

Forty-fifth Year.
Daily—Tenth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1916

NO. 297

CONGRESS ENDORSES PRESIDENT

By Substantial Majorities House Votes Not to Warn Americans From Armed Merchantmen, Sustaining Policy of President—Proposals to Allow Anti-Administration Amendments Defeated—Debate Wages on Resolution Itself.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The vote in tabling the McLemore resolution was 276 for, 142 against.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—President Wilson's stand that congress shall not advise Americans to abandon their rights to travel the seas on merchant ships armed for defense in accordance with international law was endorsed in the house today by two heavy test votes on the McLemore resolution.

By substantial majorities the administration forces defeated attempts to amend the resolution to the liking of the president's opponents and put it squarely before the house without amendment for a vote under a special rule at the end of four hours' debate.

About 6 o'clock this evening the administration forces will move to table the McLemore resolution and the heavy votes they polled in the two preliminary tests indicate that they will kill it by a substantial majority.

Dissections Frowned Upon

Once tabled, the resolution will have gone the way of the Gore resolution in the senate and a majority of congress will have been placed on record before the world as demonstrating that it does not endorse the dissections against the president's foreign policy.

In quick succession today the house rejected the proposal to allow anti-administration amendments to the McLemore resolution and then adopted the special rule for consideration of the resolution itself, routing the opposition by votes of 256 to 190 and 271 to 138, respectively.

Immediately after the adoption of the rule debate began on the resolution itself, Chairman Flood of the foreign affairs committee moving to table it.

Vote Not Partisan

One hundred and ninety-two democrats voted for the administration on the previous question, which was the crucial test, 61 republicans and one progressive, Martin. Total, 256. Opposed to the administration were 21 democrats, 132 republicans, 5 progressives, 1 independent (Kent), 1 socialist (London); total, 160 nays. Hawley, McArthur and Simont of Oregon opposed the administration.

Pou Leads Attack

Mr. Pou attacked the McLemore resolution at the outset.

"It means in effect that if an American disregards a warning that the United States government will fold its hands," he said. "Is there a single red-blooded person in this house or this country who wants to do that? It is charged that the president wants war. All the imps of hell never devised a more infamous charge. No man since Abraham Lincoln has gone through such a test as the president has gone through in the last six months. He has tried to preserve peace. He would not sacrifice a single life to make himself president for a lifetime. He has the support of both sides of this chamber."

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TEUTONS LEAVING SALONKI FOR VERDUN

PARIS, March 7.—A delayed Havas dispatch filed in Salonki on Saturday gives a report that almost all the Austrian and German troops which had been concentrated on the Balkan front have left for the western front.

Some Turkish regiments, the message says, have been sent from the Balkans to the Caucasus.

GERMAN WARSHIPS LEAVE KIEL—CRUISE IN THE NORTH SEA

ROME, March 5, via London, March 5 (delayed).—Twenty German dreadnaughts have left Kiel, according to information received here today.

The foregoing dispatch was held up by the British censor for two days. Another dispatch filed in London at 3:25 o'clock this morning said that a fleet of twenty-five German warships was observed Monday morning in the North sea. This message was received in London from Vlieland, near North Holland.

SUBMARINE SINKS ITALIAN STEAMER WITHOUT WARNING

GENOA, March 7, via Paris.—Silvio Potenzani, commander of the Italian steamship Giava, which was sunk by a submarine March 1 in the Mediterranean while on her way from Leghorn to a Greek port with passengers and a cargo of cement, gives further details of the destruction of his ship. The commanding officer of the submarine refused to tow the boats with the crew and passengers to the neighborhood of the coast of Milo, the nearest land. On account of the nature of the cargo, no attempt was made to torpedo the vessel, the big submarine employing the destruction of the Italian vessel the two three-inch guns which the war craft carried. It required forty-five shots to send the freighter to the bottom.

The captain affirms that he stopped his vessel at the first warning, shot from the submarine, but that the latter continued to fire.

The sea was calm and the transfer of crew and passengers to the boats was achieved without difficulty. They were soon discovered by a British steamship and taken to the island of Milo, where they found 600 survivors from the French auxiliary cruiser La Provence II. The British vessel before reaching Milo sighted a submarine which began preparations to attack her, but was frightened off when a British destroyer showed up in the distance.

The Giava, 2631 tons gross and 324 feet long, was built at New Castle in 1881 and was owned in Palermo. Reports from Athens stated that the Giava was sunk by a large submarine flying the Austrian flag at a point about 130 miles from Crete.

The passengers on La Provence in three boats were rescued by the British steamship Trevelyan.

PAGE QUITS CONGRESS OVER FOREIGN POLICY

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Representative Robert M. Page of North Carolina will not be a candidate for re-election because he disagrees with President Wilson in the submarine controversy. Mr. Page, who is a brother of Ambassador Page at London, so announced in a letter to his constituents. The announcement caused a sensation in the house at the moment of a vote on what practically is a proposal not to interfere with the president's diplomatic negotiations.

CITY OF OAXACA MEXICO BURNED

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The city of Oaxaca, in Mexico, was burned March 5, according to information reaching the state department today from the Carranza government. It was also reported that those who have been in possession of the city have evacuated it.

The Carranza government denied the truth of a report that Felix Diaz has captured Mexico.

HILL NO. 265 CAPTURED BY CROWN PRINCE

Attack on Verdun Shifts to West and Germans Pound Away From Beyond the Meuse—Town of Forges, Nine Miles From Verdun, Taken—British Assisting French in Verdun.

LONDON, March 7.—The attack on Verdun has shifted to the west and the Germans are now pounding their way toward the fortress from beyond the Meuse, advancing along the railroad that parallels the westerly bank.

Last night the crown prince's troops assaulted and took the town of Forges, nine miles northwest of Verdun, but were prevented by the French from debouching against the Cote de l'Oie, a height about a mile to the south.

Today comes the admission from Paris that the Germans after a violent bombardment succeeded in forcing their way through Forges and along the railroad in the vicinity of Regneville, a village a mile and a half southeast.

Simultaneously an entire division violently attacked and captured Hill No. 265, southwest of Regneville. Heavy losses were sustained by the Germans in taking this position, Paris declares.

French lines further west have held and they are in possession of Bethincourt and nearby territory and still occupy Cote de l'Oie.

There is still notable artillery activity along the immediate front of Verdun, east of the Meuse, as well as in the Woerthe district southeast of the fortress.

The first confirmation of reports that the British were assisting the French in the defense of Verdun came today in a statement that an Australian siege brigade was fighting there. The British big guns are said to have been doing great execution. It is officially declared in London that on Sunday night no military damage was inflicted.

STUDENTS DERISION CAUSE FORGERY

PORTLAND, Ore., March 7.—George T. Whitefield, alias Meloe Orr, aged 34, a former teacher of Latin, was in jail here today a self-confessed forger, according to the police. His downfall, he is said to have stated, was due to the fact that he was short sighted and hard of hearing and the students in his Latin classes laughed at him. He was arrested early today while preparing to catch a train for Seattle.

He is alleged to have confessed having forged checks in San Diego, Los Angeles, Stockton, Sacramento, Portland, Tacoma, Seattle and Victoria, B. C. According to the police, Whitefield is the cleverest forger that has been arrested on the coast in a number of years.

According to his alleged confession, Whitefield taught Latin and classics at St. Mary's college at Teahay, Ill., Sacred Heart college at Sacred Heart, Okla., and at Holy Cross college in New Orleans. His physical infirmities, however, and the likes of his scholars, who considered him a perfect specimen of bookworm, drove him from the teaching profession.

WEDDERBURN SAVED FROM LANDSLIDE

MARSHFIELD, Or., March 7.—The landslide which threatened to carry the town of Wedderburn into the Rogue river has stopped, according to word received here today from Gold Beach. The rain which has fallen steadily for several days is showing signs of stopping. Great fissures several hundred yards long have opened at the crest of the hill and extensive damage was done, but the buildings were pushed into the river.

THE ROAD TO VERDUN!



GERMAN RAIDER PREYING ON ALLIES PACIFIC COMMERCE

HONOLULU, T. H., March 7.—British shipping in the Pacific is endangered by the presence somewhere in Pacific waters of a German raider, warnings concerning which have been issued by the British admiralty, according to statements of officers of the British steamer Niagara made public here today.

The officers of the Niagara, it was announced, confided to officials of this port that the vessel had been notified by the admiralty of the presence of the raider, said to have been seen in the Straits of Magellan and reported to Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, by captains of vessels passing through the straits.

The Australian battle cruiser Australia and the Australian cruiser Sydney, the officers of the Niagara said, are searching for the German raider, and it is believed that the Japanese cruisers Chitose and Tokiwa are also engaged in the search.

The Niagara arrived here March 2 from Sydney, Australia, on route to Vancouver, B. C., and at that time it was reported by passengers on the vessel that British officials in Australia believed there was a German auxiliary somewhere in the Pacific. For two weeks the Niagara steamed at full speed, arriving here a day ahead of time.

SWEDEN TRIES TO ORGANIZE NEUTRALS

LONDON, March 7.—Reuter's Copenhagen correspondent sends the following:

"A dispatch to the Politiken from Stockholm says it is stated in Swedish political circles that the Swedish government on two separate occasions applied to the United States to obtain President Wilson's co-operation for concerted mediation towards peace."

"President Wilson, who already at an early stage of the war had his offer rejected, adds the dispatch, declined to join the movement until requested by the belligerents."

"It is stated that at Stockholm and other neutral capitals, the question is being discussed of forming a mediation conference without the co-operation of the United States."

MILLION INCREASE IN BRITISH NAVAL TONNAGE BY WAR

LONDON, March 7.—A. J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, stated in the house of commons today that the tonnage of the British navy had been increased by one million since the outbreak of the war, while the strength of the air division of the navy had grown tenfold.

LONDON, March 7.—The chief interest in the reopening of parliament today centers in the expected important statement by Arthur J. Balfour, first lord of the admiralty, in introducing the estimates for the navy for the coming year. Colonel Winston Churchill, Mr. Balfour's predecessor in office, is expected to take part in the debate from an opposition standpoint.

Another feature of the session will be the reply of Premier Asquith to a question regarding the projected mobilization for obligations of men called to the colors.

Mr. Balfour's speech will comprise a broad general survey of the condition of the navy, it is believed. The only exact information which will be given in the navy estimates this year will be that regarding the personnel, approximately 250,000 officers and men, an increase of 50,000 over last year.

NATIONAL PARK CONFERENCE CALLED

TACOMA, Wash., March 7.—Superintendent D. L. Rouben of the Rainier national park left Tacoma last night for Washington, D. C., to attend a conference called by Stephen T. Mather, assistant secretary of the interior, and by Robert Marshall, general superintendent of national parks. The conference is understood to bear on the policy of the administration this year in national park matters.

ADMIRAL ASA WALKER DEAD AT MINNEAPOLIS

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Rear Admiral Asa Walker, retired 79, one of Dewey's subordinates at Manila Bay, died today at Minneapolis after a two weeks' illness of pneumonia. His home was at Portsmouth, N. H.

WILSON'S POLICY IS SUSTAINED BY UTAH SENATOR

Sutherland Prefers War to Playing Poltroon or Placing Ease Before Honor—Submarine Must Yield to Law, for If Law Yields to Submarine, Security on Seas Has Fled.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Discussing the armed ship issue today in the senate Senator Sutherland of Utah, a republican member of the foreign relations committee, stood squarely behind President Wilson in his policy of dealing with Germany in the submarine negotiations.

"I do not want war at any time," said Senator Sutherland, "and I pray God that it may not come now, but I would rather have war with all its sacrifices and suffering than that this nation, with its long history of heroism and glory, should play the poltroon when confronted by the supreme national duty, because it places greater value upon its ease than upon its honor."

No Seeker of War

"I am one of those who desire peace," the senator continued, "but a nation when all other means fail that will not resent a flagrant and illegal attempt upon the lives of its own citizens is only less detestable than a man who will not fight for his wife and children. And, believing, as I do, about that, if the life of an American citizen is again taken by the illegal and deliberate sinking without warning of a merchant ship, unarmed or armed only for defense, that this government should hold the offending nation to a stern reckoning, I shall never give my consent to the issuance of a formal and official notice such as has been proposed which if not heeded would, without intimating our duty in the least, have the effect of embarrassing and weakening our moral stand if we should once more be under the sad necessity of seeking reparation for the destruction of the lives of our people."

Senator Sutherland in discussing the legal status of armed merchant ships under international law and the relation thereto of the submarine contended that the submarine must yield to the law and not the law to the submarine.

Law Above Submarine

"If the law yields to the submarine," he said, "and allows the underwater boat to sink vessels armed defensively only without warning and without giving passengers and crew a chance to get to a place of safety, it will be inviting the sinking of unarmed ships as well since, he said, "it is well nigh impossible for the officers of a submarine to determine in advance whether a given vessel is armed or not. * * * The result will be that unarmed vessels while possessing immunity in theory will have none in fact."

"The question next arises—and, indeed, it is really the crucial question—shall our citizens be officially advised to forbear from traveling on belligerent merchant vessels armed for defense only? Or, indeed, shall we go farther and forbid their doing so under penalty for disobedience? If I am correct in what I have already said, namely, that these merchant ships have the right to carry defensive armament, it follows that such

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WEST COLORADO AGAIN SNOWBOUND

DENVER, Colo., March 7.—For the second time this winter southwestern Colorado is snowbound. During the center of the storm, has for twelve hours been cut off from outside communication and traffic generally in the San Juan basin is demoralized.

Thirty-five passengers on a Denver & Rio Grande passenger train have been held at Chama, N. M., for five days on account of the drifting snow.

The public utilities commission of Colorado has been appealed to in a telegram from the snowbound passengers, who urged a relief expedition.

RUTLAND, Vt., March 7.—The question whether statewide prohibition, beginning May 1, shall supplant the local option form of liquor selling, which has been effective for thirteen years, was voted on at the annual town meetings today. Vermont was in the prohibition ranks for half a century up to 1905.

HIGH PRICE OF GASOLINE DUE TO BIG PROFITS

No Real Competition in Fuel Oil Business, Declares Secretary Lane—Pipe Monopoly Never Disturbed—Increase Price Shown in Special Dividends and Melons.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Profits for the oil companies—independents and Standard—is the answer to why gasoline is so high. The report of the secretary of the interior, Franklin K. Lane, made to congress, is conclusive on this point.

Increased consumption and increased exports there have been, but neither of these causes is responsible for the high price of gasoline. There is no real competition in the fuel oil business. The federal trades commission report just finished settles that. This document shows that the pipe line monopoly which is the basis of the control in this industry never has been disturbed, and that no independent can become a real competitor while dependent on the trust, as they all are, for their pipe line transportation.

Where the increased price paid for gasoline is going is shown by the profit figures of the companies. Special dividends, regular dividends, "melons," stock dividends, have been piling up so fast that it takes a Burrows adding machine to even try to comprehend it.

Amazing Dividends

Secretary Lane points out this fact and selects as a sample account of dividends a quotation from the "Petroleum Age" of New York for December, 1915, as follows:

"Convincing proof of the amazing recovery within the oil industry in the last half of 1915 is furnished by the dividend declarations of the Standard Oil group for the last quarter, which reached the astonishing total of \$21,788,636, which is the record for any quarter since the dissolution, with the exception of the first quarter of 1913, when Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey made its famous 40 per cent cash distribution. True, it is that of this sum, \$5,800,000, representing the 15 per cent dividend of Illinois Pipe Line, 5 per cent by Prairie Pipe Line, and 3 per cent by Prairie Oil & Gas Co., will not be payable until January 15, but all of them are payable to December shareholders and represent distributions from 1915 profits. Including these sums, the total of regular and extra cash dividends since the dissolution in December, 1911, reaches the impressive total of 290,666,083, to which must be added stock dividends at par totaling \$169,100,000. Taking into account the present market value of the distributed stock, the cash value of all distributions in the last four years by this group is in excess of half a billion dollars. The market effect of this enormous earning capacity is strikingly reflected in the steady appreciation in value of the old Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey stock 'fall on,' which has risen from less than 650 at the time of the dissolution in December, 1911, to a new high record of 1770 during the current month."

Trust's Enormous Profits

How enormous are the profits enjoyed by the Standard trust since its "dissolution" by court decree are best set out in the words of Herbert S. Bigelow of Cincinnati, who has given some attention to the subject. He calls attention to the fact that one stockholder in the Standard has realized \$26,000,000 a year in dividends and that the value of this partnership is \$100,000,000.

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VERMONT VOTING UPON PROHIBITION