

# Hamilton's FIRE SALE

## Began Today at 9:00 A. M.

### with Record-breaking Crowds

# Merchandise will be sold for cash only during the FIRE SALE!

hundred and fifty left the Belgian lines alone, swimming. When he returned shortly before daylight he astonished everybody by reporting the tiny island held by two lone sentries. A large island, however, some two hundred yards further back held some two hundred and fifty men, and between this island and the tower ran a causeway made of brush tied in bundles. The sentries threw up illuminating bombs at intervals, and upon discovering the approach of the enemy gave the alarm, whereupon reinforcements ran over the causeway, took position upon a tiny fort built around the tower and by the aid of machine guns stood their ground.

The following night fifty men started for the island in scows which swimmers and waders pulled silently through the flood. They halted just outside the range of the illuminating bombs and the scout of the night before went forward alone. Two bombs in succession would be the signal for the party to land quickly. Fifteen minutes of absolute silence followed, then two bars of fire rose and floated in the black night. The fifty men shot forward. They landed without opposition. The body of a dead German lay on the ground. It was sentry No. 1. His helmet was missing as was his coat. On the breastworks about the tower a few feet away, stood what appeared to be a German, beckoning to the Belgians. This was their own man, wearing the coat and helmet of the German sentinel. Inside the trench beside the machine gun lay sentry number two. The Belgian had slain both without a sound with his thick sword. The first by surprise, the second by impersonating the first.

While destroying the brush causeway, the Germans on the little island nearby found out what was going on and attacked. They were repulsed and the two Belgians of the night before were more than avenged. Today the Belgians occupy the island and its tower, though daily battered by German artillery, serves as an observation post. In their turn, besides keeping a permanent defense force on the island, the Belgians have connected it to their first line of trenches.

The men of the one hundred and fifty are anonymous. It is said that many of them are nobles. The man who, singlehanded, captured the tower without making a sound, so the correspondent was told, was a Brussels lawyer of nationwide reputation, who, when he volunteered for the service, presented himself in a frock coat and a silk hat.

## CELILLO CANAL WILL BE OPENED IN MAY

Portland, March 4.—(Special)—A series of celebrations in honor of the formal opening of The Dalles-Celillo canal of the Columbia river, Oregon, is planned for the entire week of May 3-8, 1915, in which local committees in every important river city of the Columbia basin are cooperating with a general committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce.

These celebrations will fittingly mark the opening to free navigation of the great Columbia river and its principal tributary, the Snake, from Lewiston, Idaho, to the Pacific ocean, a distance of five hundred miles.

Farmers, business men, transportation men, chambers of commerce, commercial clubs, good roads enthusiasts, irrigationists, governors, congressmen, engineers and high government officials of the United States and Canada will rejoice in practically every river town from the Canadian boundary and Lewiston, Idaho, to Astoria, Oregon, at the mouth of the Columbia.

The official ceremonies of dedication are to be staged in the canal basin at Big Eddy, Oregon, Wednesday, May 5th, at 2 p. m., in which prominent people from all over the Pacific Northwest and the entire nation will participate. Following the official ceremonies a celebration with distinctive features will take place at The Dalles, Oregon, the afternoon and evening of May 5th.

**DANCE NOTICE**—The regular Moose dance this week will be held Thursday night instead of Friday night. After this week it will be held Friday nights.

Special Dinner Served Every Sunday for 50c. at ST. FRANCIS HOTEL. Luncheon 11:30 to 2; dinner 5 to 8 p. m.

**Fortmiller Bros. Funeral Directors**  
Masonic Building, Albany, Or.  
Both phones. Lady Assistant

## CONGRESS ENDS SESSION

(Continued from Page 1).

Ratifications of 21 peace treaties. Another spectacular innovation inaugurated by President Wilson was his custom of delivering messages in person to congress.

With the echo of the adjournment gavel today many big figures in public life retired. Nine senators and nearly 150 representatives left the congress today. The senators retired today were Senators Ross, Brister, Burton, Stephenson, Perkins, Crawford, Thornton, Camden, and White.

Among the prominent members who left the house today were Democratic Leader Underwood and Representative Bronsard who go to the senate; Progressive Leader Victor Murdock, and Representatives Bulkley, Neeley of Kansas, A. Mitchell Palmer, Burke of Penn., Burke of S. D., Stevens of Minn., Metz, Henry George Jr., Ainey, Bowler, Goldfogle, Knowland of Cal., Beall of Tex., Bartlett of Ga., Bartholdt, Hobson and Stanley.

The senate had today 56 Democratic, 42 Republican and one progressive member. The Sixty-fourth congress will see 56 Democratic, one Progressive and 39 Republican senators seated.

The House today had 286 Democrats, 124 Republicans, 17 Progressives, one Independent. The next House will have 231 Democrats, 194 Republicans, 7 Progressives, one Socialist and one Independent.

Some notables have "come back" and will be in the next House, including "Uncle Joe" Cannon, William B. McKinley, of Ill., Ebenezer J. Hill of Conn., Nicholas Longworth of Ohio, and "Cy" Sulloway of New Hampshire.

In addition to the "big" legislation enacted by the congress adjourning sine die today were many important legislative features. Woman suffrage and national prohibition amendments were defeated in the House. The immigration bill, passed by both houses, was vetoed and killed by President Wilson.

"Lobby" investigations by both the senate and the House were instituted. Cotton futures and cotton warehouses bills became law, but cotton currency legislation was defeated. The agricultural extension education bill was passed. The parcel post was inaugurated. A bill to regulate issuance of railway securities by the House but pigeonholed in the senate. Rivers and harbors appropriation bills were pruned by means of a filibuster. Radium, water power, the Alaska coal, and mineral and oil were conservation measures passed by the House. The Philippine independence bill and La Follette seamen's labor and sea safety measures were also before congress.

Consideration of this government's

material preparedness for war was also a big issue during the closing session of the dying congress.

### January Foreign Trade.

Figures made public by the Department of Commerce show that January, 1915, imports totaled \$122,265,276, against \$154,724,923 in January, 1914, and \$163,063,438 in January, 1913. January, 1915, exports aggregated \$267,801,370 compared with \$204,066,603 in January of last year and \$227,032,930 in January, 1913.

Comparing the month's trade with the low points touched in August last imports have decreased \$7,502,623, or 5.8 per cent, while exports have increased \$157,433,876, or 142.6 per cent. The excess of exports over imports for the month was \$154,536,103, or practically three times that of January last year, and more than double that

of January, 1913.

In the six months since August last the monthly trade balance has shifted from an excess of \$19,400,396 on the import side to an excess of \$145,536,103 on the export side, exceeding that shown by any previous month in the country's history.

Of the January imports 62.67 per cent, entered free of duty against 61 per cent in January, 1914, and 55.5 per cent in January, 1913.

Imports of gold in January last totaled \$6,210,360 in January, 1913. Gold exports in January were 1,691,509, against \$6,914,056 in January, 1914, and \$17,237,648 in January two years ago.—Dunn's Review, Feb. 27.

### Notice Elix.

There will be election of officers Thursday evening. Everybody expected to be there. By order of Exalted ruler.

W. H. WARNER, Secretary.

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## BELGIAN SECRET BAND DO MANY DARING FEATS

### Are Chosen From Men Who Know No Fear of Death.

(By William Philip Sims, United Press Staff Correspondent.)

With the Belgian army, February 8.—(By mail).—The romances of the swashbucklers are daily outdone here among the floods of Flanders where the army of King Albert stands with its back to the wall, fighting to hold the little strip of Belgian soil still to be called its own.

For instance, there is the secret band of "The Hundred and Fifty." It is composed of volunteer soldiers, picked men who snap their fingers in the face of death and who, when the

worst comes to worst, meet their doom with a jaunty smile on their lips, a smile tinged just a little with scorn and which says to the grim firing squad: "Shoot and be hanged. It's little I care."

The public knows little or nothing of "The Hundred and Fifty," but there isn't a Belgian trooper who doesn't know of the band and speak of it with something of awe and mystery in his voice. When an enterprise is on foot requiring supreme daring, unflinching, a do it or die determination of an almost superhuman sort, the hundred and fifty is called upon—and it never fails.

The band furnishes the necessary man or men, and if these do not deliver the goods, another man, or more men, come forward until the thing required is accomplished. Impossible as it may seem, of the one hundred and fifty men in the organization some three hundred and fifty have met death; in other words, the band has been wiped out more than twice.

The lay of the land, so to speak, brought the daredevil group into being, a necessary result of the strangely peculiar fighting now going on hereabouts.

Imagine an almost treeless stretch of marshes extending for many, many miles in all directions, a river whose bed is higher than the surrounding country, cutting through the middle. Checkerboarding this, imagine long, straight highways, built up, but barely emerging from the seawater which has inundated the whole landscape save a few islands, which dot the waste of water here and there. In short, imagine the dreariest, wettest spot on earth and you will have the scene of the battle of the Yser as it is now between Belgians and the Germans.

The two fronts pass along the course of the Yser in a general way, the battalions occupying the roads and islands.

Only one means of advance in the ordinary way is along the roads, practically an impossibility, since one machine gun can hold off a regiment. To take the islands, troops must wade from knee to neck deep in the ice-cold sea water or cross on rafts or scows, an equally impossible feat during daylight hours.

Stealth must be the keynote of every advance along this part of the line and black nights are the only screens available for troops here. It is the work of the hundred and fifty to prepare these surprises, or, as frequently happens, since attacks by large numbers of infantry have become impossible on account of the water, to make the dash themselves.

Here is an illustration. It was learned that the Germans had established themselves on one of the many islands jutting out of the inundation and were using it for various effective operations. An observer posted in the massive tower of a mediaeval church there was giving most deadly instructions by telephone to the German batteries of eight inch guns situated so far back that the much lighter Belgian guns were ineffective against them. Something had to be done to put this outpost out of commission.

That night twenty men went out to capture the island, it being believed that it was occupied by only eight or ten men. None of the twenty came back.

The second night one of the one

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Lyric Soprano  
**MARY SCHULTZ**  
Violinist  
**MISS SAUTER**  
Pianist  
IN  
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First Baptist Church  
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