

**FORECAST**  
Tonight and Sunday Partly  
Cloudy.

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

**WEATHER**  
Maximum Yesterday 48;  
Minimum Today 19.

Forty-sixth Year. Daily—Eleventh Year. MEDFORD, OREGON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 1917. NO. 257

## LONDON IS SHAKEN BY EXPLOSION

**Munition Factory Blows Up With Tremendous Roar, Setting Entire Neighborhood Ablaze—Forty Bodies Recovered From Ruins and Over a Hundred Injured—Entire Country Shaken as Smaller Explosions Follow.**

LONDON, Jan. 20.—Between thirty and forty bodies have been recovered today as a result of the explosion in a munition factory near London last night. Practically all the explosives as well as the factory were entirely destroyed. The effects were felt at a great distance and three rows of small houses in the neighborhood were almost demolished.

About 100 persons are reported to have been injured seriously.

LONDON, Jan. 20.—Last night's explosion was not only heard within a radius of many miles from the scene, including London and suburban towns, but shook buildings and broke windows a long distance away.

In normal times a panic probably would have resulted in the theaters, where the audiences were just assembling and in other public places, but the population in this case was remarkably cool.

The general character of the explosion, as it was experienced, in the center of London, was a roar of short duration, as though a vast reservoir of gas had ignited and consumed in one burst of flame. A tremendous puff of fire flashed high into the air and then quickly subsided. Eyewitnesses in suburban towns said the flame had disappeared a full minute before they heard the roar which accompanied it.

**Fire Follows Blow-Up.**  
Fire had broken out more than a quarter of an hour before the explosion and firemen were on the spot fighting it. The day shift of workers in the neighborhood were with their families at their evening meal. As swiftly as a battleship is wrecked by a magazine explosion, the chemical works were virtually wiped off their foundation and with them the flour mills adjoining and blocks of workmen's dwellings.

Heavy clouds of smoke and flames rose to a great height throughout the night, but the worst of the destruction had been accomplished in the minute of the explosion.

The following official announcement in regard to the explosion was given out here today:

"At about 7 o'clock last night fire started at a factory in the east of London, near the river, which was employed on refining explosives. Fortunately a few minutes elapsed after the commencement of the fire before the explosion occurred, during which interval many operatives were able to escape.

**Factory Destroyed.**  
"The explosion appears to have involved practically all the explosives in the factory, which was itself completely destroyed. Fires were caused in neighboring warehouses and factories, one of the largest of which was an important flour mill. The explosion was felt for a great distance. Three rows of small houses in the immediate neighborhood were practically destroyed."

**FREQUENT RAINS FOR COMING WEEK**  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, issued by the weather bureau today, are:  
"Rocky mountain and plateau regions: Generally fair, except local snows are probable over north portion by Wednesday or Thursday. Temperature will continue below seasonal average."  
"Pacific states: Frequent rains probable in northern California, Oregon and Washington. Southern California generally fair; temperature below seasonal average."

## TWO LOSE LIFE WHEN SEATTLE THEATRE BURNS

**Assistant Fire Chief Killed, One Man Missing and Eight Injured When Roof of Grand Opera House Collapses During Fire That Guts Structure.**

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 20.—The Grand Opera house, on Cherry street, near Third avenue, was burned this morning. Assistant Fire Chief Fred Gillam was killed, another man is missing and eight men were injured. The alarm was turned in at 6:15 o'clock. At that time the interior of the opera house was burning fiercely. Firemen entered the building with hose, and while they were at work the roof crashed down, burying them all. The tall Alaska building and the Hotel Reitor, adjoining the theater, were saved. The Grand, built nearly twenty years ago, was once the principal theater of Seattle, but lately had been a moving picture and continuous vaudeville house.

With the northward growth of the business district the theater became unprofitable. It was built for John Cort, and was under his management for a dozen years or more.

**List of Injured.**  
The seriously injured are: George Boyd, broken leg and bad bruises about the head and body; Charles A. Hall, broken right shoulder and cuts about the body; Otto Rooney, broken right arm and bad bruises.

Those slightly injured are: Don M. Ginley, badly cut and shocked; J. M. Loughran, bruised; L. Branson, shoulder injured; L. Shughnessy, cut and bruised; A. B. Colburn, cut and bruised.

The injured men were removed to hospitals.

Assistant Chief Gillam was taken from the flames with both feet charred and his body badly crushed and burned. He was rushed toward the city hospital, but died before the ambulance arrived there.

The fire started shortly after 6 o'clock on the fourth floor of the theater building. The building is a brick structure extending four stories from the street, but with a fifth story in the shape of a slightly sloping roof.

**Building Collapses.**  
A Japanese janitor noticed the flames shooting from the fourth floor and turned in an alarm. When the firemen arrived the entire roof was a mass of leaping flames, which threatened the Reitor hotel building at the right and the Alaska building at the left. The firemen soon checked the flames. Most of them had entered the building and were playing water on the flames from within when, with a resounding crash, the roof collapsed, pinning the firemen beneath debris and heavy pillars.

L. Branson and A. B. Colburn were working on the flames from the gallery of the theater when the collapse came. They were carried two floors to the main floor of the theater. The others injured were working on the stage.

## TEUTONS CAPTURE TOWN OF NANESTI ON SERETH RIVER

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—The town of Nanesti, in Rumania on the Sereth, was taken yesterday by German troops, it is announced officially.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 20.—In the face of an attack in the Nanesti sector along the Sereth line on the Rumanian front the Russians were pressed back towards the Sereth, the war office announced today as follows:

"In the region of Baras, ten miles south of Lamutelu mountain, the enemy attempted an offensive, but was thrown back. Southeast of Rakotlach the enemy also attacked without success. Here the enemy used explosive bullets.

"On the Nanesti front in the vicinity of the River Rimnik the enemy pressed back our detachments toward the River Sereth.

"During the last engagements with the Turks it was discovered that they used explosive bullets."

## THREE BURN TO DEATH IN HOTEL FIRE, PORTLAND

**New Rosh Hotel in Lower Part of City Destroyed—One Roomer Severely Burned—Eight Lodgers Rescued by Firemen—Overheated Stove Causes Blaze.**

PORTLAND, Jan. 20.—Three men were burned to death and a fourth received serious injuries in a fire that gutted a hotel in the lower part of the city shortly before daybreak today.

The dead are: Taylor Washburn, Kelso, Wash.; Ernest Marquette, Portland; Thomas Lauren, Portland. Frank Talbot, a motorman in the employ of a Portland street railway company, was seriously injured while making his escape through a second story window. He was burned about the chest and cut on his arms and head by glass. As far as can be learned the killed were laborers.

Eight other lodgers, including two women, were carried by firemen down ladders from the second story windows.

An overheated stove in the hallway of the second story was the cause of the fire. The stove stood near the head of the stairs, cutting off flight in that direction.

The hotel was the New Rosh and occupied the two upper stories of a three story frame structure. The loss to the building probably will not exceed \$1000. Marquette and Lauren died as they slept, evidently, as their bodies were found in their beds. Washburn was aroused by the flames and fled into the hallway, where he was overcome. Talbot, the injured motorman, said he received his injuries when he smashed a window with his hand and escaped onto an adjoining roof.

## STRANGE SHIP SEEN BRAZILIAN COAST

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 20.—According to press dispatches from Rio Janeiro, a strange steamship with four smokestacks painted black, has been sighted off Ceara, Brazil, running at high speed. Word of this vessel was brought by the men on a steamship which arrived yesterday at Bahia, Brazil, who say they saw the steamer.

The German raider which has been operating in the south Atlantic is reported to be equipped with collapsible smokestacks, the number of stacks being changed at intervals to disguise the identity of the vessel.

The state of Ceara is in the north of Brazil.

## AMERICAN CONSULATE AT ALGIERS ROBBED

PARIS, Jan. 20.—The American consulate at Algiers was entered by burglars on Tuesday night, according to the Matin. The safe was broken open and all papers in it were stolen.

## LAST "ALOHA" MAY SOON BE SUNG FOR FAMOUS QUEEN OF HAWAIIANS



Queen Liliuokalani, who is seriously ill in Honolulu and reported gradually sinking. Owing to her advanced age, 78, little hope is entertained for her recovery.

## RAIDER VICTIMS PRISONERS OF WAR STATES GERMANY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The German admiralty statement that the neutral subjects in the crews of the vessels captured by the German raider in the south Atlantic have been "removed as prisoners of war" will raise a complicated question if any Americans are among them.

The whole question turns on whether an armed merchant ship is a war vessel and the gulf between this country and Germany on that question is still unbridged. Of course, Americans on such ships could be considered as prisoners of war only if the vessels were considered as war vessels.

No indication has been received that any of the vessels sunk by the German raider were other than defensively armed. The state department has held throughout that a vessel cannot be classed as a warship unless it is under naval orders, flies the naval flag and is manned by naval crews.

The German admiralty statement made just at this time on the armed ship issue between the two countries indicates the situation is becoming more complicated and was taken to foreshadow a more pronounced attitude as to the question on Germany's part.

D. C. Wilson of Sams Valley was in Medford Friday.

## BRITISH LOSSES IN RECENT ADVANCE ON SOMME HEAVY

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—The repulse of British patrol attacks and the successful carrying out of reconnoitering operations by German troops on the Franco-Belgian front are reported by the war office today.

BERLIN, Jan. 20.—The British forces which recently took possession of German trenches near Serre, on the Soame front, are said by the Military critic of the Overseas News agency to have suffered heavy losses in attempting to hold these positions.

"After the British succeeded in obtaining a footing in the German salient on January 12," he writes, "they shelled heavily for five days German trenches which had been abandoned on the following night, and did not venture to occupy these positions until January 17. Inasmuch as the trenches had been destroyed, giving no protection, and as the German artillery had the exact range, a hellish fire was showered on the British troops covering in the open field. They were compelled to retire with heavy losses at several places.

"For several days military activity has been impeded by snow at many points. There has been little fighting except artillery duels, which reached a pitch of tremendous intensity south of Ypres."

## THREE U-BOATS ACT AS SCOUTS TO SEA RAIDER

**Submarines of New Type Accompany German Pirate—Three Americans Members of Crew of Steamer Yarrowdale Captured by Raider and Taken Into Port by Prize Crew.**

RIO JANEIRO, Jan. 20.—The Journal Pequeno of Pernambuco asserts that it has information that the German raider is accompanied by three small submarines. These submarines are said to be six meters in length and of an entirely new type. Members of the crews of ships sunk by the raider and who have been held prisoner on board her, are quoted as saying that the submarines constantly leave the mother ship and reappear after short intervals, apparently doing scouting duty. They say that the raider has a speed of twenty-five knots, but slows down during the night.

NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—Three Americans were members of the crew of the British steamer Yarrowdale, captured by the German raider and taken into a German port by a prize crew, according to the records of the British consulate here.

Dispatches from Berlin last night said that the Yarrowdale had brought in 469 prisoners, crews from other captured ships, among them 193 subjects of neutral nations, but no mention was made of there being any Americans among them.

The Yarrowdale's crew numbered 37. Her cargo, consisting chiefly of contraband was worth about \$2,000,000, shipping brokers estimated today and the ship itself, based on the present price of ocean tonnage, between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000.

**Converted Raider.**  
NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—The warning sent out by wireless to vessels of the entente allies by the British authorities, that the captured British merchantman St. Theodore had been converted into a German commerce raider, was pointed to today by local shipping men as tending to prove that at least two German raiders are at large in the Atlantic ocean. It was recalled that a steamship had been sunk south of the equator within eight days after the Sanland had sighted the raider December 4, about 400 miles west of Fastnet. For any vessel to have covered the distance in that time, it was said, would have been an impossibility.

**Docks at Swinemunde.**  
AMSTERDAM, Jan. 20.—According to an official statement from Berlin, says the Cologne Gazette, the British steamer Yarrowdale, carrying crews of steamers captured by the German raider in the Atlantic, was brought into the port of Swinemunde, Prussia.

The official statement from Berlin Friday night, reporting the arrival of the Yarrowdale in harbor on December 31 last, as a prize of the German raider, did not indicate the port at which she arrived.

Swinemunde is in Pomerania, east of Stettin, of which it is the outpost. The town is on the Swine river, one of the channels connecting the Stettiner Haff with the Baltic sea. Vessels captured by German war craft have frequently been taken into Swinemunde on previous occasions.

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## \$750,000 CARGO IS SUBMARINED

NEW YORK, Jan. 20.—The British steamship Totfwood, carrying a cargo worth \$750,000, was submarined and sunk on her voyage starting from New York on Christmas day, according to advices received here by the French line, which cleared the vessel. The message received from Havre, the port to which the Totfwood was bound, did not say when and where the freighter was sunk or give the circumstances of the attack. The cablegram was dated January 17. The Totfwood carried a general cargo, which included machinery, steel and iron. She took no ammunition and no food shipments, according to French line officials. The vessel was of 1961 tons net.

## NATION PAYS FINAL TRIBUTE TO NAVAL HERO

**Funeral of Admiral George Dewey Imposing—Private and Public Ceremonies Attended by President and High Government Officials—Middies Form Escort.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Admiral Dewey was laid to rest today with all the honors a grateful nation can bestow. After funeral services conducted under the dome of the capitol and attended by President Wilson, the cabinet, the supreme court, the diplomatic corps and a notable company, the admiral's body was taken to Arlington national cemetery to rest with those of naval heroes gone before. Two of Dewey's commanders at the battle of Manila bay—Benjamin P. Lambertson, the fleet captain, and Captain Joseph P. Coghlan of the cruiser Raleigh, lie nearby. Not far away on the wooded slopes rest Schley and Sampson.

**Attended by President.**  
Private services at the home were attended by President Wilson, Secretary Daniels and a limited company. The funeral party then moved to the capitol. All business of the government was suspended for the day; all private business in Washington stopped for an hour. On every American naval ship on the seven seas an ensign fluttered at half-mast and an admiral's salute of nineteen guns was fired.

The entire corps of midshipmen from Annapolis, who came not under orders, but as Admiral Dewey's friends, as he had wished, escorted the body to the rotunda of the capitol, where Chaplain J. B. Frazier, chaplain of the Olympia at Manila bay, conducted brief and simple funeral services. Mrs. Dewey did not accompany the funeral party to the capitol, but joined it on the way to Arlington.

**Escorted by Middies.**  
The private services at the home were begun promptly at 10 o'clock. Soon thereafter a procession of midshipmen escorting the admiral's body moved along Massachusetts avenue for the plaza of the capitol and into the rotunda where the body was placed on a catafalque directly under the great dome.

President Wilson and the cabinet assembled in the president's room on the senate side and marched to their places beside the bier. The supreme court justices, the diplomatic corps, the chief of staff of the army, the committees representing both houses of congress and officers of the army and navy followed. There was no funeral oration and the occasion, as the admiral wished, was very simple. After the reading of the funeral service a quartet sang "Lead, Kindly Light," and "Abide With Me," the admiral's favorite hymns.

**Funeral Procession.**  
While the services under the dome of the capitol were proceeding, the midshipmen, drawn up on the plaza, were joined by the remainder of the military escort. Six companies of marines, a battalion of bluejackets from the Arkansas, companies of seamen from the gunboat Dolphin and the presidential yacht Mayflower, a company of army engineers from the Washington barracks and two companies of coast artillery formed the escort.

## BANKER SHOT IN BATTLE WITH BANDITS

KANAPOLIS, Kan., Jan. 20.—James Cowie, Jr., son of the president of the Exchange State bank here, was wounded early today in a running fight with a band of four or five men who blew up the bank vault and escaped in an automobile with \$2500 in cash and \$1000 in stamps, after cutting all telephone and telegraph wires out of the town.

James Cowie, Sr., the bank president, and his son were aroused by the explosion that wrecked the safe, and began firing at the robbers from their home within a block of the bank. Other citizens came to their assistance and a general fight ensued, in which more than fifty shots were fired.

## MAYOR SEIZES CAR OF COAL, CUTS PRICE



Seizure of coal by the carload by Mayor MacVicar of Des Moines, Ia., has cut the price and made it possible for the poor to secure fuel. When coal became scarce and high, the mayor, with policemen, went to the railroad yards, confiscated coal and sold it. The picture, exclusive to The Mail Tribune, shows one of the cars seized with a policeman on guard.

(Continued on Page Two.)