

Forty-fifth Year.  
Daily—Tenth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1916

NO. 295

# SUGAR MILL FOR 1916 IS PROMISED

Deal to Be Consummated Monday for Factory to Be Located Between Medford and Tolo—5000 Acres of Beets Required and Guaranteed by Commercial Beet Committee—Whirlwind Campaign for Acreage Begins Monday—Telegrams Tell Story.

A beet sugar factory for this district seems assured. The syndicate represented by Colonel J. F. Mundy, will consummate the deal Monday at New York City. The Medford Commercial club committee has guaranteed 5000 acres of sugar beets and will early Monday begin the campaign to sign the acreage. Headquarters will be opened in the exhibit building and a rush campaign inaugurated. The contracts will provide payment at shipping point of \$5 per ton.

The following telegrams tell the story. S. G. Skleris is a member of the syndicate. He has operated extensively in Utah and Colorado as a labor contractor, furnishing white labor for sugar work. He made an extensive examination of the valley and its soil some weeks ago when he visited Medford with a party of capitalists.

New York, N. Y., March 2.—C. E. Gates, Medford Commercial club, Medford, Or.

Deal will be consummated Monday morning for a sugar factory to be located between Medford and Tolo for 1916 crop if our people will guarantee 5000 acres. We have secured the seed. We need the support of the people of Rogue river valley. We want every acre of land we can get suitable for raising sugar beets. The greater the acreage the larger the factory. We have seed for 7000 acres. It can get sufficient acreage we will build second factory for 1917 crop. Have arranged with S. G. Skleris to furnish any necessary labor in raising the beets. Will the people who will be benefited by a sugar factory on the floor of the valley, to be built for 1916 crop, guarantee to us 5000 acres? Answer quick at my expense. Waldorf Hotel. J. F. MUNDY.

Acreage Guaranteed. Medford, Or., March 3.—J. F. Mundy, Hotel Waldorf, New York City: We guarantee 5000 acres. People anxious and waiting for word to go ahead. MEDFORD COMMERCIAL CLUB, BY C. E. GATES.

New York, N. Y., March 3.—C. E. Gates, Medford Commercial club: Saw your message to Mundy. You can say to your people that we will build a sugar factory on the floor of the Rogue river valley between Medford and Tolo this year. We want all the acreage we can get. I will furnish any necessary labor to take care of crops. S. G. SKLERIS.

NEW YORK, March 4.—Medford Mail Tribune, Medford, Oregon: Today I received messages from the Medford Commercial club, First National bank, Medford National bank, and the Jackson County bank, stating that the people in our end of the Rogue river valley wanted a sugar factory. Please say to them through the columns of your paper that they

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# CHINESE RECAPTURE SUIFU IN SZE-CHUEN

PEKIN, China, March 4.—Official announcement was made here today that the city of Suifu, in the southern part of Sze-Chuen province, has been recaptured by government troops. Suifu was taken by rebel forces which advanced from Yunnan province and held by them until Thursday.

# SENATE ARMY BILL PROVIDES PREPAREDNESS

Chamberlain Introduces Most Comprehensive Measure—Increases the Peace Strength of Army to 178,000, Federalizes National Guard and Creates Volunteer Army.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The senate army bill was introduced today by Chairman Chamberlain of the military committee. It proposes the most thorough measures of military preparedness ever presented to congress in peace time and is the first of the national defense bills urged by President Wilson to be introduced.

**Provides a Reserve.**  
The measure proposes to increase the peace strength of the regular army to 178,000 men of all arms, to federalize the national guard with a peace strength of 271,000 men, to create a federal volunteer army comparable to the continental army proposed by former Secretary Garrison to provide adequate reserve systems of the regulars and guardsmen under short-term enlistments with the colors, to create a far-reaching reserve of engineers, doctors, mechanics and all other civilian supporters of the fighting troops and to provide an officers' reserve corps with definite obligations to the government.

Under the senate plan, federalization of the national guard is proposed under a military pay bill and the authority of the national government over the body, in times of peace, or would be widely extended to secure adequate training and discipline.

**Comprehensive Measure.**  
"It is the most comprehensive measure in the way of preparedness ever presented to either house of congress," Senator Chamberlain said. "The essential features comprise a sufficient increase of the regular army to enable the mobilized force to be organized in divisions or brigades, and to provide a sufficient corps of coast artillery to man existing and approved new batteries. The new mobile army will comprise sixty-four regiments of infantry, organized into seven divisions; twenty-five regiments of cavalry organized into two divisions, and the remaining regiments attached to infantry divisions; twenty-one regiments of field artillery and seven regiments of engineers. This will give proper garrisons to Panama, Hawaii and the Philippines and provide four infantry and two cavalry divisions within the United States."

# SNOW STORM IN NORTHERN OREGON

PORTLAND, March 4.—Snow was falling in Portland today, as well as over a large portion of Oregon. As a consequence of the storm wire traffic was interrupted to a large extent in the western part of the state.

In Portland the ground was covered with an inch of snow, but was melting rapidly. The local weather bureau says there have been but few instances where snow has lain on the ground in March. Railroads report no serious delays. The temperature here during the forenoon hovered around 28 degrees.

Reports from Dallas say that from 3 to 12 inches of snow have fallen over Polk county. Farming and logging operations have again been suspended.

# LA FOLLETTE BILL IN EFFECT TODAY

NEW YORK, March 4.—Preparations have been made here to put into effect today the La Follette seaman's law as applied to foreign vessels. It has been operative since November 4 as affecting American ships. Government agents are expected to inspect clearance papers to any foreign ships coming to comply with the requirements of the act.

# HOUSE TO ACT ON ARMED SHIPS BILLS TUESDAY

Matter to Be Brought Up Early on Convening—Absence of Representatives on Week-End Trip Prevents Action Today—Action to Be of Decisive Character.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The next step in President Wilson's fight to dispose of the armed ship agitation in congress has been postponed until Tuesday.

At an early conference today administration leaders in the house decided not to insist upon a vote today. This afternoon the rules committee will meet to frame a rule to table the McLenore resolution to warn Americans off the armed ships of the European belligerents. The rule will be brought in with the first business Tuesday when the administration forces plan to dispose of it by a substantial majority. The foreign affairs committee already has agreed on the resolution.

**Plan Complete Victory.**  
Administration forces plan that the action in the house shall give no room for doubts of the decisive character of the sentiment in congress. They plan that the action to table the McLenore resolution, which will include a declaration that the president shall handle diplomatic affairs, without congressional interference.

The leaders are confident they have the votes to make their victory complete and undisputed.

Leaders explained that the postponement was agreed upon because of the absence of so many members on week-end trips.

**Members are Absent.**  
Many left yesterday under the impression, it was said, that the house session today, which began at 10 o'clock, was to end at noon and would consider only claim bills.

Administration officials said today that practically all senators who voted yesterday to table the Gore resolution were voting for the president's policy, and that should the house fail to vote to uphold the president in decisive form, the fight might be carried back to the senate for a direct vote to defeat the McCumber resolution warning Americans off armed ships of belligerent nations.

Mr. Bryan said his coming here at this time had nothing to do with the armed ship fight now in progress between congress and the president.

"I expect to leave tonight for New York," he said.

**Clark Opposed Vote.**  
Speaker Clark was opposed to a vote Monday, as it would interfere with the unanimous consent calendar.

Discussion in the senate was resumed by Senator Lodge, who took issue with assertions made during yesterday's debate that Great Britain had set a precedent for warning by advising her citizens to keep off belligerent boats during the Russo-Japanese war.

He read into the record a letter from the British ambassador saying no such warning had been given.

William Jennings Bryan came to town today to fulfill a lecture engagement here tonight. Administration leaders speculated widely over whether Mr. Bryan's coming had anything to do with the delay on voting on the armed ship issue in the house and the decision of the leaders there to postpone action until Tuesday at least.

The conference adjourned with no formal action except a decision to hold a rules committee meeting at 2 o'clock today. A so-called gentleman's agreement was made not to have a vote before Tuesday.

# STEAMER DRIFTING HELPLESS AT SEA

NEW YORK, March 4.—A wireless message received here today by the Clyde line from the steamer Apache said the propeller shaft was broken and that the ship was helpless at sea. The passengers number 150. Officials of the line said they expected the Apache to arrive here Monday on top of a log raft from Norfolk.

# Hero of Civil War Crosses Divide



General William Sooy-Smith, Who Died Today, in His 86th Year.

# GERMANS CLAIM SINKING OF TWO FRENCH CRUISERS

BERLIN, March 4.—(By wireless to Sayville)—The sinking of two French auxiliary cruisers and one British patrol boat by German submarines is announced by the admiralty.

The announcement also says that from Paris is reported the sinking of the transport Provence, which carried 1800 men, of whom only 600 were rescued.

La Provence was listed as an auxiliary cruiser, but the wording of the Berlin dispatch does not make it clear whether she was one of the two said to have been destroyed. Official reports from Paris indicated that about 3100 men went down with her. The French admiralty said no sign of a submarine was observed before or after the sinking.

PARIS, March 4.—The Temps says that the German admiralty's official announcement that submarines had sunk two armed auxiliary cruisers of Havre is false.

LEGHORN, Italy, March 4, via Paris.—The steamship Giava, which left here February 29, has been sunk by an Austrian submarine. There were no Americans on board.

# RUNS AMUCK WITH GUN IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, March 4.—A man believed to be insane stood today in the doorway of a house in the southern section of the city with a repeating rifle in his hands and before he was overpowered he shot and killed one man and wounded two others.

The man, Antonio Prongo, 25 years old, emerged from the house and, taking his stand on the doorstep, raised his rifle and shot at everyone who came within range. One of his victims was a blind peddler who was shot through the body and dropped dead after running a short distance.

Prongo gave battle to police, but was subdued and arrested.

# GERMAN MEMORANDUM UPON STEAMER ROTTERDAM

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Secretary Lansing announced today that the appendix to the German memorandum regarding armed merchant ships were on board the steamer Rotterdam, due tomorrow in New York.

# GRANT'S CAVALRY LEADER PASSES AT AGE OF 85

General William Sooy-Smith, famous commander of the civil war, leader of Grant's cavalry forces in the Shiloh and Vicksburg campaigns, famed as a civil engineer throughout the middle west, who spent his deplorable years at Medford, passed away at noon Saturday, March 4, at the Sacred Heart hospital from pneumonia, in his 86th year. For the past five years he has been a familiar figure in Medford, owning an orchard south of the city.

William Sooy-Smith was born at Tazewell, Pickaway county, Ohio, July 22, 1829. He worked his way through the Ohio university, graduating in 1849. He was appointed cadet to the United States military academy at West Point the same year, and graduated in the class of 1853. He served in the regular army until June, 1854, when, first lieutenant, he resigned to enter the profession of civil engineering.

**Praised for Gallantry.**

At the opening of the civil war he volunteered among the first and was mustered into service as colonel of the 13th Ohio infantry upon the organization of that regiment at Camp Dennison, June 26, 1861. He commanded it in the summer and fall of 1861 under Generals G. M. McClellan and W. S. Rosecrans, participants in the engagement at Camille Ferry and Laurel creek. He was commended by General Rosecrans "for the great energy and perseverance with which he watched the reconnaissance on the enemy's left, and for his coolness and courage in leading his column to the attack."

General Benham, referring to the same event, reported: "In Colonel W. S. Smith, of the 13th Ohio regiment, I have found one of the most valuable and efficient officers I have ever known. His great intelligence, knowledge of his profession, skill and caution, coolness and excellent judgment on all occasions, both previous to and during the action, merit my highest praise."

Shortly after the 13th Ohio was ordered to Kentucky, participating in the capture of Bowling Green and Nashville. General Sooy-Smith was assigned to charge and repair of railroads and later to command of the 14th brigade of the 5th division, participating in the battle of Shiloh. He was commissioned brigadier-general of volunteers, April 15, 1862, and later placed in command of the Union cavalry against Bragg's army.

Of General Sooy-Smith's raid through Mississippi, General Grant said: "It has been one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits of the war."

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# RUSSIANS AGAIN BREAK THROUGH TURKISH FRONT

Capture of Bitlis Increases Security of Caucasian Flank and Opens Way to Bagdad and Union With British—Bitlis Not a Fortress, But Strong Strategical Point.

LONDON, March 4.—Two Turkish divisions, reinforced by troops that had fled from Erzerum, are the forces that had been operating against the Russians on the line running through Mush, Bitlis and Van, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent. With the occupation of Bitlis he points out, the entire Van region passed under the control of the Russians, while the Russian success separates the two Turkish forces operating in the regions of Mush and Lake Urmiah, respectively.

With the loss of Bitlis, it appears, Turkish reinforcements would be compelled to travel by roundabout routes in order to reach the third Turkish army.

PETROGRAD, March 4, via London.—For the second time in a trifle over a fortnight the Russians have broken through the Turkish front. The importance of the taking of Bitlis, officially announced last night, is in the opinion of Russian military officials, twofold, inasmuch as it notably increases the security of the Russian left flank in the Caucasian campaign and further opens the way to Bagdad and a union with the British forces.

From Bitlis to Bagdad is a distance of slightly more than 400 miles.

The Turks were rushing reinforcements from Mesopotamia not only for the defense of Bitlis, but to aid the Turkish troops retreating from Erzerum. These troops will now be forced to take a roundabout route to reach the defeated Turkish third army.

Bitlis also served the Turks as a point of communication between the troops operating in the Mush district and those about Lake Urmiah, over the border in Persia. With the command of the whole Lake Van territory in their hands, the Russians now effectively separate those forces.

Bitlis is not a fortress, but its location gave it a strong defense advantage.

Russian observers estimate the strength of the Turks opposing them in the Bitlis district as two divisions of infantry and artillery, with a strong mixture of German troops.

# STORM SWEEPING ATLANTIC COAST

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The storm sweeping the Atlantic coast from Jacksonville to Eastport, Me., was moving northeast today with increasing violence off the New England coast. At Nantucket, Mass., the gale attained a velocity of 72 miles an hour. Off Cape Hatteras, N. C., the wind velocity was 56 miles. Freezing weather prevailed as far south as northern Florida.

# FRENCH STEAMER LAKME HITS MINE

LA ROCHELLE, France, March 4.—The French steamship Lakme, of Dunkirk, 3117 tons gross, which sailed from La Rochelle on Tuesday, was sunk on the same day in the Bay of Biscay at a point six miles northwest of the d'Yeu. She is believed to have struck a mine.

Six of the twenty-two men of the crew lost their lives.

# ROBBERS SECURE \$700 FROM OKLAHOMA SAFE

TULSA, Okla., March 4.—Robbers blew open the safe and wrecked the bank of Mounds, Okla., early today and escaped with between \$7000 and \$8000 in currency. The explosion burned the currency. It is thought that it will be identified with ease.

# FRENCH LINES AT VERDUN HOLDING; LULL IN BATTLE

War Minister Satisfied With Situation—German Losses Terrific in Efforts to Break Line—Village of Douaumont Still Held by Germans, But Commanded by Allied Artillery

PARIS, March 4.—General Gallent, minister of war, has told the commission on military affairs of the chamber of deputies that he is satisfied with the situation at Verdun. He gave the details of the reserves of men and stocks of ammunition now available.

Military writers say that it was in keeping with all the precedents that the Germans should attempt to reduce the salient of Douaumont plateau for this key position must be taken before solid progress could be made elsewhere.

The attack began after a long preliminary bombardment on Wednesday. German columns started to deploy from Hardaumont wood on the right and at the same time a division advanced on the village of Vaux. The latter attack failed with heavy losses to the Germans.

**Desperate Onslaughts.**  
The French artillery fire was so fierce that evening that the Germans were unable to push attack on any point of the Douaumont plateau. Masses of reserves were brought up and the fighting began with renewed fury on Thursday. Desperate onslaughts were made by Pomeranian and Brandenburg regiments.

In the first and second attacks the assailants, who fought with great bravery, reached the French barbed wire, but so fierce was the hail of bullets from the machine guns and rifles that the gray-coated legions melted away. The officers rallied them again and again until no more were left to rally.

The third attack began about 3 in the afternoon. It was even more violent than those which have preceded. For more than an hour the Germans came on in serried ranks, hurling themselves regardless of cost, against the ridges held by the Frenchmen. At last the defenders' line wavered at two points, but only momentarily and the counter attack, driven home with the bayonets, drove the Germans back to the shelter of the Chambrottes of the Hardaumont ravines.

**Night Advance Gains.**

The Germans then resumed the bombardment, plowing up the ground and pulverizing the rocks with hundreds of big shells. The fourth advance was made after dusk by fresh Prussian brigades who had replaced the troops engaged in the morning and afternoon attacks. After desperate fighting they managed to get a footing on the extreme edge of the plateau, whence they pushed forward into the houses on the north side of the village.

The Germans now hold Douaumont village, but the French dominate them from commanding heights. As the sides are fairly evenly matched it is likely that the village will change hands more than once before the battle ends. The experts say that German possession of it is only temporary and that the technical advantage remains with the French whose lines continue unbroken.

**Bombardment Continues.**

PARIS, March 4.—The bombardment continued with considerable activity last night in the various sectors of the region of Verdun. It was not, however, followed by any actions of infantry, according to announcement by the French war office this afternoon.

At Eparges, the French prevented

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# GUNMAN PLEADS GUILTY, SIOUX CITY

SIOUX CITY, Ia., March 4.—Chas. M. Ford, the alleged head of a band of gunmen and criminals which terrorized Sioux City for over a year, today entered a plea of guilty to the murder of Roy Morley and was given a thirty-year term in prison. Ford was formerly a hotel proprietor and politician in the fifth ward,