



Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Eleventh Year.

WEATHER—Maximum yesterday, 46; minimum today, 30; precipitation, .19. FORECAST—Tonight and tomorrow, fair.

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1917

NO. 298



PRESIDENT TO ARM AMERICAN VESSELS

CONGRESS CONVENES ON APRIL 16

President Informed by Secretary Lansing and Attorney General Gregory That He Has Power to Arm Merchant Ships—Announces That He Will Do So at Once and Issues Call for Extra Session of Congress for Middle of April.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—President Wilson today ordered that a policy of armed neutrality be put into effect immediately by the arming of American merchant vessels and called an extra session of congress to meet Monday, April 16, in order to have its support and counsel "in all matters collateral to the defense of our merchant marine."

On the mature advice of the government's highest legal authorities, the president decided that failure of his armed neutrality bill at the last session left him with sufficient authority under existing statutes to issue naval guns to merchantmen.

He is expected, however, to ask that all doubt on the point be removed by passage of a specific authorization as soon as congress meets.

Ships to be Armed.

The president signed the proclamation for the extra session while lying in bed with a cold. He also approved the statement given out at the white house. Orders for carrying the president's decision to arm ships were immediately sent to the navy department.

The president decided to arm ships after getting formal opinions from Attorney General Gregory and Secretary Lansing that he had sufficient authority, in spite of old statutes which some believed forbade it.

Mr. Wilson has the backing of the entire cabinet in taking the step. Guns for arming merchantmen have been assembled at navy yards along the Atlantic coast and everything is ready to carry out the policy announced by the president.

Arm Ships at Once.

It was learned definitely that some American merchant ships sailing for the submarine zone will be armed by the government at once. Preliminary arrangements have been completed and it is expected that vessels will be ready to sail in the near future.

The names of the ships which will be armed will not be made public by the government and are not expected to be published in the newspapers.

The following statement was issued:

"Secretary Tumulty stated in connection with the president's call for

(Continued on Page Two.)

PEACE THREATENED BY REVOLUTION

LIMA, Peru, March 9.—The political unrest which manifested itself on March 7 in the outbreak of serious disturbances in various parts of Peru is still strongly in evidence. President Pardo yesterday declined to confer with a committee of the civil party and today Javier Prado, president of the civil party, issued a manifesto against the present cabinet. The cabinet, the manifesto declares, has lost the confidence of the country and by remaining in office can only aggravate the situation and perhaps cause serious disasters.

Lima advices on Thursday reported one change in the Peruvian cabinet in the replacement of Jose Garcia Rodaya by Dr. Ezequiel Munoz as minister of the interior. President Pardo, it had been previously stated, had refused to accept the resignation of other cabinet members.

GILL WANTED BRIBE IN LUMP, POCKETED \$4000

Seattle Bootlegger Testifies to Handing Mayor Roll of Greenbacks at First Meeting, Then Proceeded to Import Liquor by Carload Instead of Case and Barrel as Before.

SEATTLE, Wa., March 9.—Logan Billingsley, chief witness for the government in the trial of Mayor Hiram C. Gill and others, charged with conspiracy to violate the United States statutes by importation of liquor into the state of Washington, swore today that he gave a bribe of \$4000 in bills to Mayor Gill in the mayor's office on August 30, 1916, and that the mayor turned over to him documentary evidence against Billingsley seized in the latter's drug store.

Bought by Carload.

Billingsley took the stand when court opened and resumed his story of his operations in Seattle, which he had brought up to the middle of June last night. He told today of more payments of bribes to Detective Peyser, one of the defendants; of the battle at his Westlake avenue warehouse, July 25, 1916, in which two policemen and his Japanese porter were killed; of the raid next day on his drug store, in which all his business correspondence was seized, of his arrest and confinement in the city jail on Gill's orders; of his hearing and dismissal on the charge of murder; of the filing of charges of illicit liquor selling and forgery which obliged him and his brothers to deposit \$20,000 cash bail. He telegraphed to the Jesse Moore Hunt Liquor company in San Francisco August 7 that he had been in a world of troubles, but matters were improving, meaning that negotiations with Mayor Gill for dropping of the prosecution were progressing favorably. On August 26 he had decided to re-enter business on a larger scale, and went to San Francisco, where he ordered shipments of liquor by carload instead of by barrel and case as he had heretofore.

Wanted Lump Sum.

Meanwhile Billingsley's attorney had been perfecting the "compromise" with Gill, he testified, and finally, on August 29 Billingsley went to the city hall to close the negotiations. He called on Chief Beckingham, whom he knew, he said. Mayor Gill came into the chief's office and the chief introduced the two men who met then for the first time, Billingsley testified. Billingsley swore that Gill opened the subject of bribery, saying he knew Billingsley was paying money to Detective Poolman for protection. Gill dwelt on the importance of the correspondence seized in the drugstore raid, according to Billingsley, and then declared: "The trouble is you ought to pay your fare to the right conductor."

Billingsley swears that he immediately proposed payment to Mayor Gill of a sum of money monthly for protection, but the mayor said he did not care to do business that way.

"I want mine in a lump sum," Billingsley swore the mayor said. Thereupon, Billingsley testified, he drew from his pocket a roll of forty \$100 bills which he handed to the mayor. The mayor took the money eagerly and put it in his pocket, testified Billingsley.

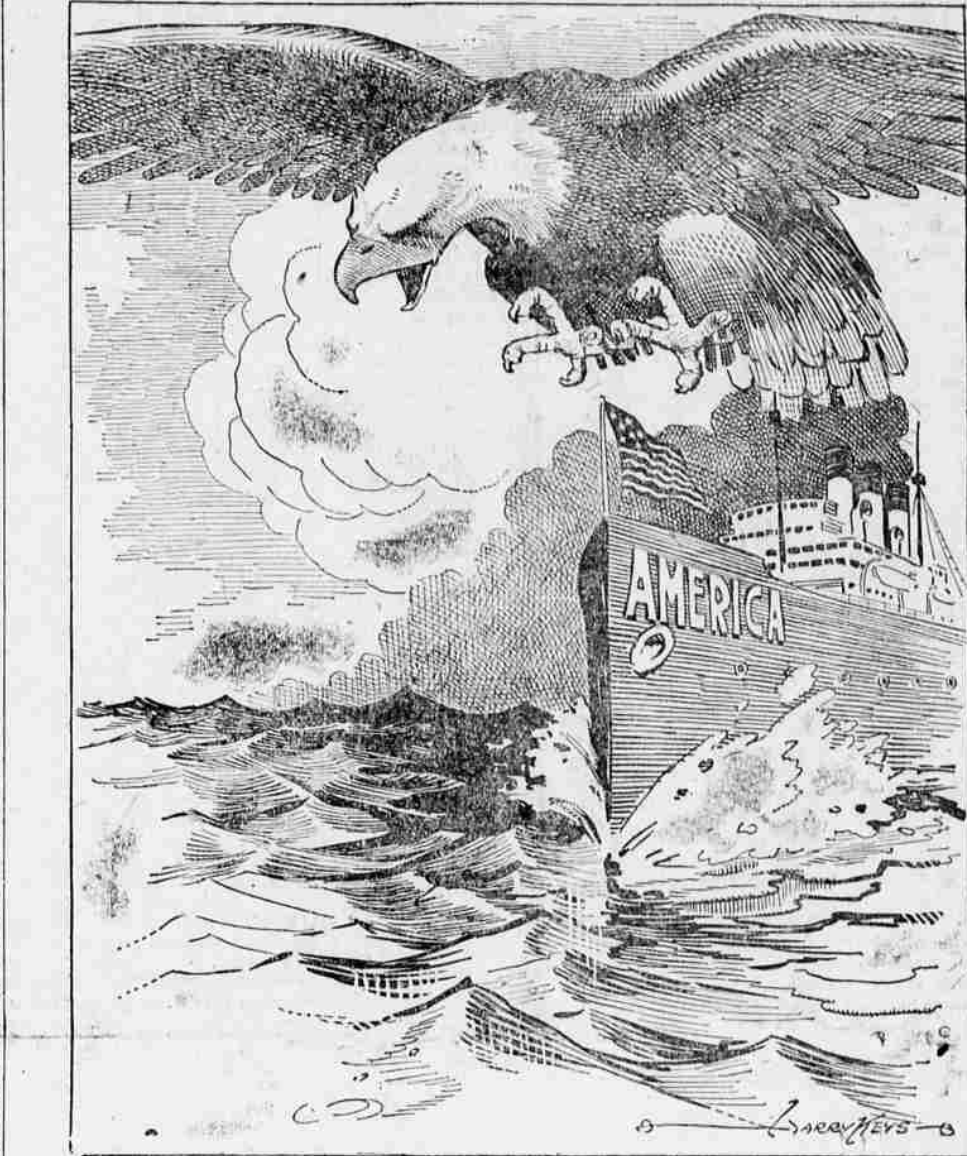
The following day the seized papers were returned by the mayor to Billingsley.

NEW ZEALAND ONIONS DUE TOMORROW

SEATTLE, Wa., March 9.—Five thousand crates of onions are due to arrive in Vancouver tomorrow from New Zealand aboard the steamship Makara. The onions will be used for distribution in the United States and Canada.

Commission men look for a decided drop in onion prices. Onions are quoted 12c a pound here.

Armed Neutrality!



FURTHER RETREAT OF GERMAN LINES ALONG THE SOMME

LONDON, March 8.—Further retirement of the German lines on the Somme river front in France and the arrival of the British army before Bagdad in Mesopotamia, may be predicted as early events affecting the military situation, according to the views expressed by Major General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the war office, in his weekly talk with the Associated Press.

General Maurice said:

"During the past week on the western front the Germans have kept up a slow retirement until their new line extends approximately from Bapaume to Bapaume, thereby accentuating the dangerous salient from which the enemy wishes to retire rather than risk meeting our offensive along that line."

"In the east our cavalry is within 12 miles of Bagdad, which lies in a valley and is indefensible except along the River Diar, six miles away, where the Turks may make a stand and which point General Maude (commander of the British forces) may have reached by this time, as our last news was sent March 6."

"This campaign is by no means an isolated action and the last of a series of operations, which have blasted the German plans. The Russians have been rapidly clearing Persia, but on account of the physical difficulties of the country, rather than the resistance of the Turks, further advance may be slow."

GENERAL FRENCH'S SISTER KILLED AT MONASTIR

LONDON, March 9.—Mrs. Harley, sister of Field Marshal Viscount French, commander in chief of the home forces, is dead of wounds received at Monastir, Serbia. She was in the town with an ambulance, of which she was in charge when a shell burst near the ambulance.

BOY WHO KILLED FATHER'S MURDERER FREED BY JURY

CROSBURG, Kans., March 9.—Eleven year old Joe Vinardi went back to school here today, freed by law for avenging in blood the killing of his father. A coroner's jury late yesterday returned a verdict that freed him from all blame in connection with the death here last Monday night of Mike Gilio, sailor for the hand of his sister and enemy of Giannetto Vinardi, the boy's father.

A feud sprang up between the two men because of Gilio's attentions to Vinardi's daughter. They met Monday night, one with a shotgun and the other with a revolver and both, next day, were found dead. It was believed at first that they had killed each other.

But the inquest revealed that another had stepped into the tragedy. It was the eleven-year-old boy.

When Vinardi, the elder, lay mortally wounded, according to the story told yesterday, he instructed the boy to obtain vengeance. The boy, his father's shotgun in hand, found Gilio, who had a shotgun also. He pointed it at the boy and laughed. Joe Vinardi shot.

"Self defense," the coroner's jury ruled for the boy. Today he trudged back to school.

DAIRYMEN RAISE MILK IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 9.—The food situation today showed two new factors, both tending to raise prices. The Dairymen's league, which virtually controls the sources of supply for this city and vicinity, announced a schedule for the six months beginning April 1, which averages one and one-half cents a quart more than the corresponding months of last year. Further freight congestion was

GERMAN RAIDER REPORTED CRUISING SOUTHERN ROUTE

NEW YORK, March 9.—The presence of a vessel suspected as a German raider in the lane travelled by ships running between New York and Mediterranean points was reported by Captain D. M. Nicoll of the American steamship Suruga, which arrived here today from Havre and the Azores.

Captain Nicoll said that when the Suruga was north of the Azores on February 20, in the direct track of the New York-Mediterranean trade, he sighted a strange vessel which steamed around the Suruga, stopped and then bore off in a new direction. The stranger was of the corko type, a large vessel with two masts, armed with a stern gun and other pieces, painted gray and carried a funnel, which did not parallel the masts. She did not signal the Suruga, Captain Nicoll said, and he did not learn her identity.

While at Havre Captain Nicoll met the master of the American steamship City of Memphis, New York to Havre with cotton, who told him of an experience with a submarine off the Scilly islands on January 20. The U-boat sent a shot across the American's deck as she signalled to stop and the American after obeying sent a mate aboard the submarine with the merchantman's papers. The U-boat captain was quoted as telling the City of Memphis' mate:

"You've got a contraband cargo, I ought to sink your ship, but on account of friendly relations between the United States and Germany, I'm going to let you go."

Another American vessel beside the Suruga passed safely through the German submarine zone and arrived here today—the Virginian, which left Marseilles on February 21. Both ships sailed in ballast.

threatened by a strike of freight handlers of the New York Central railroad.

CUBAN REVOLT COLLAPSES WITH SANTIAGO'S FALL

Revolutionary Stronghold Taken by Government Forces Through Coup by Munoz Forces—United States Marines Landed to Protect Foreign Interests in Case Rebels Renew Attack Upon City.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Official dispatches to the navy department today established that Cuban government forces have regained control of Santiago, the stronghold of the rebel uprising. President Menocal has notified this government that Governor Munoz, in command there, represents him and the recognized Cuban government. American marines have been landed to protect foreign interest.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Landing of American marines and blue-jackets at Santiago, Cuba, to protect lives of Americans and other foreigners and their property was reported today in dispatches to the state and navy departments. The reports said there had been no fighting in the city or its suburbs up to midnight last night.

The naval forces were sent ashore by Commander Belknap, commanding the United States squadron in Santiago harbor, on his responsibility and at the request of the civil governor. An attack on the city by rebel forces was impending and Commander Belknap put his men ashore to prevent loss of foreign lives and destruction of property.

The repositioning of Santiago and the capture of the rebel leader Gomez and his staff is regarded here as marking the collapse of the rebellion. Today's dispatches do not say whether there was a fight, but say the rebels "realizing they were traitors about to be captured," threw away their arms and fled to the outskirts.

It appears from the dispatches, which are incomplete, that the Munoz forces took the city by a coup within it and before the Menocal troops marching on Santiago had arrived.

Munoz previously had declared himself loyal to President Menocal and the government and at his request American forces were landed to protect foreign interests in case the departing rebels should attempt to re-enter after having gathered their forces outside.

625 PERISH WITH BRITISH TRANSPORT

LONDON, March 9.—The British transport Mendi, carrying South African native laborers was sunk after a collision on February 21 and 625 persons lost their lives.

The Mendi was a British steamer of 4220 tons gross, built in Glasgow in 1905, and owned by the British and African Steam Navigation company of Liverpool, the Elder Dempster company. The last entry in shipping records regarding her movements was on December 27 last when she was reported arriving at Port Natal from Dar-es-Salaam.

MRS. CUDAHY MADE A PAPAL PRINCESS

CHICAGO, March 9.—Mrs. Catherine Cudahy, widow of Michael Cudahy, the meat packer, has been made a papal countess by Pope Benedict XV. It was announced officially here today. The only other woman in the United States with this distinction is the Countess Leary of New York on whom the honor was conferred by the late Pope Leo XIII.

FRENCH TAKE GERMAN LINE IN CHAMPAGNE

Teuton Positions on a Front of 1,500 Meters, Varying in Depth From 600 to 800 Meters, Carried in Brilliant Attack in Deep Snow—Germans Capture Russian Positions.

PARIS, March 9.—German positions on a front of 1500 meters, varying in depth from 600 to 800 meters were carried by attack in the Champagne made yesterday by the French the war office reports. A German counter offensive was repulsed after violent fighting. Two German attacks in Avocourt wood on the Verdun front were repulsed. The announcement follows:

"Supplemental information has been received showing that the attack made yesterday by our troops between Butte du Mesnil and Maisons de Champagne was a brilliant success. Notwithstanding the snow, which rendered the operations difficult, our troops blew up enemy positions on a front of 1500 meters, varying in depth from 600 to 800 meters. Late in the day the Germans delivered a violent counter offensive on the left of this sector. After a furious combat with hand grenades we repulsed the adversary, who suffered heavy losses. The number of prisoners taken by us was 1300 including three officers."

"Attacks by the enemy on one of our trenches at Avocourt wood on the left bank of the Meuse were repulsed. There was intermittent cannonading on the remainder of the front."

Russian Lines Entered

BERLIN, March 9.—An attack made yesterday by Teuton forces on the northern Rumanian front resulted in the capture of strong Russian positions, the war office announces. More than 600 prisoners were taken. Following is the official report:

"Front of Archduke Joseph; Between the Tretos and the Uzul valleys our troops stormed the Maygoras heights and neighboring strongly entrenched Russian positions. We captured four officers, 600 men and several machine guns and mine throwers."

German Version

BERLIN, March 9.—The following announcement on military operations on the Franco-Belgian front was issued today by army headquarters:

"The artillery activities showed an increase on an extended scale only in the Champagne. Wherever the firing at other points was intensified it was in preparation for minor actions either by ourselves or by the enemy."

"In the Champagne the French artillerist drum fire attacked the positions south of Ripont captured by us on February 15. They succeeded in entering isolated trenches on Height 185 and at Maisons de Champagne. From the latter place they were repulsed. A counter attack recovered for us the trench sections on the dominating Height 185. A farm situated lower down was held by the enemy."

POWER COMPANY BUYS TRINITY PLANT

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 9.—The Trinity Gold Mining and Reduction company was authorized by the state railroad commission to sell to the California-Oregon Power company its hydraulic plant, including its transmission and distribution system near Carville, Trinity county. The price is to be \$22,000 cash.

The hydro-electric plant, which consists of a dam and about 9000 feet of flume, and possesses a generating capacity of 500 horsepower, was built by the mining company some years ago, before any of the larger electrical companies had penetrated the Trinity county field.