penetrated the German lines all along a wide front from Arras to Lens, the war office announced. The statement says that in the direction of Cambrai the British have attacked the villages of Hornies and Bourisles and penetrated Havrincourt wood.

The fighting line from Lens to Arras is approximately 10 miles in length and lies directly north of the field of the retreat which the Germans have been conducting for the past several weeks.

London.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated.

General Sir Douglas Haig reports that captures exceeded 9000 men, while 40 guns fell into the hands of his troops.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy ridge, even its eastern slopes having been cleared of the Germans. The Canadians have also repulsed German counter attacks.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai. With Vimy ridge gone the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious.

With the capture of the famous ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground northwest of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the Anglo-French forces are drawing around that town.

Near St. Quentin the Germans have been driven from the high ground between Le Verguler and Hargicourt. Fighting continues along the entire battle front.

The British have seized the village of Fampoux and the neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe river.

BRAZIL EXPECTED TO RUPTURE RELATIONS

London.—Diplomatic relations between Brazil and Germany have been broken off, according to the Evening News.

Rio Janeiro.—Rupture of relations between Brazil and Germany was delayed solely on the formality of the reception of the official report from Paris on the sinking of the Brazilian steamer Parana by a German submarine. The break will be followed by the seizure of German ships in Brazil.

The Commerce & Navigation company, owners of the Parana, have received a cablegram from the captain of the steamer from Cherbourg saying that after the vessel was torpedoed she was struck five times by shells.

The company has turned the cablegram over to the government.

Dr. Lauro Muller, foreign minister, has refused to receive the German minister.

CUBA DECLARES WAR

Island Republic Declares To Support the United States.

Havana.—The republic of Cuba has declared war with Germany. In a joint resolution passed by the senate and approved by the house, the island republic ranged itself as an ally of the United States in the war against the German government.

President Menocal signed the war bill immediately after it was transmitted to him by the house. The wildest scenes of enthusiasm greeted passage of the measure. Not one of the leaders neglected to mention the gratitude Cuba felt toward the United States and not one of them failed to receive thunderous bursts of applause at such references.

ENGLAND STIRRED BY DRIVE

London.—The news of the successful opening of the new British offensive has stirred high hope among the people throughout the country. Whatever the enemy may have claimed as to the retreat in the Somme sector having been prearranged and strategic, it is contended that their recoil before the blow delivered in the Arras-Lens region cannot be explained away in any such manner.

Spain Declares She is Neutral. Madrid, via Paris.—The Official Journal publishes a decree declaring the neutrality of Spain in the war between the United States and Germany.

FOR SALE—REAL SNAPS

No. 1.—1120 acres, in summer fallow wheat; lots of water; on railroad 3 1/2 miles from town; 900 acres tillable; running water in pasture; will take some clear property up to the amount of \$10,000. Price \$55 per acre.

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