

Forty-fourth Year,
Daily—Ninth Year

MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1915

NO. 1

120,000 TAKEN PRISONERS WHEN PRZEMYSL FELL

Many Troops Chosen to Break Ring of Besiegers in Final Sortie, Refused to Go to Glory as Ordered by Commander in Flowery, Patriotic Address.

PETROGRAD, March 23.—The statement from the war department issued today regarding the number of prisoners taken follows:
"According to figures given by General Kusmanek, late commander at Przemysl, the number of prisoners who surrendered to the Russians was nine generals and ninety-three officers of the general staff, 2500 officers and officials and 117,000 men.
"The number of guns and other war material captured is being calculated."

PETROGRAD, via London, March 23.—Events which preceded the final desperate sortie of the beleaguered garrison in the Austrian fortress of Przemysl, designed to break through the encircling ring of Russian troops, are described in an official communication issued here last night. The statement says:
"During the last days before the final sortie, the garrison received increased rations. Each soldier was given biscuits to last five days, warm new clothing and new boots. Officers were instructed to explain to the troops that if they returned to the fortress an inglorious fate awaited them, and consequently they must pierce the Russian front at any cost."

Story of Last Sortie

"An easterly direction was chosen for the sortie, as the line of least resistance, as well as because it led to the district where the Russians had large stores of arms and ammunition. More than 20,000 men were ordered to participate in the sortie, but several units refused to move, despite the urgings of commanders. Only the 23d Heaved division and some parts of the 85th Landwehr and Fourth Hussars took an active part. They were promptly and decisively defeated.

"An official Austrian communication states that the garrison returned to Przemysl because it encountered overwhelming resistance. In this connection it should be noted that the Russian forces near Przemysl never were large and the great sortie was repulsed principally by territorial troops and reserves.

Order of Commander

"Following is the text of an order issued by General Kusmanek to the garrison of the fortress March 18, the day before the sortie:
"Soldiers: For half a year we children of almost all nationalities of the beloved fatherland have been incessantly opposing the enemy. With the help of God and your bravery we have successfully defended the fortress against the enemy despite attacks, privations and cold.
"You already merit the highest

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BLUE CROSS TO CARE FOR ITALIANS

ROME, via Paris, March 23, 6 a. m.—The Italian government has asked President Hawksley of the English Society for the Protection of Animals whether he would be willing to organize a Blue Cross society in this country in case of war. Mr. Hawksley estimated that the cost of a complete hospital, including horse ambulances, food for animals, surgical instruments and stables, would be 75,000 francs. It is understood that if Italy enters the conflict the British Blue Cross stands ready to provide a completely equipped hospital if contributions are started here.

GALE HINDERS NEW ASSAULT DARDANELLES

Forts in Narrows Reported Still Intact and Capable of Offering Determined Resistance—Russians Are Driven Out of Memel—On Offensive in Northern Poland.

LONDON, March 23.—A gale blew through the Dardanelles straits yesterday and the allied warships did not leave their anchorages, says a dispatch from Athens.

It seems certain that Forts Chanak Kalesi, Hamedieh and Kild Bahr still are capable of offering a stubborn resistance. A number of Turkish field batteries have been posted along the straits and German howitzers have been mounted on rails so they can be moved quickly to threatened points. This is supposed to explain the firing from certain forts such as Kum Kala, which were supposed to have been destroyed.

Still a Hard Fight

The latest authentic information from the Dardanelles sets forth positively that only the secondary defenses of the straits have suffered from the bombardment of the allied fleets, the other forts in the narrows are intact. This report finds confirmation in the present status of the diplomatic situation in the near East, which indicates that the allies have still a hard fight in front of them.

The latest Russian invasion of Germany is said at Berlin to have met with the same fate as its predecessors. Today's official German communication contains the announcement that the Russian forces which captured Memel, at the northern end of East Prussia have been driven back and that German troops, pursuing them across the border, have captured the Russian town of Krotzingen.

Russians on Offensive

The Russians are still on the offensive in northern Poland but so far as the day's dispatches show their attacks have been attended by no important results. The German war office asserts that the Russians have been driven back in every instance.

Apart from a few small movements such as have been in progress for several months, the initiative in France and Belgium yesterday was left to the airmen. Aviators of the allies attacked Ostend and German aeroplanes dropped bombs on Rheims. The German statement says that a French aviator was shot down near Verdun and that another French machine was forced to descend near Frieberg.

Italy Getting Ready

Italy is preparing rapidly for whatever may result from the negotiations with Austria, now represented as having reached an important stage. A royal decree is soon to be signed establishing rules designed to suppress spies. Women are to be put to work in the places of the men in case of total mobilization of the army.

CLAIM FLEET LOST FIVE WARSHIPS IN DARDANELLES

BERLIN, March 23 (by wireless).—The Overseas News Agency today gave out the following:
"According to a detailed description of the Franco-British losses at the Dardanelles, as given out by an Athens newspaper, 2000 men were killed and five warships sunk. Four other warships were damaged badly. The commander of the British battle cruiser Inflexible was killed and the members of the crew were drowned by the inrush of water. The French battleship Suffren was damaged seriously."

The British admiralty's account of the fighting at the Dardanelles on March 18 said that the Inflexible was hit by a heavy shell on the forward control position and required repairs. Official records have given only three warships of the allied fleet as having been destroyed.

NEWS PICTURE SHOWING U.S.S. PENNSYLVANIA SLIDING INTO THE WATER



The powerful Pennsylvania, the most terrible battleship ever built, photographed slipping down the ways at Newport News, Va., as Miss Elizabeth Kolb—shown in insert—of Germantown, pronounced by Governor Brumbaugh "the sweetest girl in Pennsylvania," smashed a bottle of champagne on the bow and christened the ship. The new warship is of 31,400 tons displacement, 4000 greater than her nearest rival, the Queen Elizabeth of the British fleet. It carries 12 14-inch guns, hurling a much heavier broadside than the eight 15-inch guns of the Elizabeth. The Pennsylvania will make 21 knots an hour. She is 680 feet long, 97 feet beam, and when complete will have cost \$513,000,000.

WILSON ADMITS NOTE OF INQUIRY SENT TO JAPAN

WASHINGTON, March 23.—President Wilson said today that the only definite thing that could be said on the Japanese-Chinese negotiations was that the United States had addressed an inquiry to Japan concerning her demands on China. When asked whether Tokio dispatches were correct in saying the American government had inquired about "minor points," the president made it clear that he did not consider the points of a minor character.

Another dispatch from Tokio stating that the United States had approved of Japan's explanation for the demands was brought to the president's attention and he referred to it as "unfounded," pointing out that the United States had neither approved nor disapproved, having, in fact, not received Japan's reply.

CZAR'S EMISSARY THANKS AMERICANS

PETROGRAD, March 23.—General Kamoroff, acting as a special emissary from Emperor Nicholas, visited the American hospital in Petrograd today, accompanied by two members of the imperial staff. He was received by the American ambassador, Geo. T. Marye, Jr., the whole embassy staff and the president of the hospital.

On behalf of the emperor, General Kamoroff thanked the Americans for their assistance in caring for the Russian wounded. Twenty of these patients stood at attention during the ceremony. Three of them were decorated by the general for bravery in action.

FIFTY-SIX DEAD FROM AVALANCHE AT BRITANIA MINE

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 23.—Fifty-six dead and 22 injured is the latest official estimate of the casualties in the avalanche disaster which occurred Sunday midnight at the miners' camp at the Britannia mine. It was not only a snowslide, but a landslide. A slice of a mountain at the side of the little mining village came away, and it was this that covered the wreckage of buildings many feet deep in rocks and snow. Monday afternoon a second but smaller slide occurred, and the miners are now working with one eye on the mountainside hanging above them, expecting any time to hear another crash.

LINER SEIZED FOR VIOLATION OF NEUTRALITY LAW

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Proceedings under the neutrality resolution, passed during the closing days of the last congress, will be brought against the captain or owners of the Hamburg-American liner Odenwald, halted by shots across her bows when she attempted to leave San Juan, Porto Rico, without clearance papers last Sunday. This was made known today at the white house. Attorney-General Gregory said definite steps will be taken within the next few days.

Forfeiture of the vessel to the United States is among the penalties which may be imposed, if it is proven that the ship tried to leave without clearance papers in order to carry contraband of war.

MARY PICKFORD VOTED THE MOST POPULAR ACTRESS

The Ladies' World which has taken a worldwide vote during the past several months on who is the most famous actress, announces in its April number that Mary Pickford won by a very large majority. Out of a total vote of 2,682,900, divided among six contestants, she received 1,147,550, or nearly 450,000 more than her nearest competitor.

See Mary Pickford's own wonderful story, which begins in serial form in the Mail Tribune Wednesday.



MURDERER OF BRIDES IN BATH PLACED ON TRIAL

George Joseph Smith Charged With Making Away With Three Wives—Greed for Wealth Cause of Crimes—Induced Women He Courted to Deed Property to Him.

LONDON, March 23.—Charged with the murder of three women, Geo. Joseph Smith, in the Bow street court today heard Public Prosecutor Bodkin charge him with making away with three of his wives. Each woman, it was charged, had been murdered shortly after Smith had married her. Each woman was found dead in her bath. The case has come to be known as the "brides in baths" case.

Smith described himself as a man of independent means. According to evidence of Scotland Yard, he made use of various fictitious names in his matrimonial ventures. The women he married were found dead a few days after the ceremony. Verdicts of accidental death were at first returned, but later certain of the bodies were exhumed and charges of murder preferred.

Names and Dates of Crimes

The names of the three women and the dates of the alleged murders were given by the public prosecutor as follows: Beatrice Mundy, July, 1912; Alice Burnham, December, 1913, and Margaret Lofty, December, 1914. According to the evidence given at a preliminary hearing, Smith was married under the name of John Lloyd to Margaret Elizabeth Lofty at a registry office at Bath in December, 1914. The couple came to London the same day and the next morning the bride was found dead in her bath. Her husband called a doctor, who reported the matter. An inquest was held. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death.

Under Another Name

In February information reached the police that Lloyd was not the husband's name. He was arrested and identified, the police say, as Geo. Joseph Smith, who in November, 1913, had married at Portsmouth, Miss Alice Burnham, who a month later also had been found dead in her bath. In this case, too, a coroner's jury brought in a verdict of accidental death. The police also have had the body of another woman exhumed. This woman, who also died in her bath, shortly after her marriage at Herne, was married to a man who gave the name of Henry Williams, and who is believed by the police to be George Joseph Smith.

Married Five Times

Prosecutor Bodkin said the accused had been married five times in all. His first wife was Caroline Beatrice Thornhill, whom he married in 1898, and who now is on her way to London from Canada.

"The case is remarkable for the greed for wealth which was the dominant motive in the taking of these three lives," the prosecutor said. "We shall show that at the death of two of them, £2800 (\$14,000) was obtained and that the prisoner when arrested was in a fair way to obtain £700 more."

Greed for Wealth

The prosecutor related how Smith had ardently courted each woman (Continued on page two.)

SUBSTITUTE WOMEN FOR WORK IN ITALY

ROME, via Paris, March 23.—A movement is under way in Italy to substitute women for men in the work of industry and commerce in case of complete mobilization. It is proposed that the women be paid the same wages as now received by male workers, with the provision that part of it be turned over to the families of men called to the colors. The plan provides that the female workers shall surrender their posts to the soldiers when they are disbanded. An office has been opened where women may register and express an opinion as to what work they are best able to do in case of need.

MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN NORTH PERSIA

Turks Murder and Plunder—Villages Destroyed and Many Killed, Women Taken Captives—Fifteen Thousand Refugees at American Mission—Europeans Attacked.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Reports of plundering and murdering of Christians in northern Persia were contained in a cablegram from Tiflis, Trans-Caucasia, received today by the Persian war relief committee with headquarters in this city. The cablegram said:

"All villages burned except three. Two Christian quarters of Urmiah plundered and a great many people killed. Women taken captives. Fifteen thousand refugees in the American mission. Great danger.
"The French mission has been destroyed. There are 10,000 refugees in Russia."
The message was signed by Aslanoff, a Russian contractor of Tiflis.

Under American Flag

Urmiah is in northwest Persia. Ten thousand persons were housed in the mission there three weeks ago, according to information received here. These refugees included almost the entire native Christian population of the city, between 4,000 and 5,000 the two or three hundred American missionaries and teachers whose activities have been conducted under the board's supervision and a heterogeneous aggregation of foreigners. Danes, Swedes, Norwegians, and other Europeans pressed beside Moslems in the headlong flight for life from the mob to the missions, according to the reports. The doors were opened to all. All who could be accommodated within the buildings, it was said, were accorded the protection of the American flag.

Abandoned by Russia

The missions themselves embrace a number of buildings, including a great school a mile and half from the city proper. Several thousand persons, it was thought, could find protection within its walls. Buildings within the city include a modern hospital, twenty five churches and other schools. Over the principal buildings the American flag has been placed.

The French mission referred to, it was said, was founded by the Lazarists order, and included the territory of the provinces, embraced twenty six chapels and meeting places.
The Christian quarters which were invaded, it was said, were occupied by colonies of native Christians who called themselves Nestorians and whose occupancy dated back more than 1500 years.

Urmiah was abandoned by the Russians early in their Persian campaign.

CONTRABAND FOUND ON STEAMER FINLAND

NAPLES, via Paris, March 23.—Contraband ammunition was found aboard the steamer Finland by customs officials here, according to reports printed in Naples newspapers. It is said that six customs guards are accompanying the steamer to Genoa for a thorough search there, as it is believed the cargo contains more contraband than was found here.

The Finland is a steamer of 7927 tons, which sailed from New York for Gibraltar February 27, where she arrived March 9 and then cleared for Naples and Genoa.

PORTLAND CAN USE LAND FOR AUDITORIUM

SALEM, Or., March 23.—The Oregon supreme court today decided in favor of the city of Portland in a suit instituted by Gordon Lang and others to enjoin its officials from using block No. 132 for the erection of a public auditorium. The decision was an affirmation of the circuit court of Multnomah county.