



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-seventh Year. Daily—Twelfth Year.

MEDFORD OREGON, TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1917

NO. 52

FINNS SEEKING INDEPENDENCE FROM RUSSIA

Separatist Agitation Culminates in Resolutions Favoring Secession and Re-establishment of Grand Duchy—Sharp Comment Evoked in Russia—Authority Denied.

HELSINGFORS, Finland, Monday, May 21.—A congress of the Swedish political party, representing a majority of Finland's wealthiest and most influential classes, yesterday passed a resolution favoring a complete separation of the grand duchy of Finland from Russia.

The resolution reads: "The Finnish people has progressed so far in cultural and political development that Finland is entitled to make a demand to take her place as an independent state among the number of sovereign nations."

The agitation began when Finland's new premier, M. Tokoi, a social democrat, in a speech in parliament used an expression implying that Russia had ceased to be a suzerain power and had become a friendly neighbor and possible ally.

The temporary government in Petrograd, in restoring the Finnish constitution on March 20, claimed that the new Russian government had succeeded to all the rights of the former Emperor Nicholas as grand duke, but the Hel-singfors parliament during the debate on the food bill last week declared it was open to question whether the claim of the temporary government was correct and whether, therefore, that government had inherited the former emperor's rights to sanction Finnish parliamentary acts or refuse its sanction to them.

Awaits National Assembly. In addition, the Finnish government has suggested to Russia the immediate passage of measures increasing Finland's present measure of independence, but the temporary government holds that this action must await the meeting of the constituent assembly to draw up a constitution for the whole empire.

Although some members of the Swedish parties and of the socialist group oppose the independence claims as premature and as likely to cause irritation in Russia, the only party solidly opposing the independence parliament is the old Finnish party, which always has been persistently opposing such a move.

Prominent among the advocates of complete Finnish independence is Professor Erich, who declares that Finland attained absolute independence by the fact of the revolution when the revolution occurred, adding that Finland's future relations with Russia would depend exclusively upon the will of the Finnish people and could be regulated only by voluntary Finno-Russian treaties of an international character.

ATTEMPT MADE TO ASSASSINATE KERENSKY. NEW YORK, May 22.—The Jewish Daily Forward received a cablegram from its correspondent in Petrograd today saying that an unsuccessful attempt was made to assassinate War Minister Kerensky. The dispatch reads:

"An attempt on the life of War Minister Kerensky was made just now. Kerensky escaped. All the participants arrested. Rumors that the plot was arranged by the supporters of the old regime."

GERMANS CAPTURE THREE SWEDISH SHIPS

COPENHAGEN, May 22.—Three Swedish steamers, the Lizzie, the Gota and the Kaell, have been captured and taken to a German port, according to advices received by the Politiken from Stockholm today.

KAISER FEARS HIS PEN



MAXIMILIAN HARDEN

One of the mightiest weapons against Kaiserism in Germany is the pen of Maximilian Harden, editor of the Zukunft. The Kaiser fears this daring journalist may prove his Nemesis, but does not dare to stop his pen from writing scathing articles.

BRAZIL REVOKES RECENT DECREE OF NEUTRALITY IN WAR

RIO JANEIRO, May 22.—President Braz has sent a message to congress recommending the revocation of the decree of neutrality in the war between the United States and Germany. Congress is expected to accept the recommendation by a large majority.

The message declares that the order to the Brazilian authorities enjoining the observance of neutrality was only intended to have effect until congress met. It continues: "Today, in consideration of the fact that the United States is an integral part of the American union, in consideration also of the traditional policy of Brazil which has always been governed by a complete unity of view with the United States and finally in consideration of the sympathies of a great majority of the Brazilian nation, the administration invites congress to revoke the decree of neutrality."

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES ON THE FRENCH FRONT, May 22.—While the Germans were throwing masses of men against the French positions along the Chemin Des Dunes, only to suffer defeat with terrible losses, the French effected an attack in the Moronvilliers section and drove the Germans from some of their strongest positions. The French plans were brilliantly conceived and executed without a hitch. Their objective was most difficult; a billy range filled with deep caverns afforded shelter to hundreds of men and machine guns, but the French infantry stormed the heights of Casine and Toton, respectively 786 and 734 feet in height, and carried them with a rush, while other columns captured the trenches lining the northern slopes of Mount Carnillet.

The result of these operations gives the French a commanding view on their left. The value placed on the possession of these hills is shown by the violence of the German counter attacks, in the course of the early morning, which everywhere broke down. They left more than 300 prisoners in the hands of the French, while hundreds of bodies strewn the ground and lie in the cavernous shelters.

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TEUTON ARMIES SLOWLY YIELD BEFORE ALLIES

Terrific Pounding Gradually Wearing Germans Down—Policy of Sudden Thrusts Abandoned for Steady Hammering—Crisis in Russia Continues Acute.

LONDON, May 22.—"We made successful raids last night northeast of Epeby and during the night east of Bullecourt, south of the Arras-Cambrai road and west of Lens," says today's war office report.

"Yesterday afternoon we destroyed a large German ammunition dump on the Arras-Cambrai road northeast of Queant. The shock of the explosion was felt at great distances behind our line."

PARIS, May 22.—Three separate counter attacks by the Germans on positions captured yesterday by the French were repulsed last night, according to an official statement issued by the French war office this morning. The number of prisoners taken by the French yesterday was 1000.

Germans Slowly Yielding.

The German armies in France are slowly yielding under the terrific pounding to which they are subjected day and night. In the belief that soon the iron German ring must either break or crack. The allied commanders apparently have abandoned the policy of sudden thrusts and are relying on a constant hammering over a wide front.

Last night's actions on the French front confirmed French possession of the commanding high ground won in the previous night near Moronvilliers, in the Champagne. The Germans thoroughly bombarded these new French positions and then delivered several infantry attacks, but were unable to shake the French off and suffered heavy losses.

Russia Still Chaotic.

Meanwhile the latest news from Russia indicates that the crisis in that country continues acute and the menace that Russia may either withdraw from the entente or be plucked into chaos still throws its shadows over the future. Rumors are still persistent that the Russian radicals are to force Russia's withdrawal from the entente.

On the credit side of the account is the rising tide of indignation against Germany in Scandinavia and Spain. The anti-German faction in Sweden has been powerfully reinforced by the action of the Germans in sinking three Swedish grain ships, in violation of their own agreement to respect the safety of the vessels. Spain is still awaiting a reply to her protest over the sinking of the Spanish steamer Patrio, also destroyed while sailing under a German guarantee and the tone of the Spanish press is increasingly peremptory in its demand that Germany be compelled to respect Spanish rights.

Kavala Bombarded.

SOFIA, May 22.—Today's Bulgarian war office statement, after reporting artillery actions in various sections of the Macedonian front, announced that 13 enemy warships bombarded Kavala while twelve airplanes dropped bombs on the town. Several houses in Kavala were destroyed, says the statement, but no military damage was done. One hostile airplane was shot down.

GERMAN SEA RAIDER REPORTED AT LARGE

NEW YORK, May 22.—Information that the British naval authorities suspected that a German sea raider escaped from a German port and was at large was brought to America today by an arriving Belgian relief steamship.

The Belgian captain said his vessel was fired upon by a British cruiser on May 13 off the north of Scotland. The relief ship halted and was examined by the Briton.

The latter explained, the Belgian captain reported, that the relief vessel, which carries four masts, was mistaken for a four-masted raider which was believed to have left Germany under the guise of a merchantman.

MOB AVENGES GIRL BY BURNING NEGRO TO DEATH

Chained to a Fallen Tree, Tennessee Negro, Who Confesses to Ravishing and Beheading Young Girl Is Soaked in Oil, Strung Up and Set Afire—Girl's Mother Urges Mob.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 22.—Chained to a fallen tree at the scene of his crime, Ell Persons, a negro, who confessed he killed Antoinette Rappal, a young girl, three weeks ago, was burned to death today by a mob in the country about ten miles from Memphis. Afterward the head was severed from the body and placed on the roadside nearby, where it remained several hours.

The mother of the dead girl identified the negro and in a short speech to the mob urged them to burn the slayer of her child. She refused, however, to apply the match.

Chopped Girl's Head Off.

Persons confessed that he had chopped the girl's head off and impaled two other negroes.

A mob estimated at from 2000 to 3000 saw the death of the negro. In preparation for burning, the body was soaked in oil and afterward suspended in midair from the limb of a tree. A torch was then applied and the body burned fiercely until it fell to the ground.

Persons repeated his confession that he killed the child and impaled two other negroes. Members of the mob immediately set out in pursuit of them.

When all was in readiness, Mrs. Rappal, mother of the dead girl, was taken to the bridge, where the prisoner was held, and identified him. In a short speech to the mob she declared she wished Persons to suffer the tortures he dealt to his victim.

Telephone messages state that the mob has captured Dewitt Ford, a mute, one of the negroes implicated by Persons in the murder of the Rappal girl, and is on the way to the scene of the first lynching. He will be held pending the capture of other suspects.

BEAN BILL RULED OFF BALLOT BY SUPREME COURT

SALEM, Or., May 22.—The Oregon supreme court held here today that the so-called Bean bill was passed illegally by the Oregon legislature and issued an injunction restraining the clerk of Marion county from putting it on the ballot to be submitted at a state referendum election June 4. The bill is aimed to force county assessors to list on their assessment rolls the land in the Oregon and California railroad grants.

Circuit Judge Bingham of Salem recently held the measure was lawfully enacted and had a place on the ballot. The action to force the bill off was brought by the district attorney of Marion county.

AN APOLOGY TO J. F. MCCARTHY

In the issue of May 12, 1917, the Mail Tribune published an article concerning J. F. McCarthy with reference to certain land transactions in the Rogue River valley, and to the effect that Mr. McCarthy had hurriedly departed from this section. This article was from news items furnished by others, and was published without any thorough investigation under the belief that the facts as they had been given to us and as therein stated were true.

However, Mr. McCarthy is here and has returned prepared to show that his transactions were not irregular, and insists that the statements contained in the article were entirely unwarranted. The article was published without any malice and without any disposition or desire to either misstate facts or injure Mr. McCarthy, and the Mail Tribune is glad at this time to make whatever retraction is necessary to put Mr. McCarthy right before the public.

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COMPROMISE UPON MAIL TAX IS AGREED UPON

Rate to Be One and One-Half Cents Per Pound in First Zone to 8 Cents in Eighth Zone—Amusement Places to Pay 10 Per Cent on Cash Receipts.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—A compromise on the proposed second-class mail tax so as to make it from 1 1/2 cents per pound in the first parcel post zone to 8 cents in the eighth zone was agreed upon today by the house ways and means committee.

Receipts from educational entertainments were excluded by the house from the proposed 10 per cent amusement tax, by a vote of 114 to 1. Representative Moore of Pennsylvania opposing. He insisted that it was unfair that William Jennings Bryan should receive from \$200 to \$750 a night for "educational entertainments" while the government got nothing from them.

Amusement Tax.

No other changes were made in the amusement tax section. All amusement places will pay a 10 per cent tax on their cash receipts and each person admitted free must pay 5 cents. A tax of 1 cent on each ticket sold to a child under 12 years, unless the maximum admission fee is 5 cents, would be charged. Club members would pay 10 per cent of their club dues. Entertainments for the benefit of religious or charitable organizations would be exempt from taxation.

The war stamp section, considered next, was amended so as to exempt building and loan associations operated for the sole benefit of their members.

Tax on Playing Cards.

An amendment proposed by Democratic Leader Kitchin to reduce the tax on playing cards was rejected. Representative Howard of Georgia argued that "society swells" and "gamblers" ought to pay the tax of 8 cents a deck in addition to the 2 cents under the present law. The house had a little fun out of the incident. Mr. Kitchin and Mr. Howard disclaimed any expert knowledge of cards and called on Representative Longworth of Ohio and former Speaker Joe Cannon for expert testimony.

Representative Mason of Illinois proposed a tax of 1 cent a pound on all canned meat, but it was lost on a point of order.

The inheritance tax was adopted without change.

SEARCH FOR U-BOAT OFF MAINE COAST PROVES FRUITLESS

PORTLAND, Maine, May 22.—It was officially made known that the reported presence of a submarine off the Maine coast was being investigated by naval stations.

A patrol scrutiny of these waters was ordered following a report to the naval stations that a periscope was sighted late yesterday afternoon and that at six o'clock last night a submarine was seen running awash off Machias.

On the heels of these reports came the word today from three lobster fishermen that they had sighted from two different points what they believed to be a German submarine. They sighted the craft, they say, off the mouth of the Kennebec river at 9:15 o'clock this morning. The fishermen brought the report to Hoppan station. When it was reported to the naval officer he furnished the Machias end of the story and confirmed the press reports that an investigation was under way.

It was later unofficially said that a coast guard at Cross Island had sighted the supposed submarine and watched it for five minutes, when it submerged.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—The naval commander of the Maine district has forwarded reports of a German submarine in that vicinity which he said were so far "without confirmation." Investigation is continuing.

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DUMMY GERMAN MINE



This innocent looking dummy German soldier was found by English soldiers on the French front. It is loaded with explosives and anyone touching it would have been blown to pieces. The trick was discovered in time.

INVOKES COURT'S AID TO PREVENT SELECTIVE DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22.—The supreme court of California denied today a petition to prevent Oakland city officials from enforcing military registration. The petition alleged that this was in violation of the thirteenth amendment to the federal constitution, prohibiting involuntary servitude.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22.—The thirteenth amendment to the federal constitution, prohibiting involuntary servitude, was invoked here today in the supreme court of California to relieve Ferdinand Claudius of Oakland from military registration.

Walter R. Dunn, counsel for Claudius, filed with the court a petition asking for a writ of prohibition against John L. Davis, mayor of Oakland, I. W. Cummings, city clerk, and their subordinates, preventing them from registering Claudius, for military service to which he was liable under the law.

The thirteenth amendment says: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

Claudius, through counsel, holds that this applies to him, if he is forced to register.

The petition was taken under immediate consideration by the court.

COLLEGES UNITE FOR WAR ENDS

EUGENE, Or., May 22.—For the first time in history the universities and colleges of the United States are in a position to act in unison, and so long as the war lasts they are going to act together with ever-increasing effectiveness to accomplish war ends, according to President Campbell, who is back from Washington, D. C., where he represented the Universities of Oregon and Washington at what he characterizes as the largest and most important gathering of university executives ever held.

First steps were taken to put into operation three types of activity—first, co-operation with the Red Cross; second, the development of war and after-war efficiency courses in the curriculum, and third, an attempt to organize agencies for the dissemination of correct information concerning the war and to interpret its meaning.

RAPID PROGRESS FOR PORTUGAL AS A REPUBLIC

Reform Legislation Enacted Comprises Income Tax Law, Eight-Hour Law, Labor Union Recognition, Workmen's Compensation and Educational Extension.

(From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.) LISBON, May 22.—President Bernardino Machado, of Portugal, told of what the change from monarchy to republicanism had done for Portugal, in an interview today with a representative of the Associated Press. He also told of the satisfaction he felt in having aligned Portugal with the entente allies at the outset of the war, soon after he became president. Speaking of the revolution, he said:

"It was in line with the spirit of the times, for everywhere the old idea of arbitrary authority, oligarchy and Caesarism, is giving way."

He declared that the present government is thoroughly representative as it comes up from the people instead of descending from a few at the top.

Reform Legislation.

As examples of reform legislation, he pointed to the income tax law, the eight-hour law, workmen's compensation and the recognition given labor unions. In regard to education he said:

"We have even adopted a new form of education, which we call mobile schools, in which the teachers travel about to the factories to teach women during hours of leisure. In universities we had but one under the monarchy, now we have three."

The president referred with approval to the complete separation of church and state which had been brought about under the republic. By this new system the churches remain open but their activities are restricted to church affairs without extending into any public or official activities.

The departure of the religious orders has also suspended their activities and the work they formerly did in conducting schools, hospitals, etc., has now been taken over by the state.

Relations With America.

Referring to his country's relations with the United States, the president said:

"I am glad to say Portugal has the most friendly relations with the United States and Portugal has received in many ways evidences of the cordial sentiment of America towards us. We have sent considerable numbers of Portuguese to America and have colonies in California, Boston and many other points. These are not part of the illiterate immigration against which the United States has justly adopted restrictions, but they are among the best classes of the community in America and are prominent in business, finance and public life in American communities. We are glad that some of our best stock is taking part in the remarkable development of America."

GRIEVANCES CAUSE MURDER OF TWO DENVER CITIZENS

DURANGO, Colo., May 22.—M. A. Phoney, assistant superintendent of the fourth division of the Denver & Rio Grande railroad, was shot and instantly killed today in his office by John E. Graves, agent here for the road. The shooting is said to be the result of a personal grievance of long standing. Graves surrendered to the sheriff.

DENVER, May 22.—Edward Green, superintendent of the highway department of the city of Denver, was shot and fatally wounded today by William R. Seay, former district superintendent of the department, who had been discharged yesterday. The shooting occurred in the city hall. Green died at the hospital.

Green had discharged Seay. Today Green was standing in the office of W. F. R. Mills, manager of parks and improvements, when Seay entered. Mills was the only other person present.

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