

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD OREGON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1917.

NO. 14

GERMAN COMMERCE RAIDERS IN ATLANTIC

TWO RAIDERS SIGHTED OFF EAST COAST

Navy Department Advised That German Raiders Have Appeared off Nantucket Shoals and Off Virginia Capes—All Shipping Held in Port While Destroyers Seek Vessel—Naval Patrol Alert to Examine All Strange Ships.

NEWPORT, R. I., April 7.—A German sea raider was officially reported off Nantucket at 7:40 o'clock this morning. The deputy collector of customs warned all shipping not to leave port until further notice.

BOSTON, April 7.—The following message was received today at the Boston navy yard from the Nantucket lightship:

"Commerce raider passed Nantucket shoals lightship bound west at 7:20."
Naval officials here reported that the raider had two masts, a large stack and was pointed a slate color. Her size was reported as about 10,000 tons.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., April 7.—The presence of a German raider off the Virginia Capes was officially reported here today. A sea-going tug has been dispatched to sea to warn all outgoing and incoming vessels and to order all outgoing vessels to turn back. The tug is equipped with wireless and is expected to reach all ships in the danger zone.

Unknown Ship Seen.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The navy department was advised early today by the Nantucket shoals lightship by radio that an unknown ship had passed near that vessel. No information as to the character of the ship was given.

A radio message said that a "suspicious looking" vessel had passed the lightship headed westward. The navy department expects the commandant of the Newport naval district to take whatever steps he may deem necessary without orders in the department.

Reports of German commerce raiders off Atlantic ports were flashed along the seaboard today and all shipping practically was tied up while navy patrols went out to establish the identity of mysterious ships reported near the lanes.

It was the first breath of war at the doors of America and it sent a thrill through the country.

(Continued on page three)

MISS ROBINSON TALENTED ARTIST IS FOUND DEAD

SAN MATEO, Cal., April 7.—Miss Dorland Robinson, a 23-year-old artist, who exhibited paintings at the Panama Pacific international exposition, was found dead in her room here today with a bullet through her heart and a revolver beside her. The girl's mother, Mrs. J. W. Robinson, found the body. She said her daughter had overworked at her art.

Miss Robinson, the daughter of Dr. J. W. Robinson of Jacksonville, was one of the most talented artists of her work have been held in Medford and another exhibit was planned for the near future by the Greater Medford club.

Miss Robinson has been suffering from ill health for some time past, having recently recovered from nervous prostration.

ALLIED FRONT CHEER NEWS OF AMERICAN AID

Report of Senate Vote Reaches Trenches and Is Told to Germans—Speculation as to Form of Operation—Hope for Division of Troops Gives Cheer to Allies.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 7.—The news of the action of the United States senate in voting for war with Germany reached the far flung western battle line today and was hailed with cheers. Nowhere was the gratification greater than along the section of the front held by the Canadians, with whom many thousands of Americans are serving. Many Canadians and British companies were busy today preparing signs to hold up over the trenches, telling the Germans the tidings from Washington. This is the favorite plan of the Tommies to convey all sorts of bad news to their enemies across "no man's land."

News to Germans

German prisoners taken today had not heard of President Wilson's address and knew only in a vague way of the breaking of diplomatic relations in February. Some of the trench signs which were prepared included a brief translation into German of the president's statement that America was entering the list against the German government and not against the German people. Others included the latest slogan: "No peace with the Hohenzollerns," while still others read: "Get rid of your kaiser." The British army as a whole has regarded America as practically in the war ever since the severance of relations, the news of which was greeted as best news which had reached the trenches for many months. It is said then that active participation was only a matter of time.

Great Excitement

The president's address was just reaching the front trenches today in its entirety. The gist of the speech had been sent out by wireless and also by telegraph and telephone but the soldiers generally preferred to wait for congressional action before spreading the news to "Fritz."

On their way back from the front trenches today the troops who had been relieved eagerly bought two days old London papers from the French newsmen, in order to read the American news and the text of the president's speech. In the little French restaurants, cafes and villages behind the lines there was great excitement among the old civilians and the poilus as well.

With the weight of America thrown in the scales just at this juncture, in what is regarded as the critical year of the struggle renewed thrill of confidence has been sent all along the front. One could sense it everywhere today. Visiting Canadian headquarters and the Canadian frontiers the correspondent was greeted everywhere without outbursts of congratulations.

Want Force at Front.

There was much speculation along the front as to the manner of American participation and an almost un-

(Continued on Page Two.)

NORTHWEST WHEAT BREAKS ALL RECORDS

PORTLAND, Ore., April 7.—Pacific northwest wheat prices reached the highest mark ever made here today when all grades advanced from three to five cents per bushel, as a result of the government's forecast of a short crop.

Bluestem sold at \$1.86 a bushel. Yesterday it was \$1.81.

Flour prices also topped all old records when the price leaped forty cents to \$9.40 a barrel, wholesale, for patents flour. The retail price went to \$10.80.

WALL STREET WORKERS TRAIN FOR SERVICE ON SKYSCRAPER ROOF!



Wall street will have its own regiments at the front if the United States goes to war. Workers in that famous New York street have been urged by their banker and broker employes to train for the service. Some of the volunteers are here shown drilling on the roof of a Wall street skyscraper, overlooking the East river and Brooklyn.

CROP FORECAST SHOWS SHORTAGE WINTER WHEAT

Prospective Slump of More Than Fifty Million Bushels Due to Winter Killing Shown by Department Estimates—Vitality Affects Food Problem and War Situation.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—A prospective slump of more than 50,000,000 bushels in the winter crop of wheat, as compared with last year's crop, is the first war feeding problem to confront the country. Official estimates of the department of agriculture today—the first for the 1917 harvest, forecast that much of a decrease, although the acreage is much greater.

Notwithstanding the heavy decrease in the prospective winter wheat crop, the production of rye is forecast by the department of agriculture at 60,000,000 bushels, the largest output of that crop ever recorded in the United States. Last year the production of rye was 47,383,000 bushels, in 1915 it was 54,050,000 bushels and the average of the previous five years was 37,565,000 bushels.

Crop 430,000,000 Bushels.

The winter wheat crop will be about 430,000,000 bushels, the department announced in its first estimate of the crop, which was sown last autumn on one of the largest acreages ever planted, but which had adverse conditions through the winter.

Last year 381,744,000 bushels were harvested and 673,947,000 bushels were produced in 1915. Conditions on April 1 was 63.4 per cent of a normal compared with 78.3 last year; 88.8 in 1915 and 80.2 the ten-year average. The condition decreased 22.3 points from December 1 to April 1 compared with an average decline of four points in the last ten years between those dates.

Condition of rye on April 1 was 86.0 per cent of a normal compared with 87.8 last year; 89.5 in 1915 and 89.5 the ten-year average.

Condition of winter wheat in the important growing states on April 1 was: Ohio, 80; Indiana, 65; Illinois, 60; Missouri, 62; Nebraska, 35; Kansas, 45; Oklahoma, 74.

The food problem of the coming

(Continued on Page Two.)

BRAZIL TO DECLARE WAR AGAINST GERMANY ON MONDAY NEXT

LONDON, April 7.—The Central News says it is semi-officially informed that a declaration of war by Brazil against Germany may be expected by Monday.

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP ANNA FOSTENES TORPEDO VICTIM

NEW YORK, April 7.—A cablegram received here today by the Belgian relief commission today stated that the commission's steamship, Anna Fostenes, which left New York March 3, via Halifax with a \$350,000 cargo of foodstuffs for Rotterdam, had been sunk.

The message read:

"Trevier and Anna Fostenes sunk off Holland."

The loss of the Trevier, a Belgian relief ship, torpedoed without warning and of the Feistein, also a relief ship, presumably by a mine, was announced several days ago. In view of the coupling of the names of the Trevier and the Anna Fostenes in the latest message the commission has cabled London for further information. The possibility was suggested by the commission that the message alluded to the Feistein, owing to the similarity of names.

The Anna Fostenes was without wireless equipment and her crew, numbering fifty men, included no Americans.

The vessel, formerly the steamship Heemskerk, is registered as of 2577 tons gross. She was built in 1902 in Holland and flew the Norwegian flag.

PLANS FOR TRAINING ARMY OF MILLION DURING NEXT YEAR

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Secretary Baker told the house military committee in confidence today the plans of the department for training a million men during the next year. He urged immediate enactment of the general staff bill, including the selective conscription provisions, recommending just one change in the bill as made public yesterday. That was to provide for the organization of technical men, including automobile and aeroplane engineers, etc.

This section of the bill reads: "The president is authorized to raise and maintain by voluntary enlistment or draft, as herein provided, special and technical troops as he may deem necessary and embody them into organization and offer them as provided by section eight of this act."

Under the present law the ages for eligibility are from 18 to 35 in the regular army and 18 to 45 in the National Guard and the new bill changes this to make it 18 to 40 in both cases.

RUSSIAN MINISTER TELLS GERMANS TO OVERTHROW KAISER

PETROGRAD, April 7.—Minister of Justice Kerensky said in an interview today that if the German people would follow the Russian example and dethrone their emperor, "we offer the possibility of preliminary negotiations."

This statement was embodied in an announcement by the official news agency, which reads:

"On Thursday, according to news from Copenhagen, Dr. Eduard David, speaking on behalf of the majority party of the social democrats in the German reichstag, declared that Foreign Minister Milukoff and his supporters were Germanophobes and consequently the social democrats bled their hopes on J. Kerensky (Russian minister of justice) and M. Teheidse (a socialist leader in the duma). On this subject M. Kerensky made the following declaration to a party of journalists:

"I am in preliminary negotiations with the press it is difficult to form a sound opinion. It all depends on knowing what are the hopes that Deputy David places in me and M. Teheidse.

"If he supposes we are going to assist in making a separate peace he will be rudely disappointed. If, on the other hand, he hopes the German people are about to follow our example and dethrone their emperor we can do no other than warmly applaud, for that would greatly free our hands and offer the possibility of entering in preliminary negotiations."

"I am convinced that the peoples who are engaged in this unexampled war will more easily come to an understanding and more quickly obtain satisfactory results than the monarchs who are primarily responsible for their cruel carnage."

STEEL CORPORATION CUTS PRICE TO U.S.

NEW YORK, April 7.—The prices at which the steel companies have agreed to sell steel to the navy department were announced today. They are 2.39 cents a pound for plates and 2.50 cents for bars and shapes. This is a concession of \$50 a ton from the prices recently current or a saving of \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 to the government on the purchase of 500,000 tons of steel which the navy department has thus far contracted for. It is expected in steel circles that fully 1,000,000 tons of steel will be speedily contracted for by the government to meet war necessities.

RADIO STATIONS SEIZED, CLOSED BY GOVERNMENT

Second Day of War With Germany Finds Program for Conflict Going Forward Like Clock Work—Sixty Aliens Arrested—Enormous Quantities of Supplies Ordered.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The second day of the war with Germany found every government agency in action along predetermined lines, with congressional committees at work on the new army bill and finance measures.

The navy and its new organized powerboat patrol squadron was being mobilized; naval militia and naval reserves were complying with orders to join the colors.

From many cities came word that United States marshals had carried out orders of the department of justice for arrest of sixty Germans whom the government believes it dangerous to allow at large.

Arresting Aliens.

Officials are about determined to use the German merchant ships, nearly 100 of which have been seized for government service, though no announcement was made whether they would be confiscated or paid for at the close of the war.

Government of all radio stations and the closing of all except those needed for naval communication was authorized by President Wilson.

Both the war and navy department were arranging with contractors to furnish enormous quantities of supplies, steel manufacturers agreed to furnish the navy their products at last year's prices, affecting an \$18,000,000 saving in the navy's 1917 steel bill; the treasury department devised means of raising funds, subject to congressional authorization, and the department of agriculture set forth on a movement to increase and conserve the nation's supply of foodstuffs and to simplify distribution. Many other similar activities were started after the cabinet's council of war last night.

On Military Bill

The house military committee met today to hear Secretary Baker's explanation of the army general staff bill to draft and train one million young men within a year and the accompanying three billion dollar budget, all of which had President Wilson's announced approval. The senate military committee also had the army bill under consideration today.

Without congressional action, the only thing the war department can do to increase the nation's authorized armed forces is to order the regular army expanded to full war strength. It seems likely today that a large part of the war's cost which for the first year alone will run far above the \$2,500,000,000 already asked of congress, even to \$5,000,000,000 will be raised by higher taxes on incomes, inheritances and excess profits. An announcement from Sec. McAdoo on the details of the \$474,000,000 bond issue already authorized but not issued, was expected at any time. Conferences on financial problems were begun today between Secretary McAdoo and members of the senate finance committee and the house ways and means committee.

Announcement will be made soon that free admission to American harbors has been granted vessels of the allies.

Washington, April 7.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, April 8, issued by the weather bureau today, are:

Pacific states: Frequent rains in Washington and Oregon and generally fair in California. Temperatures above seasonal average.

FREQUENT RAINS FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, April 8, issued by the weather bureau today, are:

INTERNED WARSHIP BLOWN-UP

German Gunboat Cormoran Destroyed at Guam by German Officers Who Refused to Surrender to American Forces Which Went to Take Possession—Two Warrant Officers and Five Enlisted Men Slain.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—The interned German gunboat, Cormoran at Guam has been blown up.

The Cormoran refused to surrender to the American forces which went to take possession of her and was destroyed by her crew. Two German warrant officers and five enlisted men were killed by the explosion.

The navy department issued this statement:

Navy Statement.

"The German auxiliary cruiser Cormoran was blown up in the harbor of Apra, Island of Guam, today by her crew, sinking immediately. One warrant officer and one enlisted man are dead, one warrant officer and four enlisted men are missing, twenty officers, twelve warrant officers and 321 enlisted men have been made prisoners.

"On October 28, 1914, the thirty-five foot cutter called the 'Ocean Comber,' entered the harbor of Apra, island of Guam, in charge of Lieutenant Von Elbons of the Imperial German navy. The boat and party of three officers and four natives of New Guinea had been at sea for a long time, having left S. M. S. 'Cormoran' for the purpose of sending a cable to San Francisco for supplies. The date of the cipher was October 1 and the location of the Cormoran was not disclosed. Permission was not granted to send the cablegram and the officers were interned.

Sought Coal and Supplies.

"On December 14, 1914, the German auxiliary cruiser Cormoran appeared off the harbor of Apra and sent a radio asking permission to enter for coal and provisions. She was allowed to enter and the commanding officer to visit the governor.

"Commanding Officer Jacksch-Werdt stated that he had just come from the south seas and was short of coal, had only about fifty tons on board and requested 1,500 tons of coal and provisions to reach his nearest home port in German East Africa. The governor replied that he could furnish only 200 tons of coal and thirty days provisions only could be spared; the commanding officer was given the alternative of departing within twenty-four hours or being interned.

"On December 15, 1914, at 10 a. m. the commanding officer decided to remain in port and the ship and its personnel were interned.

The following were on board: Twenty-one officers, one midshipman, eleven deck officers, 307 petty officers and men, four Chinese and twenty-nine south sea natives.

"The Cormoran was formerly a steamer in the Russian fleet and was captured early in the morning of August 3 by S. M. S. Emden and was formally put in service as a German auxiliary cruiser. Her name before capture was the 'Rlesan.' During

(Continued on page three)

CUBA TO DECLARE WAR ON GERMANY

NEW YORK, April 7.—The Cuban congress tonight is expected to declare that a state of war exists between Cuba and the Imperial German government, according to a cable message from E. S. Azplazu, private secretary to President Mounca, to the republic of Cuba news bureau here.