MEDFORD OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1916

NO. 289

# ARMORED FORT

Northeastern Corner Pillar of Main Fortifications of Verdun Reported Stormed by Germans and Now in Their Possession—Is Four Miles From Verdun.

BERLIN, Feb. 26 .- It is officially announced that Fort Douamont, one of the fortifications of Verdun, was taken by storm yesterday afternoon and is now firmly held by the Ger-

The official announcement is as follows:

The armored fort of Douamont the northeastern corner pillar of the permanent main fine fortifications of the stronghold of Verdun, was stormed yesterday afternoon by the twenty-fourth regiment of Brandenburg infantry and is now firmly in German hands."

Four Miles From Verdun Fort Douamont lies four miles northeast of Verdun. It is one of nearly a score of forts circling Verdun and is situated just to the north of the railroad running east from the city of Mets

Donamont is one of a cluster of seven forts protecting Verdun from the east. Forts De Sauville, De Tav-annes and St. Michel lie directly between the position conquered by the

Germans and the city of Verdun. The conquest of this fort was made by the right wing of the huge attacking army, which has scored the great est advance in the assault on the French position. Douamont is some what to the east of what has hither to been the principal line of progress seing situated four miles east of the Meuse river. The main force of the German attack as indicated by the previous communications, was being exerted southward along the Meuse Important Achievement

The capture of Douaumont is the most important achievement since the inauguration of the German drive at Verdun-an onslaught which for fury and for weight of men and guns has few precedents in the war. The French war office has expressed confidence that, notwithstanding the admitted great strength of the German fortresses would be able to hold out. These positions form what has been regarded as one of the greatest strongholds of Europe. It is the strongholds of Europe. It is the conclusion he said: "We are prepar-strongest fortress of France and is ed for all eventualities that may of particular importance from the arise from our exercising our rights." fact that it offers direct communication with Paris, which is 150 miles to the west. Verdun marks the northerly point of the great French defenses against direct attacks from German territory, the most southerly being Belfort, as between the two points lie the stretch of frontier on which Germany touches France. France has other fortified points further north, but not of such importance. The most important, probably, of these latter was Maubeuge, which was taken by the Germans with sacrifices to them estimated at the time, in September, 1914, as between 80,000 and 140,000.

### LYMAN ASKS TO RETURN TO PRISON

TAMPA, Fla., Feb. 27.- J. Grant Lyman, under federal court indictment in New York on charges of us ing the mails to defraud while oper ating under the firm name, "John H Putnam & Co.," today admitted his identity when taken before a United States commissioner for examina-

Lyman expressed a desire to be re turned to California, where he is under sentence to serve 18 months on

a former charge. Lyman said: "I was sentenced to prison in California, but would just as soon serve that sentence in the Federal prison at Atlanta, if that would be of convenience to the federal government. My bond has not been forfeited. If I choose to surrender to my bondsmen I have every right to do so, and that is my intention. When I am released from prison the New York authorities can

CHAMPAGNE CAPTURE FIRST GERMAN LINE

♦ BTRLIN, Feb. 26,-The ♦ French forces in the Chamthe German positions south of 4 St. Marie-a-Py. The war office 4 statement says the French penthe first German 4 ♦ trenches over a distance of ♦ about 250 yards.

German newspapers admit 4 that heavy losses are being sus- 4 16 tained in the Verdun offensive and warn the public against ex- ◆ travagant hopes. The Frank ◆ furter Zeitung declares that the German regiments are "fighting 4 In a sea of fire."

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### TO DESTROY GERMAN SHIPS IN PORTUGUESE PORTS

LISBON, Feb. 26.-The Portuguese premier stated in the chamber of deputies today that attempts had been made to damage seven of the Teutonic ships requisitioned by the government and that an explosive had been found on the steamship Buelow of the North German Lloyd company. The premier added that he considered it in the best interests of Portugal that the existing treaty with Germany be allowed to lapse and said that the Portuguese government was prepared for all eventuali-ties that might arise from the exer-Portugal of her rights.

Dr. Alfonso Costa, the premier, in the north, northeast, east and south-answer to a question by Deputy Camacho regarding the employment to that the government's action in reqeconomic situation. The requisition, as was possible, attempts at willful which had in fact been made on

seven of them. An explosive apparatus had been ably Marcheville-en-Woevre. Buelow, which would have caused an highway, thirteen miles east of Verexplosion when the vessel moved. An dun. explosion was prevented, but steamship was damaged. Minister Costa said he further considered it try that the existing treaty with ish detachment east of Armentieres Germany should be denounced and was repulsed.

# TO SHAKESPEARE

One Tuesday, March 7, Burbank on as far as the village and armored pay, the Greater Medford club, in conjunction with the Drama league, will plant a tree on the library "In the plain of the Woevre, the grounds as a memorial to Shakes-

In order that all of the schools may participate, the exercises will ville), south of the national highroad not begin until 4:30 in the after- from Paris to Metz. Our troops are

The Washington and the Roosevelt chools will each supply two choruses the high school band will play and an address will be given by a local Representative citizens will plant the tree.

All are invited to come and help to make this a memorable occasion.

## TWO DEMOCRATIC

ed before Iowa voters at the June 5 expecting as a reward that Miss primary this year, as the result of a Howell should be his wife, will redecision early today by leaders of so-decision early today by leaders of so-decisi called progressive democrats to en-

ter a slate of their own. After an all-night meeting the conference unanimously selected Sena-tor John T. Clarkson of Albia, leader of the dry forces in the 36th general assembly, to head the new ticket as candidate for governor in opposition after. Bates sued the estate for to the regular democratic ticket,

# WOEVRE PLAIN

Claim Considerable Advances Made East of Meuse, in & Trust & Savings Bank. Parker Presence of Kaiser-Attack De- + Eight Jurors have been accept- + velops Along Wide Front South and + East of Verdun.

BERLIN, Feb. 26 .- An official statement issued today says that considerable advances have been made east of the Meuse in the region north of Verdun, in the presence of Empr or William.

The war office also announced the capture of the hills southwest of the village of Louvemont and the fortified positions to the east thereof.

Resistance of the French broke down on the Woevre plain along the entire front to Marphoville, south of the highroad from Paris to Metz. "We are pursuing the retreating

enemy. "the statement says. Wide Front of Battle. The German statement indicates gion north of Verdun along which pressure hitherto has been exerted. The highroad from Paris to Metz referred to runs through Verdun, passing slightly to the southeast. It is crossed at a point about fifteen miles east of Verdun by the German line, bending southward in the sal-ient to St. Mihiel. Verdun is thus being assailed simultaneously from

Apparently the Germans are dewhich the requisitioned German and veloping an attack similar to that additional officers for the regular ceasing Austrian vessels would be put, said employed frequently with marked army was increased from 768 enemy. success against the Russian fortified uisitioning them had been prompted by the necessities of the nation's summer. Their tactics were to bend he said, had been carried out simul- of the selected point of attack and men, of which 50 per cent must be cles regarding the progress of tancously in order to forestall, so far compel evacuation of the fortress recruited within two years. back the Russian lines on both sides itself

damage of the ships, which there was reason to believe could be made, and man statement as marking the south-The town referred to in the Gerern end of the portion of the French front which has been broken is probfound in the boilers of the steamship town is just south of the Paris-Metz

> Official Statement. The statement follows:

Western front: On the night of was in the best interests of the coun- February 25 an advance by a Brit-

made an attack south of St. Marie-a-Py position which we captured Pebruary 12. They succeeded in pene trating our first line trenches over a

width of 250 yards. "East of the Meuse, considerable advances were made on the battlefront in the presence of the kingemperor. Our brave troops gained consession of the hills southwest of he village of Louvemont and to the group of fortified positions situated east thereof. In the fierce rush forward Brandenburg regiments pushed

enemy's resistance broke down along the entire front as far as the neighborhood of Marchoville (Marcheclosely pursuing the retreating

capture of the village of Champheuville, reported yesterday, was based on erroneous report"

### FARMHAND GIVEN JUDGEMENT FOR BRIDE

DES MOINES, la., Feb. 26 .-DES MOINES, Ia. Feb. 26.—Two full democratic tickets may be placed before Iowa voters at the June 5 expecting as the function of the first tended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun. The attack of the first tended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun.

an understanding that when Mr. Howell died he would marry Mins ceas of the attack. death of his daughter followed soon \$40,000 back pay.

tion. When I am released from prison the New York authorities can do what they see fit, but not before. Noted each keep me out of Jail II wait to go in.

\*\*SERIES OF ACCIDENTS\*\*

\*\*CAUSE SMALL PAPER\*\*

\*\*The Mail Triume is forced to day, through shorting of paper to appear in abbreviated form to-day, through shorting of paper to day on account of depression in the full years appear to appear to appear in abbreviated form to day, through shorting of paper to day on account of depression in the full years appear to appear to

LORIMER JURYMAN ASKS LEAVE TO WORK UPON CHURCH REPORT

sion to work on an annual church report instead of playing cards" during spare moments, should be decline as a juryman, was granted Arthur & W. Parker, who has been tent- & atively accepted by both sides ♦ for the jury in the trial of Wil- ♦ hiam Lorimer, former United ♦ States senator, charged with & fraud in connection with collapse of the La Salle Street 4 A is treasurer of a local church.

ed tentatively by both sides,

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26,-The 000 men, with a 2 per cent allowance republicans and three democrats car- sacrifices.

Voting began at a proposal for 220,000 men. The number was grad- on a most sangulary character. ually scaled down, until a proposal vote. three democrats put through the pro-

The section of reorganizing the Na tional Guard was framed to provide for a maximum strength of 424,000 day in official and parliamentary cir-

The senate committee has pracseveral summer student encampments at the direction of the president although unbroken at the end of the Those who take the instruction sixth day of battle, was, however, would be mustered into a special again rectified as a measure of profederal reserve pledging themselves dence, the left wing being drawn into to serve the country if needed, but Champneuville and the right wing being quite apart from the regular being brought back a little south of army reserve or the National Guard.

army scheme somewhat.

# **BLUE STEM WHEAT**

Portland grain exchange plunged war has yet seen, downward 11c today on receipt of rumors that Verdun had fallen and in sympathy with drops in mid-west-ern markets. There were no sales battlefield. "They are gnawing at

but all bid prices were affected. The bid prices for April bluestem fell from \$1.04 to 93c per bushel. March bluestem fell from \$1.03 to 93c; spot bluestem fell off 9c, de-

### CHAMPAGNE FEINT PRECEEDED VERDUN HAPGOODS TELLS

PARIS, Feb. 26 .- The Petit Parisien says that the battle now raging Louis D. Bates, a farmhand who before Verdun was preceded February 12 by a felut in Champagne intended to divert attention from the coming attack on Verdun. The atcoming attack on Verdun. The atweekly, today told the senate judicnual river and harbor improvements department have been sent to Vienna, and the construction for 1917 (or this project. What annual river and harbor improvements department have been sent to Vienna, and the construction for the construction of the construction for the construct

♦ SERIES OF ACCIDENTS !

# ABOUT VERDUN

Germans Continuing Violent Attacks Without Regard to Sacrifices-Attacks in Region of Douaumont Alleged to Have Failed With Tremendous Slaughter.

PARIS, Feb. 26 .- The Germans ire continuing their violent attacks north of Verdun without regard to their sacrifices, the war office announces this afternoon.

The German attacks in the region of Douaumont, east of the Meuse, have failed, the war office said, notwithstanding repeated attacks and tremendous slaughter. The text of the statement follows:

Sacrifices Not Counted "The fighting is still being carried on bitterly in the region north of house military committee today voted | Verdun, where the enemy continues for a regular standing army of 137 .- his efforts on the front east of the Meuse. After the last engagement development of the attack along a for recruiting, bringing the number our troops retained their positions in wide front south and east of the rethan the war department asked. The enemy, which no longer counts his

In the region of Beaumont the battle which is still raging has taken

'On the front of the Woevre the for 150,000 men was beaten by one advance post which we held as lipes Then the republicans and of observation from Ornes to Mennemont since the battles of last fall vision as it was finally accepted by have been attacked by infantry forces the committee to be incorporated in from both sides of the Meuse. Our the bill to be presented to the house, artillery on both right and left The war department's estimate for banks of the river replies without additional officers for the regular ceasing to the bombardment of the

Line Still Unbroken

"Serious, but not disquieting," is the common phrase which is used to-Germans in their attack against Ver-Unaffected by the snow storm. agreed on a provision for the Germans hammered away all day The new front, barely three The plan resembles the continental miles in length, extends along the leights, offering every advantage for lefense and forming one of the most

rown prince is harling his masses. e launched from this line at a pre-riedly. cise and decisive moment, and that it will drive back across the ground already covered with the dead PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 26.—April loss which are being hurled forward in the most bloody assault which this war has yet seen.

Hottest Battle Yet "The work up there is hot, in deed," said an officer who has just our lines a little faster, but with no positive advantage for themselves. WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Adop-Previous attacks made by the Ger-tion of the commission plan of dealteries, admirably handled, have officials and a committee of sense steamer Petrolite in the Mediterran-changed ground in masterly style, and the losses to the enemy are real-and the losses to the enemy are real-

# OF HIRING BRANDEIS

ceive \$15,300 as the result of a jury's wind, the Petit Parisien says, ren-Collier's had employed Mr. Brandeis verdict in the Polk county district dered ineffective a large quantity of in the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation Bates contended he worked with which were relied upon for the suc-n understanding that when Mr. dess of the attack. Mr. Howell died, and the \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ed and for whom Brandels ostensibly his daughter followed soon

We had published Mr. Glavis, IES OF ACCIDENTS + charges and thought he ought to be CAUSE SMALL PAPER + fully supported by us," said Mr

**♦ GERMANS REPULSED** WITH 17,000 LOSSES IN FLANDERS ATTACK

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 26 .- The

 ◆ Germans have gathered a con ◆ siderable number of troops in forcements have been continuously arriving since December, according to the Echo Belge. Not less than eighteen at- 4 tacks were made recently by the 4 · Germans against the narrow · front at Steenstracte, on the Comines canal, south of Hill

No. 160, declares the newspaper. Only two attacks had any 4 success, but the German 4 losses must have been heavy, it being estimated that the kill ed and wounded totaled 17,000.

### ITALIANS EVACUATE DURAZZO, ALBANIA FOLLOWING, DEFEAT

ROME, Feb. 26, via Paris. - The report that Durazzo, an Albanian port on the Adriatic sea, had been evacnated by the Italian troops stationed there is confirmed. An official statement says

banian troops from Albania has been rather than constusive. completed.

BERLIN, Feb. 25, via London, Feb. Reports from Austrian press headquarters predict the early fall state department, of the Albanian city of Durazzo as a result of the defeat on Wednesday of the Italians and the Albanian forces fenses for the city have been constructed and the indications were that spirited resistance would be offered.

The Austrians and Germans attacked at daybreak. The defenders were soon ejected from their postward the Italians on the southern dent's international policy in the bank of the lower Arzen were forced present diplomatic crisis but could to abandon their positions. The Aus- not introduce it today under the trians crossed the river and pro- rules. ceeded southward.

At noon a decisive action east of Bazar Sjak drove the Italians from no intention of transferring the nestrong positions. The same fate was gotiations to Berlin to be conducted formidable obstacles before the en-trenched camp of Verdun.

Bianco, six miles east of Durazzo, By evening the entire outer girdle of deserving the entire outer girdle of deserving the state deserving the is in this narrow space that the fenses was taken. The attackers ad- and reiterated that the

93c; spot bluestem fell off 9c, descending from \$1.02 to 93c. The grain that held steadiest was forty-fold, but this slumped 5c, going from 94c to 87c. Oats fell from \$25.60 at their formidable attacks. The artility of the standard of the

ly fabulous. Ours are slight, a feeble Redfield, who were named by the the submarine commander thought percentage of theirs." Redfield, who were named by the the submarine commander thought percentage of theirs." Garrison to investigate the problem guised under the American and Senatora Newlands, Stroussard that he fired upon her as the ship and Ransdell, participated in the changed her course, and he believed conference. The policy agreed upon, she was about to ram him, and that it is believed, will be recommended the Petrolite's captain voluntarily to congress by President Wilson in Jurnished provisions to the submersthe near future.

The agreement proposes that there | Secretary Lansing said today that shall be given special immediate at- Austria's communication was not a ention to the lower Mississippi river reply to the American protest, and

## WAR RUMORS SEND VILLA REPORTED WHEAT TUMBLING

Advices From Berlin Forecast Proposal for Discussion of What Constitutes an Armed Merchantman-One of Entente Allies Replies to Suggested Disarmament.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 .- The inited States, Secretary Lansing Indicated today, may discuss the question of what properly may be regarded as armament on a merchant ship, if the question is raised. Confidential advices from Berlin

have forecast a proposal for such a discussion by Germany, which con-tends that armanent permitted un-der international law as defense had become offensive with the advent of the submarine.

Until the question is raised Mr. Lansing regards it as premioure to announce the position of the state department.

One of the entente allies, to which Secretary Lansing suggested disarmament of merchant ships, replied to day but the nature of the reply or The Italian brigade at Durazzo the name of the government which been withdrawn and has emmade it will not be disclosed until made it will not be disclosed until barked, the Albanian government all of the allies have answered. The having left the place, the withdrawal impression prevailed that it was impression prevailed that it of the Serbian, Montenegrin and Al- italy, and the reply argumentative

Senators Ready for Issue. Chairman Flood, of the house fer-eign affairs committee, exchanged views with Secretary Lansing at the

Senator Lewis, of Illinois, democratic whip of the senate, notified Senator Stone that the supporters of under Essad Pasha the provisional the president were ready for the president. A strong line of outer de- Gore resolution to warn Americans against sailing on armed merchantmen to come to a vote at any time. He said a canvass of the senate showed there was a safe majority against the resolution.

Senator Lewis had prepared a resolution which would commit the sentions at Bazar Sjak. Shortly after- ate to an endorsement of the presi-

No Transfer to Berlie.

Mr. Lansing today said there was suffered by the defenders of Sassa between Ambassador Gerard and the Military observers here express the belief that the counter offensive will were belief that the counter offensive will were contact that the state dewere embarking their troops hur- declaration that the new submarine campaign would not be conducted in dolation of previous assurances for the safety of Americans traveling on unresisting liners.

## FOR WATERWAYS AUSTRIA'S EXCUSE IN PETROLITE CASE

Secretaries Lane, Houston and that her version of the affair is that

Tule.

# CASAS GRANDES