

FORECAST
Tonight and tomorrow,
generally fair.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER
Maximum yesterday, 34;
Min. today, 20; Pre., 15.

Forty-sixth Year,
Daily—Eleventh Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1916

NO. 238

GERMAN PEACE PLANS CONFIDED TO PRESIDENT

Central Powers Seek Confidential Exchange of Broad Tentative Terms Through United States, Should It Become Necessary to Insure Gathering of Peace Delegates.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Germany, it was made known here today, will not permit the road to peace negotiations to be blocked by a refusal of the entente belligerents to enter a conference without prior knowledge of her terms. It has been forecast that the entente powers would base a refusal on such a condition.

The central powers are represented as willing to permit a confidential exchange of broad tentative terms through President Wilson, should it become necessary to do so, to bridge the gap which threatens to prevent a gathering of peace delegates. There were broad intimations today that a statement of this position by Germany either had been communicated to the United States government or soon would be. The official text of Germany's reply to President Wilson's note arrived today and it was declared that no confidential communication from Ambassador Gerard accompanied it. There are indications, however, that a confidential statement of Germany's position, if made, would come through the ambassador. It has been announced in advance, however, that it would not be made public, and it is not likely that its receipt even would be admitted.

Looks to United States.

Germany, it was said today, is looking to the United States to make every effort to bring about a peace conference, and to that end is ready to consider any suggestions from the president. As the case stands now, the German government considers it has met all the suggestions in the president's note, and a statement to that effect has been made by Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador.

Germany, it is stated authoritatively, never has believed that relying alone she would be able to bring about a conference, and now that the influence of neutrals has been brought to bear for one, the German officials have taken their view a step further and believe they cannot be successful without assistance of the United States. They believe that the United States, in view of its vital interest in the settlement of the war, would not be adverse to participating, because it has been represented as desiring most of all to see the peace terms make provision for the future security of the world. Without participation by the United States in that phase, it is felt the results would be without effect.

OROZCO REPORTED SLAIN BY VILLISTAS

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 28.—General Luis Herrera, Colonel Manuel Orozco, Carranza officers, and Villa's secretary, a man named Garcia, were reported here today to have been killed personally by Villa after the recent occupation of Torreon.

Garcia, who is understood here to have been at one time with a band of Industrial Workers of the World in California, was said to have been killed for destroying property of foreigners at Bermejillo, against Villa's orders. Herrera and Orozco were among the prisoners captured.

MINIMUM FIRE LOSS IN FORESTS

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 28.—Standing timber in Oregon suffered fire losses amounting to but \$965,73 during the recent summer fire season, according to the annual report of F. A. Elliot, state forester, submitted here today. There were 600 forest fires reported. Logs, logging equipment, buildings and other improvements were damaged to the extent of \$9261.

SUBMARINE SUNK 128 SHIPS, TOTAL TONNAGE OF 282,000

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 28.—Announcement is made in the Berlin newspapers that the order of merit has been conferred on Captain Valentiner, commander of a German submarine, for sinking 128 ships of a total tonnage of 282,000.

POLITE REFUSAL TO STATE TERMS OF PEACE TREATY

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The morning newspapers today are unanimous in pronouncing the German answer to President Wilson's note to the belligerents a polite refusal to comply with his suggestions.

"Germany," says the Matin, "intentionally reverses the terms of President Wilson's note and requests representatives of the nations at war to seat themselves at a conference table and talk at random without knowing what they intend to say. She knows the allies will never make peace on the terms which she at present is disposed to offer, but during the period of temporary slackening in hostilities she will be able to obtain fresh supplies, while secretly planning new military operations, just as she prepared for mobilization during the diplomatic conversations of July, 1914."

The Petit Parisien says:

"The reply of Germany and Austria-Hungary is not a direct loyal answer to the American suggestions. It is only a hypocritical evasion. President Wilson asks the belligerents to state their conditions. The central powers ignore this and simply offer a conference without any preliminaries. That is a trap in which they very naively thought to catch the allies."

In the Figaro, Alfred Capus says:

"Germany in her answer to President Wilson proposes a meeting of delegates at a neutral city. That city, if it was specified, would remain forever famous as the scene of the greatest trap in history."

I. W. W. PLAN TO FIGHT PORTLAND

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 28.—Declarations of itinerants, claiming to be leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World, that the entire western force of their organization had been ordered to mobilize in Portland to demonstrate against police power, resulted in the arrest today of twenty-six members of the body. Several hundred are already on their way here from Seattle, the prisoners said.

The mobilization order was issued when police stopped boisterous boycotts by Industrial Workers of the World of several local restaurants whose proprietors refused to organize their employees along the lines of the boycotters' organization. The restaurant men said their help was already connected with the American Federation of Labor.

AUSTRIA REPLIES TO SWISS PEACE NOTE

BERLIN, Dec. 27, via London, Dec. 28.—A Vienna dispatch says that the Austro-Hungarian government today answered the Swiss note by transmitting a copy of the note sent to President Wilson. An accompanying message assured the Helvetic government that the "noble minded suggestion of President Wilson met with a thoroughly sympathetic reception," from Austria-Hungary. The message added that the Austro-Hungarian government regarded the Swiss action in supporting President Wilson as an evidence of the "noble and humane disposition which Switzerland, since the beginning of the war, has manifested toward all the belligerents."

RUMAN DEFEAT COMPLETED BY TEUTON FORCES

Invasers Repulse Russians, Who Attempt to Regain Lost Territory, Taking 3000 Prisoners—Across the Danube Effort Being Made to Clear Dobrudja of Russians.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—The defeat of the Russo-Rumanian forces by the invading Teutonic army has been completed, it is announced officially. Russian troops which attempted to regain lost ground were thrust back and ejected from their new positions with heavy losses. In yesterday's fighting the Austro-German forces took 3000 prisoners.

Field Marshal Von Mackensen is continuing his sledge-hammer blows upon the Russians in northeastern Wallachia and is rapidly pushing them back to the line of the River Sereth in Moldavia.

The most recent attack appears to have scored his greatest success in the region of Rinnik-Sarat, on the railway seventy miles north of Buzen. The Teutonic forces have pushed forward beyond Rinnik-Sarat. The Austro-German forces are advancing in the direction of the important Rumanian grain and oil storehouse of Braila on the Danube.

Across the Danube from Braila, the German-Bulgarian-Turkish forces made headway in their attack upon the Matchin bridgehead, where the last remaining Russian forces in Dobrudja are hanging on to the northwestern corner of the province.

On the other war fronts the fighting has been of a minor character. The French on the Somme front have been successful in extensive mining operations. Berlin, in its report on the western front fighting, announces the loss of eight aeroplanes by the entente.

STEAMER MARYLAND IS PROBABLY LOST

NANTUCKET, Mass., Dec. 28.—The steamship Maryland was regarded as probably lost today. Search for the vessel and her crew by the coast guard cutters Aushnet and Gresham, which was begun after the Maryland's wireless calls of distress were suddenly silenced Christmas night, was abandoned without having developed any trace of the steamship by either. Hope for the safety of the steamer's fifty-odd men lies in the possibility that they were picked up from the ship's boats by a passing steamer.

The cutters took up the hunt for another missing vessel, the new steamer Ozama of the Clyde line, bound from Portland, Me., for New York, without cargo. Since leaving Portland on December 21 the steamer had not been reported.

BLIZZARD STOPS RAILROAD TRAFFIC

BAKER, Ore., Dec. 28.—West-bound trans-continental railroad traffic through here was at a standstill today as the result of a blizzard reported raging in the Green river country of Wyoming. No trains from the east have passed through since last night and none were expected today.

Not an eastern mail train has gone by here on time for several days, and a number have been annulled. An emergency special was to be started from Pocatello, Idaho, for Portland today. Eastbound trains were practically on time. Rotary snow plows were working today between Baker and La Grande, Oregon, keeping the tracks clear of snow, which has been falling for several days. The storm was believed moderating today.

Snow was reported four feet deep at Meacham and Telocasset, Ore., mountain points.

RUMANIAN OIL FIELDS DESTROYED BEFORE RETREAT

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Speaking today at a meeting of the Rumanian consolidated oil fields William M. Rutherford, member of parliament from Liverpool said that probably the value of the oil fields destroyed by the allies in the Rumanian retreat amounted to \$150,000,000.

It was a wholesale destruction, he remarked, carried on by a British military mission acting under the instructions of headquarters. This work, he added, rendered the property and the stock utterly useless to the foe. The oil wells of German companies met a similar fate, he said.

CARRANZA'S REPLY SEEKS TO PROLONG NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—General Carranza's answer to the request that he either sign or repudiate the protocol which will be delivered late today to Secretary Lane by Luis Cabrera, chairman of the Mexican commissioners, is understood to contain suggestions of modifications which have been carefully worded to avoid ending the negotiations.

The character of Carranza's reply has not been revealed, but it was generally believed it was another suggestion for modifications and contained the insistence that the American troops in Mexico be withdrawn unconditionally.

It has been understood here for several days that if General Carranza did not return such an answer as would warrant a re-assembling of the joint commission, the negotiations would be declared ended and that General Carranza's ambassador, Eliseo Arredondo, would return to Mexico, leaving the embassy here in charge of a confidential agent. This would not amount to a severance of diplomatic relations because in a strict sense, there never have been any. Such a turn, of course, would prevent sending Henry P. Fletcher, American ambassador designate, to Mexico City and in short the situation would return to the point it occupied before the commission conferences began.

Mr. Arredondo today unqualifiedly denied published reports that he had been recalled.

"It is absolutely untrue that I have been recalled by my government," said he, "nor do I know if the government is contemplating summoning me. If it should occur as it did a few weeks ago, it would not be in the nature of my withdrawal from my post."

CAPLAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 28.—David Caplan, last of the four alleged dynamiters brought to trial for the destruction of the Los Angeles Times building October 1, 1910, and the death of twenty men, was sentenced today to ten years in San Quentin penitentiary on a charge of manslaughter.

Judge Frank B. Willis, who heard the case in the superior court, granted Caplan a certificate of probable cause for appeal, which will suspend execution of sentence, the maximum provided for manslaughter, until a decision upon his expected appeal. Judge Willis denied a motion for a new trial upon which arguments were heard today.

ELWOOD MEAD DECLINES FARM BANK PRESIDENCY

BERKELEY, Cal., Dec. 28.—Elwood Mead, international authority on irrigation, has been offered and has declined the presidency of the Eleventh District Farm Loan Bank, it became known here today. The district embraces California, Nevada, Utah and Arizona.

RESERVE BANK TO HAVE AGENTS FOREIGN LANDS

Bank of England Appointed for England—Bank of France and Other Agents to Be Selected Throughout Europe—Strong Financial Concerns to Be Selected.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The appointment of the Bank of England as agent for the federal reserve bank of New York is likely to be followed by the conclusion of a similar arrangement with the Bank of France.

The Journal says this development demonstrates that the relations between the United States and the entente allies are more cordial than might have been believed at the time the federal reserve board last month warned United States banks against the acceptance of treasury notes of the belligerents, the effect of which this new development will go far toward obliterating.

Looking to Orient

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The recent authorization given the federal reserve bank of New York to appoint the Bank of England as its agent in London and the probable appointment of the Bank of France as agent in Paris and other foreign agents through Europe, in all likelihood will be followed in time by the appointment of strong financial institutions in similar capacities in Japan, China and Australia.

Officials are looking to the Orient as a fertile financial field for the growth of American business and the establishment of connections there, while not under formal consideration at present, is favored by some members of the board.

To Maintain Dollar

Operations under such arrangements, with banks at London and elsewhere in Europe, in the opinion of officials here, will be negligible during the war compared with operations which will follow afterward. It was with a view to equipping the banks of this country with machinery which would enable them to maintain the dollar as the standard of world exchange after the war, that the authorization was issued.

A situation directly opposite is said to obtain with respect to the Orient. Financial dealings with Japan, China and Australia, officials here feel, probably would be greater during the war than afterward unless the machinery to facilitate such operations will have been established and working in those countries, it is pointed out, are still making their bills of exchange on London and it is with a view to diverting a part of this business to the United States that the establishment of agencies there is at present informally under consideration.

DEADLOCK ENDS RAIL CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Resumption of conference here today between representatives of the railroads and the employes' brotherhoods was quickly terminated. The conference had been in session less than two hours when an adjournment was taken and no announcement was made as to whether future meetings would be held. Neither side would be quoted as to what had taken place. It was learned, however, that the roads suggested that the dispute between them over the application of the Adamson act, if upheld by the supreme court, be settled on the basis of the switchmen's award which the railroad managers gave the switchmen on the roads involved nine hours pay for eight hours work.

Representatives of the brotherhoods, it is asserted, refuse to accept a settlement on such a basis. They are declared to have pointed insistently to the Adamson act and to have demanded that an agreement be reached under the act. Such a settlement they held, would grant them ten hours pay for eight hours of work.

TORREON REPORTED RETAKEN FROM VILLA BY GENERAL MURGIA

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 28.—Mexican Consul Beltran this afternoon said he had received a personal message from General Carranza saying that General Murguia had retaken Torreon. The message contained no details.

VILLA PROTECTS FOREIGNERS; FORCE INCREASED 10,000

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 28.—That Francisco Villa has altered his attitude toward Americans and other foreigners found in Mexico is the belief of friends of Villa here, who today announced they had appealed to him not to kill any more foreigners.

This appeal was sent Villa during his occupation of Chihuahua City. The document, it was said, admitted a number of foreigners there had been killed, but the fact that no foreigners were molested after Villa's occupation of Torreon was cited to show that Villa has heeded the appeal. The message to Villa informed him that the world was watching his movements and urged guarantees to non-combatants and the protection of foreign property.

It was said by Villa partisans here that Torreon would be established as Villa's provisional headquarters. He was said to have increased his command to 10,000 troops, and it predicted a campaign for the control of the entire state of Chihuahua would be inaugurated.

EXCHANGE SHOTS ACROSS BORDER

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 28.—After a personal investigation, General Bell, commanding the border division here, announced today that the exchange of rifle shots across the border last night between Mexican and American troops started from the Mexican side late last night when one of the Kentucky infantry outposts struck a match. No one was hurt. General Bell said he would formally notify the Juarez military authorities of the shooting.

General Jose Murguia, commander at Juarez, also instituted an investigation.

"If the firing began on the Mexican side," Carranza Consul Bravo said today, "General Murguia intends to put a stop to it at once."

GREECE RECEIVES PEACE OVERTURES

ATHENS, Dec. 28.—Garrett Dropers, the American minister to Greece, today communicated to the Serbian and Greek governments the peace overtures of Dr. Von Bothmann-Hollweg, the German imperial chancellor, and also the suggestion made by President Wilson to the belligerents urging them to define their aims. King Constantine is considering the question of personally replying to the president's suggestion.

THOUSAND MEXICAN REFUGEES AT LAREDO

LAREDO, Tex., Dec. 28.—Nearly 1000 refugees arrived here today from Saltillo and intermediate points, having left Mexico through fear of revolutionary activities, they asserted.

Efforts to locate the wife and family of General Carranza at Nuevo Laredo, where they were reported last night to be staying, were of no avail. Officials denied the reports.

DRYS DEFEAT IRRIGATION BY SMALL MARGIN

Creation of Medford Irrigation District Loses by Ten Votes of Necessary 60 Per Cent, Though Receiving a Majority of Votes Cast—Three Favorable Directors Elected.

The creation of the proposed Medford irrigation district was defeated in yesterday's election by ten votes, according to figures compiled from the unofficial counts made in the five divisions. The vote stood 187 for and 142 against, ten votes being lacking to bring the majority to 60 per cent necessary for the creation of the district. The tight vote is due to stormy weather and overconfidence on the part of the district supporters.

Three pro-irrigation directors were elected—Leonard Carpenter, in division 1, where he defeated J. T. Sullivan and G. L. Schermerhorn; William Hodge in division 3, where he defeated E. E. Morrison, whose name was written on the ballots by the opposition, and Tom Osgood, who defeated L. Neidermeyer in division 4. W. H. Gore was elected treasurer over A. W. Stone.

The two opposition directors who were elected were James Owens, who defeated C. V. Cummings in division 1, and H. C. Maury, who defeated George B. Dean in the fifth division.

The official canvass of the ballots will be made by the county court next Tuesday, when the result of the election may be changed.

To Contest Election.

The pro-irrigationists have announced their intention of contesting a number of ballots, alleging that some who voted were not holders of land in the district, that others who reside in the district and who voted were not entitled to a vote, and that others legally entitled to votes were refused votes by the election judges. The contest will be brought to settle the question of voters' qualifications before another election.

The vote in the various divisions on the district was:

Division 1, yes 18, no 25; division 2, yes 66, no 22; division 3, yes 59, no 41; division 4, yes 32, no 32; division 5, yes 12, no 22. Totals, 187 yes, 142 no.

Defeat Dry Leaders.

Three directors were up in division 2, two for and one against the district. It was thought by the opposition that the split in the vote would elect the opposition candidate, G. L. Schermerhorn. However, the vote cast for both pro-irrigation candidates was higher than for Schermerhorn, Carpenter receiving 38 votes, Sullivan 27 and Schermerhorn 24.

L. Neidermeyer, another leader of the opposition and candidate for director, was defeated in division 4 by Tom Osgood, who received 36 votes against Neidermeyer's 27. In division 3, Hodge defeated Morrison, an eleven-hour candidate, 59 to 24. In division 1, Cummings received 16 votes against 28 for Owens. In division 5, Deane received 12 votes to 28 for Maury.

Two years ago, when the formation of the district was first brought up, the opposition was so strong as to show under pro-irrigation sentiment before the matter could even be presented to the county court and an election asked. The increase in the use of irrigation in the valley and the campaign of irrigation education is held responsible for the growth of sentiment in favor of the creation of the district as shown by the close vote in yesterday's election, more than 50 per cent of the land holders expressing themselves in favor of the district.

VENIZELOS DECLARES LETTER A FORGERY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—George C. Lindaris, former minister of interior of Greece, now representing the Venizelos provisional government in this country, today declared a published letter attributed to Former Premier Venizelos calling for extreme efforts to bring Greece into the war on the side of the allies to be a forgery.