

Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Eleventh Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1917

NO. 282

U-BOAT WARFARE SLACKENS, PEACE HOPES BOOSTED

Falling Off in Submarine Losses
Lessen Possibility of Clash—No
Developments at Washington—
Yarrowdale Prisoners to Be Re-
leased.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—The submarine situation seemed at a standstill today with the government apparently watching developments steadily preparing itself for eventualities and adhering to its plans for taking action to protect American rights when the moment arrives. The slackening of the ruthless campaign in the last three or four days is regarded as reducing the chance of an attack on an American ship or loss of American lives, but with the coming of warmer weather it is expected to increase in intensity.

There was no further indication today of the president's plans for going before congress to ask for additional authority.

To Release Prisoners.
Through the Spanish embassy the state department has been informed that the American sailors taken as prisoners to Germany on the prize steamer Yarrowdale "would be released at once."

Because of the slow and uncertain communication between Washington and Berlin, state department officials were unable to decide whether today's dispatch was in answer to its last request or the previous one.

State department officials are watching the situation with some impatience.

Austria's Attitude Perplexing.
Austria's real attitude perplexes officials here and there is hope that Ambassador Penfield will find some way to influence the Vienna government not to formally sanction the extreme position taken by Germany. No answer has been received to a direct inquiry as to whether Austria intended to follow Germany.

It was authoritatively said at the state department today that so far nothing has been heard from the central powers as to what course they would take in the event that the United States authorized the arming of American merchant ships.

LAST OF MILITIA TO LEAVE BORDER IN TWO MONTHS

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Feb. 19.—The general plan to be followed in sending all National Guard organizations home from the border for muster out, in accordance with war department instructions, was announced by General Funston today. The 50,000 troops to be moved has been divided into two contingents, each including approximately 25,000 men and units embraced in the first contingent have been arranged in four groups.

It is estimated that four weeks will be required for the movement of these four groups, after which the homegoing of troops in the second contingent will be commenced.

Organizations placed in the first group of the first contingent will begin departing within the next few days, according to headquarters.

Troops of the border states, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, General Funston announced, would be the last to be released.

RECRUITERS ARE GIVEN NEW TRIAL

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—The United States circuit court of appeals granted a new trial today to Ralph K. Blair and Dr. Thomas Addis, convicted more than a year ago of recruiting soldiers for the British army here in violation of the neutrality of the United States. Both defendants were fined.

BLOCKADE FAILS TO HALT TRAFFIC IN N. Y. HARBOR

Five Steamers Arrive From War
Zone Ports and Equal Number
Clear for Europe—Will Follow
Northern Route—Condemn Food
Shipments.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Five steamships from war zone ports arrived here today. The British steamers Folia, from Bristol, and the Sebastian, from Rouen, both left after Germany's new submarine campaign commenced. The Folia, a Cunard freighter, came by way of Halifax. The other arrivals were the Belgian steamer Escart from Cardiff; French steamer Guyane from Bordeaux and the Dutch steamer Noordwyk from Rotterdam.

The Standard Oil company tank steamer Wico sailed from here today for an unnamed European port, the first vessel of the Standard Oil fleet to leave an American port since the U-boat campaign was inaugurated. The Wico was not armed.

Steamer Escapes U-Boat.
BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 19.—The Donaldson line freighter Lakonia of Glasgow, provided with the new smoke device of the British admiralty to render shipping immune from submarine attacks, arrived at this port yesterday. The ship also carries a three-inch gun mounted astern and several trained gunners to man it. According to one of the gunners today the new device, perfected by British scientists and chemists, can generate enough smoke in several minutes to mask a vessel from the enemy's view for several hours.

The Lakonia encountered no enemy craft on the trip to this port, but she was twice chased for several hours on the last outward bound voyage, first by a ship thought to have been the commerce raider Vinea and again by a submarine in the Bay of Biscay.

The Lakonia escaped because of her superior speed.

Five Ships in Danger Zone.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Five American ships from this port are now on the high seas exposed to the dangers of German submarine warfare, and several others are ready for immediate departure. Three of these vessels, the Orleans and the Rochester for Bordeaux and the Oswego for Genoa, are now approaching the blockade line in the Bay of Biscay and the Mediterranean.

The City of Pueblo, a freighter of 2424 tons, owned by the Harrey Steamship company, got away yesterday for Havre. Her captain and thirteen other officers are Americans. The crew are to receive a war bonus of 50 per cent of their pay at the end of the voyage.

American Boats to Sail.
Among the American ships ready to sail today are the Algonquin, a freighter, and the Mongolia, which is equipped to carry passengers.

In addition to the City of Pueblo, twelve steamships sailed from New York yesterday, presumably by routes that will carry them through the zone of blockade. Three vessels, one of them an American, arrived after passage through the restricted area.

Health department reports show that 7,000,000 pounds of food brought to this port by ships during the past twenty-four hours has been condemned and destroyed as unfit for consumption. The value is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The food condemned, however, is

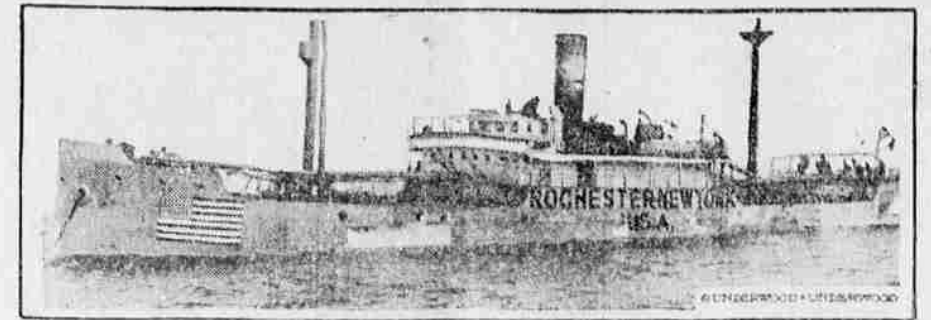
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AMERICAN HUNTERS HELD IN MEXICO

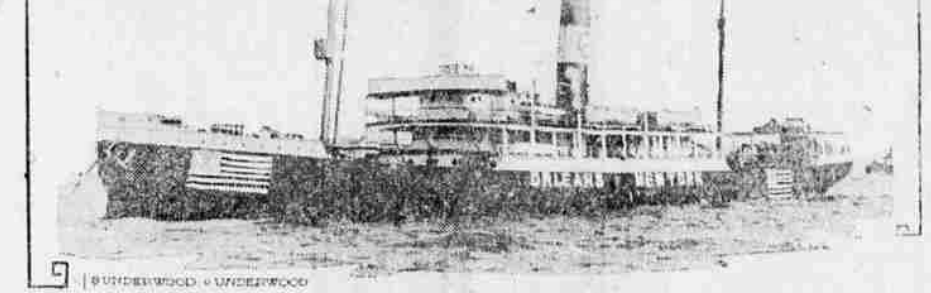
YUMA, Ariz., Feb. 19.—Three duck hunters, supposed to be Americans, who crossed the border into Sonora yesterday, were reported today to have been seized and held for a trial by Mexican troops and a rifle confiscated and about \$1000 taken from them.

Colonel Richard D. Wilson, commanding the Yuma border company here, is investigating the case. The men are reportedly busy.

U. S. VESSELS OFF TO TEST GERMAN U-BOAT BLOCKADE



These two American freighters are on their way through the blockaded zone to Bordeaux, France, with non-contraband cargo. They are the first American vessels to brave the danger zone without complying with the German order to paint their sides with vertical red and white stripes. The Rochester is owned by the Kerr Steamship line and the Orleans by the Oriental Navigation company. Neither is armed.



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SUBMARINES SINK VESSELS SAILING FROM NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Two steamships out of New York under charter to the Kerr Steamship company, one Norwegian and the other Spanish, have been sunk in the submarine zone, according to advices received by the company today. They were the Dalmata, Norwegian, January 24 for Havre, and the Mar Adriatico, Spanish, January 16, for Bordeaux.

The Dalmata was sunk February 9 and the Mar Adriatico February 11. The latter arrived at Lisbon on February 2 and probably was proceeding for Bordeaux when sunk. Officials of the Kerr Steamship company said they did not believe either vessel had Americans aboard.

The Dalmata was a vessel of 1723 tons gross, 245 feet long. The Mar Adriatico was 2410 tons gross, 295 feet long.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Eleven men of the crew of the British steamer Romsdalen, reported sunk yesterday, are missing, Lloyd's Shipping agency announced today.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The British steamer old, of 3903 tons gross, has been sunk, Lloyd's Shipping agency announced today.

ATTEMPT IMPEACH MOONEY TESTIMONY

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—A new factor in the fight for a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney, convicted of bomb murders, was introduced by the defense today when Harry W. Johnson, a San Mateo county constable, came forward with an affidavit stating he saw a Mexican drop a suitcase on the spot where Mooney is accused of "planting" a bomb that took ten lives July 22, 1916. Johnson says in his sworn statement that he later saw the Mexican on a vessel bound for Seattle.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Arguments for a new trial for Thomas J. Mooney, convicted of murder in the first degree for a bomb explosion costing ten lives here last July, were postponed until tomorrow in the superior court here today at the request of the defense. Counsel for Mooney will present affidavits in an attempt to impeach evidence upon which Mooney was convicted.

WILSON NOMINATES TRADE COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—William B. Colver, a St. Paul newspaper publisher, and John Franklin Fort, former governor of New Jersey, were nominated by President Wilson today as members of the federal trade commission.

FRENCH STEAMER SINKS U-BOAT IN MID-SEA BATTLE

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—In a forty minute battle between a German U-boat and the French line steamship Guyane off the coast of France on January 27, the submarine was sunk according to officers of the freighter which arrived here today from Bordeaux.

The Guyane was one day out from port. At 3:30 p. m. Captain Rousselot said, the U-boat was sighted some distance to port and apparently endeavoring to cross the freighter's bow to stop her. The submarine fired a shot which fell short and the Guyane then turned sharply to starboard so that her big 65-millimeter gun, mounted at the stern could be trained on the approaching vessel. The submarine fired a second shot, which fell considerably short and a third which struck the water close by the freighter.

Meanwhile the Guyane's gunner had sent one shell which failed to hit but struck very near its mark. A second shot from the Guyane, Captain Rousselot said, hit the U-boat squarely and the underwater boat was seen to collapse.

During the next thirty minutes the German craft appeared to be struggling for existence. No one appeared on the deck and no further attempt to shell the freighter was made, and the Guyane refrained from firing any more shots. At the end of the half hour the submarine disappeared. The freighter's officers said they had no doubt that the U-boat was lost.

The Guyane, a steel vessel of 2068 tons net, carried 37 men. There were no Americans aboard. She brought a general cargo of about 1000 tons.

WHEAT RISES ON REPORTED END OF SHIPPING TIE-UP

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—Prospective ending of the tie-up of neutral shipping had a bullish effect today on wheat. In this connection, special notice was taken of reports that the Dutch government would open bids for one hundred thousand barrels of flour on Wednesday. Promises of improved railroad conditions tended also to lift the market. Opening prices, which ranged from the same as Saturday's (high to 14c higher, with May at \$1.74 1/4 to \$1.74 1/2 and July at \$1.49 3/4 to \$1.50, were followed by material gains all around. Corn rose with wheat. Selling was of only a scattered sort. After opening 14 to 1/2c higher, the market continued to ascend.

Announcement of liberal export sales gave strength to oats, besides the market was affected by the upward course of other cereals. Provisions developed firmness owing to the lightness oflard stocks. Lower quotations on hogs, however, caused some wavering at the start.

MINERS TRAPPED BY FLAMES IN COLORADO MINE

TRINIDAD, Colo., Feb. 19.—Three miners were trapped early today by a fire in the Oakdale mine, six miles from Layeta, at the foot of Layeta Pass and rescuers have been unable to reach them. The blaze was caused by what is known as a "windy shot" fire, following a dynamite blast, setting fire to timber and coal.

Fourteen men were in the mine at the time, but the other eleven were between the blaze and the entrance to the mine. Three "helmet" men from the Walsen mine at Walsenburg are on the way to Layeta. Mine officials said the fire would be under control by noon. It is believed the imprisoned men are safe.

The Oakdale mine is owned by the Oakdale Coal company of Denver.

Rescuers succeeded in extinguishing the flames and reaching the imprisoned men before noon. The men were uninjured.

LITTLE ACTIVITY ON ALL WAR FRONTS

PETROGRAD, Feb. 19.—Except for scouting operations there has been little activity along the fronts in Russia, Galicia, Rumania and the Caucasus today, the war office statement says.

BERLIN, Feb. 19 (By Wireless to Sayville)—An absence of important developments along the entire front in the eastern war theater and in Macedonia is reported by army headquarters today.

In Macedonia two hostile airplanes were shot down.

BERLIN, Feb. 19 (By Wireless to Sayville)—Heavy fog along the Franco-Belgian front has interfered with operations and there have been only reconnoitering raids and similar enterprises, army headquarters announced today.

RESTRICT IMPORTS TO BRITISH ISLES

LONDON, Feb. 19.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, stated in the house of commons this afternoon that the British government had decided upon drastic import restrictions. The new measure, he said, would affect the allies of Great Britain and the British dominions.

MEXICAN ARRESTED FOR FIRING ON CAVALRY

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 19.—Charged with taking pot shots at the Utah cavalry, stationed at Arivaca, Francisco Garcia was arrested and brought to the Pima county jail here today.

STRAHORN PLANS RAILROAD FOR SOUTH OREGON

Will Build 400 Miles of Road From
Lakeview to Flannigan, Nevada—
Will Connect With U. P. and Hill
Lines at Bend—To Cost Seven
Million.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Robert E. Strahorn, a man of wide experience in railroad work, said here today that he had planned to build 400 miles of railroad in southern and southeast Oregon at a cost of \$7,000,000 and a line from Lakeview, Ore., to Flannigan, Nev., connecting with the Western Pacific railroad.

"This railroad," said Strahorn, "plans to connect at Bend, Ore., the Union Pacific and the Hill system, two central Oregon lines, the Des Chutes and Oregon Trunk branches with which the Southern Pacific at Klamath Falls, and Oregon Short Line at Crane, and the California, Nevada and Oregon Narrow Gauge at Lakeview, Ore., and the Western Pacific at Flannigan, Nevada."

Strahorn refused to name his backers.

Hill is to Co-operate.

The railroad, as planned, would serve the vast territory of Eastern Oregon, giving ready access to the north, south or east, for products which hitherto have been a long way from market. Surveys, according to Strahorn, are completed for most of the territory, and assurance, he said, has been given of co-operation from both the Hill and Harriman interests.

Strahorn started life as a newspaper reporter.

GOVERNOR LISTER SIGNS WASHINGTON BONE DRY BILL

OLYMPIA, Wa., Feb. 19.—Governor Lister today signed the bone dry prohibition bill at 1:15 o'clock this afternoon in the presence of Representative Elmer Halsey, author of the bill, officers of the W. S. T. U. and other advocates of the bill.

There was hand clapping from the group surrounding the governor when he wrote his name. Unless referred by petition to the 1918 election the law will become effective 90 days after adjournment of the legislature. A total of 22,676 names would be necessary to send the law to referendum, and so far as known no steps have been taken yet to obtain names, further than to ask liquor dealers and organizations in other states whether they would bear the expense of collecting names. The answer was said to have been that the liquor dealers would expend no more money in this state.

The law prohibits possession of intoxicating liquor by any person except regularly ordained clergymen, priests and rabbis actually in charge of congregations for sacramental purposes. It allows wholesale and retail druggists and manufacturing chemists to handle alcohol only if granted license after public hearing and provides penalties for violations.

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GOVERNMENT FORCES TAKE CUBAN TOWN

HAVANA, Feb. 19.—The town of Jatabonera, in Camaguey province, was occupied yesterday by government forces.

The number of prisoners captured Saturday at Sancti Spiritus was 400. Some fifty political prisoners have been transferred to Cuban and about fifty were set free yesterday. The government is considering a proclamation of amnesty for certain restricted classes.

SNOWSTORM CAUSES HEAVY LOSS UTAH CATTLE

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Feb. 19.—A severe snow storm which was general in Utah yesterday, coupled with a shortage in hay caused a damage of approximately \$50,000 to the sheep and cattle industry, according to reports received here today.

Bill to Pass House in Event of War—
Anti-War Organization Denounce
Measure as Blow to Democratic
Spirit—Measure Aimed at Criticis-
ing Newspapers.

BY GILSON GARDNER.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—A censorship bill, drawn by the army general staff and scheduled to pass the house immediately following any declaration of war is the object of severe criticism by such organizations as the American Union against Militarism, the National Defense League and the Emergency Peace committee. A telegram has been received by the secretary of war, signed by Oswald C. Villard, Ernest Poole and a score of other names, denouncing the proposed law as unnecessary and dangerous. "It would," says the telegram, "in the guise of furthering control of military information, give the military authorities absolute control of the press in time of war when democracy most needs free discussion of men, measures and objectives."

Decline Law Unnecessary.

A statement issued by the American Union against Militarism, says such a law is unnecessary. "The war department and navy department," they say, "now have drastic regulations establishing a complete censorship on purely military information. This bill was drafted with an eye to those newspapers which, in the event of war, might attempt to criticize the conduct of the war, those newspapers (to borrow the language of the war college statement) which 'by their editorials and presentation of news may sway people against the war and thus by adverse criticism tend to destroy the efficiency of these (the military) agencies.'"

The Union's letter calls attention to the fact that it was newspaper criticism which enabled Lincoln to get rid of his inefficient generals, and it was Lord Northcliffe's defiance of the British censor and his exposure of the failure of the war office to furnish munitions to the army that saved the situation for the allies on the western front.

Tolstoy's Son to Speak.

Siraj Osman Ilyia Tolstoy, son of the noted Tolstoy, was refused permission to speak at Columbia university, a committee of the Woman's Peace party of this city, has wired an invitation for him to address a big mass meeting here. The same organization has invited a speech from Mrs. Skeffington, widow of the Irish patriot who was refused permission to speak at Harvard college. If there

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SHELL CONTRACTS AWARDED AMERICAN STEEL COMPANIES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Contracts for navy projectiles, which had been let to Hadfields, limited, an English concern, were today given to the Midvale Steel company, the Washington Steel and Ordnance company, and the Crucible Steel company.

Hadfields was prevented by the British government from accepting the contract for 4,000 projectiles, which had been awarded by the navy department at a much smaller price per shell and with quicker delivery than the American offers.

Award of the contracts today to the three American firms terminates a controversy between the navy and American munition makers. Representatives of the companies and department officials reached an agreement on a flat price of \$500 per shell. This is an increase over the price on similar orders in previous years, but aggregates \$447,000 less than the former total bid.

Contracts awarded the three American firms aggregate 14,200 14-inch armor piercing shells. The companies guaranteed delivery in required time. The Midvale company will make 5,000 shells, the Crucible 7,000 and the Washington company 2,200.