

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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NO. 33

AMERICAN SHIP AND NAVY GUNNERS LOST

OIL TANKER IS VICTIM OF SUBMARINE

American Oil Steamer Sunk and Captain, Part of Crew, Naval Lieutenant and Nine American Naval Gunners Missing—Vessel Owned by Vacuum Oil Company of California Was Formerly Steamer Bayamon—Has Made Regular Trips to Europe

LONDON, April 30.—The American oil tanker Vacuum has been sunk. The captain and part of the crew and the naval lieutenant and nine American naval gunners are missing.

The Vacuum was sunk by a German submarine on Saturday while she was on the way to the United States.

The chief mate and 17 men, including three of the American navy gunners have been landed.

A boat containing the master of the ship and the remainder of the crew, together with the lieutenant and nine naval gunners is missing.

NEW YORK, April 30.—The American steamship Vacuum, commanded by Captain S. S. Harris of this city, left New York on March 30 for Birkenhead, England, carrying a crew of 24 men, of whom 15 were American citizens, including nine native born.

The Vacuum, formerly the steamship Bayamon, was owned by the Vacuum Oil company of California. She was built in 1912 at Ecorse, Michigan and was brought to the Atlantic by way of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence river and converted into a tank ship. Since the war began she has made frequent trips to Europe. She was a vessel of 2551 tons gross, carried oil in bulk and was 247 feet long and with a 43-foot beam.

The Vacuum Oil company today received this message from its agents abroad:

"Vacuum torpedoed eight 140 miles west of Barra. Number one life boat with captain and others missing."

An addition to the message said that those in No. 2 lifeboat were saved, including the chief officer, Simpson and Williams, engineers; Lindgren, carpenter; Lotes, quartermaster; Hutton, wireless operator; William Orrell, cook; Nichols, Hillson and Lasker, of the naval gun crew.

RUSSIAN DEMOCRACY GREETED BY ALASKA

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The new democratic government of Russia has been officially greeted by the Alaskan legislature as "our nearest sister republic" and the message has been transmitted to Petrograd by the department of state. The following resolution addressed to the president of the Russian duma was adopted by the territorial legislature:

"The territorial senate and house of representatives of the territory of Alaska, in session assembled, extend the hand of greeting to our nearest sister republic, Russia."

SAN DIEGO BROKER SHOTS TWO AND SELF

SAN DIEGO, Cal., April 30.—E. C. Hickman, a realty broker, shot and seriously wounded Charles G. Briggs, shot J. J. Brennan, prominent lawyer, and probably fatally wounded himself by firing a bullet into his head here today. The shooting occurred in the offices of Brennan, following a discussion of a recent lawsuit brought against Hickman.

CONSCRIPTION BILL IN HANDS OF CONFEREES

Minor Differences Between House and Senate Measures to be Adjusted in Accordance With Desires of the President—La Follette Threatens to Cause Delay by Amendments.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—President Wilson and Secretary Baker today took up differences between the senate and house army bills. The conferees adjusting differences between the two houses will be informed as a result of where the administration stands on disputed points.

The age limits of 21 to 27 fixed in the senate bill are preferred by the administration since they more nearly approximate the desire of the war department for age limits of from 19 to 25 years. The limits of from 21 to 40 fixed by the house bill are unsatisfactory to the administration. No Date of Registration.

A date for registration of those liable to service will not be formally fixed by the president until the bill has been perfected in both houses. Until that time no campaign will be undertaken to recruit the regular army and national guard up to full war strength.

The administration bill to raise an army by conscription, although passed by both houses Saturday, had to run the gauntlet of minor opposition again today in the senate where there was a chance of reopening the whole debate by amendments Senators La Follette, Gronna and others threatened to offer. The two houses passed two bills, essentially the same but technically different and the house bill now has to be passed by the senate.

Ready Within Week.

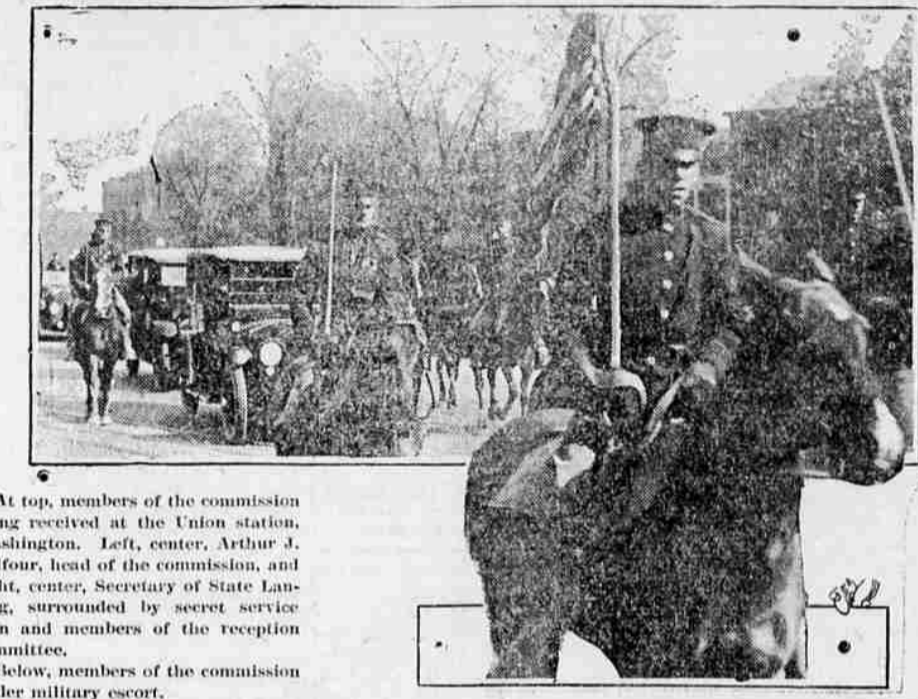
After passage, which the measure's friends hoped would be tonight or tomorrow, it will go to conference, and probably will be ready for the president's signature before the week end. In conference the main difficulties to be harmonized are the variance of maximum ages of men liable to draft, fixed at 27 by the senate and 40 by the house, the senate's approval and the house's rejection of an amendment to let Colonel Roosevelt recruit a volunteer force and the senate prohibition of liquor selling to soldiers in uniform or near training camps.

ENLARGE SCOPE OF FEDERAL RESERVE BANKING SYSTEM

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Assurances have been received by the Federal Reserve board from sources of state banks and trust companies throughout the country that they will enter the federal reserve system upon the passage of amendments broadening the scope of the law now before congress.

Establishment of branch banks in many cities throughout the United States is anticipated by the board, should the amendments pass and it is regarded as highly desirable in the campaign to bring the outside banks into the system.

Amendments designed to bring in the state banks and trust companies would liberalize the existing law in many particulars. Chief of these are provisions to make it impossible for such institutions to withdraw from the system should they desire to do so and placing in the hands of the board the conduct of institutions for entry. The amendments provide for a modification of the regulations governing interlocking directorates so far as new institutions are concerned, the establishment of branch federal reserve banks and minor changes.



At top, members of the commission being received at the Union station, Washington. Left, center, Arthur J. Balfour, head of the commission, and right, center, Secretary of State Lansing, surrounded by secret service men and members of the reception committee. Below, members of the commission under military escort.

WAR COMMISSIONS DISCUSS PART OF AMERICA AT FRONT

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The British and French commissions settled down to their second week of conferences today with preliminaries cleared away and the ground work of the prosecution of the part the United States is to take in the plans to overthrow Prussian autocracy. M. Viviani, head of the French mission, accompanied by Ambassador Jusserand, had an hour's conference with President Wilson.

M. Viviani and Marshal Joffre were to have made a visit to the capitol today to meet senators and representatives, but at the last moment the visit was postponed until later in the week.

State department officials were anxious today to make it plain that the department took no part whatever in the expurgation of portions of Marshal Joffre's statement yesterday on the participation of American troops in the battlefields of France. They made it plain that any changes in the preparedness statement as read by Marshal Joffre, when later given out to the newspapers, had been made by the French mission on its own initiative.

COPENHAGEN, April 30.—No Berlin newspapers have arrived here for two days. Such stoppages are often preliminary to important military developments.

CHICAGO'S MAYOR REFUSES INVITATION TO ENTENTE MISSION

CHICAGO, April 30.—That a report of the alleged "disloyal" utterances of Mayor William Hale Thompson had been prepared and was forwarded to Washington today was admitted at the headquarters of the local bureau of investigation of the department of justice. The report was said to include newspaper reports of the mayor's statements relative to inviting the British and French commissions to Chicago.

CHICAGO, April 30.—The action of Mayor W. H. Thompson in declining to extend an invitation to the British and French mission now in Washington to visit Chicago, is to be the subject of inquiry by the federal authorities today, according to Jos. B. Fleming, assistant United States attorney. A number of leading business and professional men who have been members of an advisory committee appointed by the mayor soon after he took office, have announced their withdrawal from the committee, giving as the reason their disapproval of his course in regard to the invitation to the distinguished foreigners.

After the mayor decided that he believed he would be "prejudicially" to take the position that all of the people of Chicago are in favor of the invitation, the city council by unanimous vote invited members of the two missions to visit this city.

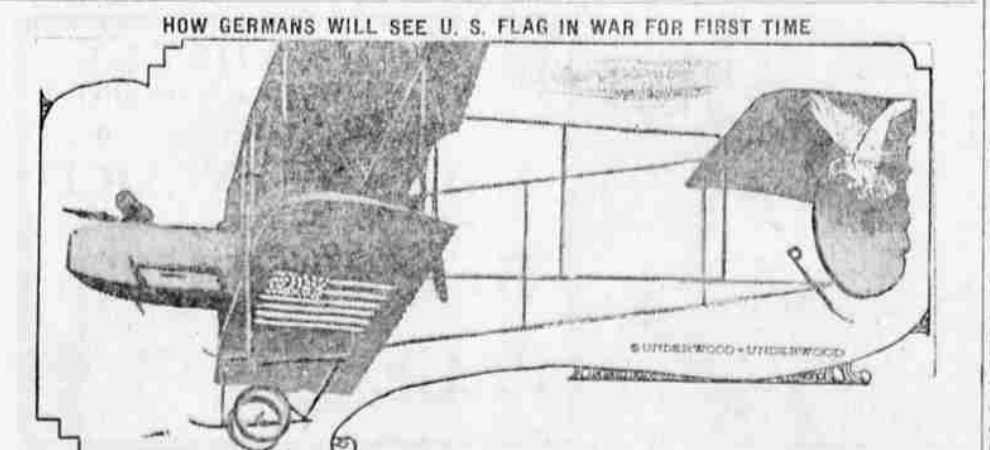
USE HINDENBURG'S NAME TO SUSTAIN GERMAN MORALE

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 30.—There are increasing evidences daily of how the German higher command is using the German higher command is using the name of the Hindenburg line in an effort to sustain the morale of the German fighting men, which was learned by the retreat from the Somme and the successful launching of the British and French offensive actions. Prisoners recently taken also tell how Von Hindenburg continues to be held up to the German population as a whole as the man in whom it must repose confidence and hope of final victory.

The recent retreat was executed by the desire of the German command to take up a position in the famous Hindenburg line and prisoners now say that when it becomes known in Germany that the British have turned this position and taken possession of several miles of it southeast of Arras great depression will be caused.

Civilians as well as soldiers placed great faith in this line, on which they saw millions of marks have been spent. They had been told the line was so invulnerable that the Germans could sit in it for the remainder of the war.

The German class of 1919, it is learned, is being called up, but is still in training.



The Lafayette air squadron, consisting of American aviators, has been given consent to wear United States uniforms and have the United States flag painted on the bottoms of their aeroplanes on the front in France.

BRITISH HOLD BATTLE GAINS NEAR ARRAS

Heavy Fighting Continues Along the Front Between Arras and Lens—Germans Continue to Bring Up Fresh Troops for Unsuccessful Counter Attacks—German Front and Support Lines Taken in Advance Which Began Saturday.

LONDON, April 30.—Heavy fighting continues along the front between Arras and Lens, with very little change in the situation reported, Reuter's correspondent at British headquarters telegraphed today. The Germans are continuing to bring up fresh troops and to deliver counter attacks, more particularly in the neighborhood of Oppy and from their trench system down to Gavrelle. The British hold the windmill northeast of the latter village and have improved their positions along the southwestern slope of Greenland hill. Continuous fighting is in progress around the Roueux chemical works.

"In a general way," continues the correspondent, "the situation this morning along the front of the attack which began at daybreak on Saturday is that we hold the German front line from the point where the Baillien-Bianche loop line crosses the trenches northwest of Gavrelle to the fork in the Oppy line between that place and Arleux. Beyond this fork we hold the German support line for a length of 1200 yards. Thence our front continues just east of Arleux. Weather Is Hazy.

"The weather was too hazy this morning for good air work and the artillery observation was correspondingly poor but the gunners on both sides have plenty of registered targets and the old familiar thunder waxes and wanes.

"Various German documents that have been captured recently emphasize the necessity of economizing strictly in the expenditure of shells of all types, as the dearth of material is seriously minimizing the output of supplies. It is also urged that the artillery officers be trained to employ guns, the inner tubes of which are worn out, upon targets which do not necessitate very accurate shooting, as the output of new guns is limited."

Fail to Check Advance.

The battle of Arras still rages with the issues remaining in doubt. For six days the Germans have tried to check the British advance but so far without avail. However momentous the issues which hang on the bloody struggle in France they are insufficient to hold the attention of the German people who are facing a situation at home fraught with even more tremendous possibilities. On the eve of the general strike planned for May Day the German press and leaders are displaying a feverish apprehension as to what the morrow will bring forth.

Austria and Sweden are two other storm centers where May Day may evoke popular uprisings of far reaching effect. In the face of the brewing storm word comes that the Hungarian government has declared itself

(Continued on page Two.)

FOOD CONTROL BILLS AIM TO PREVENT ABUSE

Administration Program Designed to Stimulate Production, Prevent Hoarding, Make for Equitable Distribution and Elimination of Speculation in Food Products.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The administration food bills were introduced in the house today by Chairman Lever of the agriculture committee. They do not cover price fixing or control of the use of grain for distilling liquors. These subjects will be covered in a bill to be introduced later.

The bills introduced today are designed to stimulate production, prevent hoarding, make for equitable distribution and suspend the law prohibiting the mixing of flour. They contain provisions to prevent conflict with the anti-trust and interstate commerce laws.

To Prevent Shortage.

The Lever bill appropriates \$25,000,000 for its enforcement and authorizes the appointment of two additional assistant secretaries of agriculture to administer it. The measure is designed to prevent a shortage of food during war time by protecting the public against injurious speculation and would provide for a survey of the food situation of the country.

It also provides for the establishment of standards of grades for American products and fertilizers and for their receptacles and requires proper labeling of such receptacles to prevent fraud and abuse. It authorizes the license and control, when necessary, of any business of manufacture, storage or distribution of food, food materials or feeds and gives singular power to compel licensees to discharge unreasonably hoarded stocks, to refrain from unjust or discriminatory practices or charges and to exact fair prices only.

Control of Distribution.

It gives power to control the market movement and distribution of perishable products, to prescribe percentages of flour which shall be milled from wheat and to permit or compel wholesome and economical mixtures of wheat, wheat flour or wheat products with other products.

CHICAGOAN BUYS MISSOULA PAPERS

MISSOULA, Mont., April 30.—The Daily Missoulian and the Missoula Sentinel, were sold today by former United States Senator Joseph M. Dixon to Lester L. Jones, Martin Hutchens and George Rice of Chicago. The deal includes the job printing, lithographing and bookbinding plants.

Mr. Jones, who will have charge of the business office of the two newspapers, was formerly publisher of the Chicago Chronicle and for 11 years vice president and general manager of the Chicago Journal. Mr. Hutchens, formerly managing editor of the Chicago Journal, will be editor in chief of the Missoulian and Sentinel. Mr. Rice was a sporting writer on the Chicago Journal.

KING CONSTANTINE MAY ABDICATE

LONDON, April 30.—The report that King Constantine of Greece is soon to abdicate is reiterated in a dispatch from Rome to the Star, which says it has been confirmed from neutral diplomatic sources. It is suggested that the king and queen may land at an Italian port and proceed overland to Denmark.