

# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1917

NO. 154

## HANSON BOND PLAN DECLARED ILLEGAL

### BANCROFT BONDING ACT SUSTAINED

Paving Assessments as Originally Made Declared Valid, But Hansen Plan of Reassessment and Refinancing Paving Indebtedness Declared Void by Supreme Court as in Conflict With Bancroft Bonding Law.

SALEM, Sept. 19.—According to an opinion filed by the supreme court today in the Medford bonding cases, the Hansen plan of refinancing the city's paving indebtedness was declared illegal because in conflict with the Bancroft bonding act, and the present outstanding paving and improvement indebtedness declared valid and assessments legal, because contracted in accordance with the Bancroft bonding act.

The decisions were rendered in the case of C. D. Colby vs. the City of Medford. Colby brought suit to declare the Hansen plan invalid and also to invalidate the outstanding paving indebtedness contracted under the Bancroft act. In the latter contention William Stailey was an intervener.

Under this decision, it is up to the property owners to put up their delinquent assessments and interest on paving indebtedness, most of which has been unpaid for the last five years.

The Hanson plan of refinancing the city was adopted last January at the city election and provided a reassessment of indebtedness incurred under the Bancroft act for public improvements. It was designed to take up outstanding indebtedness by a reissue of bonds, thus giving additional time to those delinquent in assessments.

Details of the decision will be published when received. Judge Calkins decided the case favorably to the city and the decision was appealed. F. M. Newman was attorney for the appellants, and E. W. Meers, city attorney, Howard A. Hanson and A. E. Reames attorneys for respondents.

### MEXICAN MINES BEING BOUGHT BY GERMAN CAPITAL

EL PASO, Tex., Sept. 19.—German mining companies continue to obtain control of large mining interests in northern Mexico and are investing millions of dollars in silver, lead, coal and copper mines, American mining men having holdings in Mexico declared.

The Mines & Metals Co., a German-owned company, said to have its headquarters in Strassburg, Germany, is preparing to open recently acquired properties at Santa Eulalia, near Chihuahua City, and also at Sierra Mojada, where the company controls a branch railroad as well as a large mineralized district. In Cusi-huirachi the Pinales company, a subsidiary of the Strassburg concern, has acquired large land holdings in a rich mineral district and is preparing to do extensive development work at once.

These German activities are not war measures, the American mining men say, but are part of the German government's plan of a commercial conquest after the war, and also offers one of the few opportunities for large investments of German money abroad.

### HEAVY FIGHTING RAGING ALONG BELGIAN LINE

Violent Artillery Attacks Reported—British Casualties for Week Total 27,000, Showing Allied Forces Are Keeping Constant Pressure Upon Enemy—Rumanians Active.

BERLIN, Sept. 19.—Violent waves of artillery fire which were directed with increased intensity yesterday upon the German lines between Houtholst wood and the Lys on the Flanders front developed last evening and this morning into drum fire, army headquarters announced today. The entente infantry, however, did not attack.

LONDON, Sept. 19.—Casualties in the British ranks reported for the week ending yesterday follow:

Killed or died of wounds, 135 officers and 4755 men.

Officers wounded or missing 421; men wounded or missing 21,843.

#### Heavy Fighting.

Reports from the British front in Flanders continue to mention only raids and artillery and airplane activities. Notwithstanding that virtually all the recent London statements have been similarly lacking in records of major operations, the British casualty lists disclose there has been heavy fighting. Casualties on all fronts reported during the week ending yesterday, for instance totalled more than 27,000, of which the killed numbered 4890.

Point is given these facts to the recent reports of correspondents that despite the laconic official announcements, the British activities are by no means as unimportant as they might seem, and that all arms of the British service are being constantly employed in the process of wearing down the German resistance. The German casualties for specific periods are not so readily available, but observers at the front calculate them as extremely heavy in the sort of fighting now in progress.

#### Rumanians Active.

PETROGRAD, Sept. 19.—Rumanian forces yesterday attacked the Austro-German positions south of Grozecht in the Oena region and occupied heights there, the war department announced today.

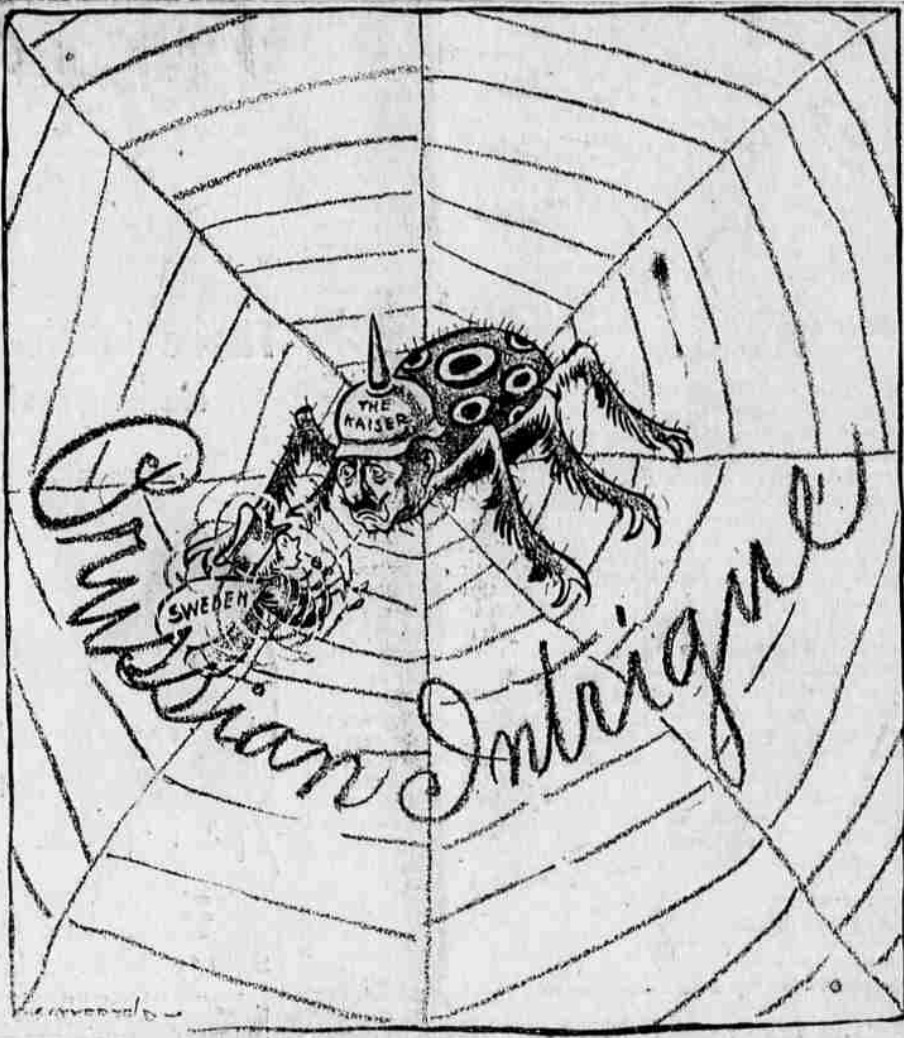
Rumania's army is continuing its activity on the Moldavia front and has won another success. Petrograd reports the occupation by Russian troops of a Teutonic position on a height near Grozecht. The Russian front proper is comparatively quiet, neither side apparently being engaged in any important operations.

### HILL STEAMERS COMMANDEERED BY UNCLE SAM

PORTLAND, Sept. 19.—Orders came today from the United States shipping board to turn the commandeered twin liners Great Northern and Northern Pacific over to the government immediately, according to an announcement made here today by the Great Northern Pacific Steamship company, which owns the boats. They are to be sent to Bremerton, Wash., at once, and it is believed, converted into transports.

When the present trips on their run between San Francisco and Flavel, Or., are completed the boats will be taken off. The Northern Pacific was due to arrive at Flavel on its last trip today. The Great Northern will leave San Francisco on its last trip tomorrow, according to the company announcement.

### "The Spider and the Fly"



### 600 CHINESE DIE IN AMOY TYPHOON SHIPS DESTROYED

AMOY, China, Sept. 17 (delayed).—More than 600 natives were killed by the typhoon which struck Amoy without warning at the end of last week. Eighty-five per cent of the water craft in the harbors nearby was destroyed. No foreigners have been reported lost.

Outlying districts cannot be communicated with and it is feared great damage has been done there.

One village on the island of Amoy reports that only sixteen out of 200 fishing boats were saved.

The Japanese steamship Amakusa Maru, 2356 tons, is on the rocks opposite Kulangsa, and it is doubtful if she can be salvaged. The former German steamship Keong Wai, 1777 tons gross, is in a hopeless position on the Kulangsa rocks.

The Chinese steamship Kango was driven ashore at Kulangsa, and the British hulk Shanghai, was beached at Amoy. Both of the vessels, it is believed, can be saved.

### POSTAGE RATES CAUSES DIVISION WAR TAX BILL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Dispute over second-class postage rates marked today's session of the conferees on the war tax bill, with the result left in doubt.

Final agreements were not reached on any of the important contests, according to reliable reports from the committee room. The house conferees held a separate conference during their luncheon recess, discussing further movements in their contests with the senate members.

In endeavoring to fix details of the zone compromise system for increased second class mail rates, the conference was said to have developed much feeling, with the senate members inclined to abandon yesterday's agreement for a compromise increase and adamant to house proposals believed by the senate conferees to be too drastic.

Exceptions from war excesses profits taxation and the standard of taxable capitalization also continued to divide the conferees.

Representatives of jewelry, automobile manufacturers and other interests, stirred by publication of reposition of the tax rates affecting them, reached here in numbers today and were heard by individual conferees, while other members of both houses were deluged with telegrams from business interests in their home states protesting against the rates.

### AUSTRIA REPLIES TO POPE SATURDAY

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 19.—Austria's reply to Pope Benedict's peace proposals, says the Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung, will be handed to the papal nuncio at Vienna on Thursday and will be published Saturday.

The reply will confine itself to a detailed discussion of the pope's suggestion. The report that it will contain new and astonishing peace proposals, the Vienna newspaper adds, is absolutely at variance with the facts.

### TWO SUBMARINES SUNK BY BRITISH NAVAL FORCES

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 19.—Two German submarines have been sunk by British naval forces, reports the Bergen correspondent of the Tidens Tegns. Six men from the U-boats were taken prisoners.

An armed British steamer in the North sea sank a German submarine which was shelling a neutral sailing vessel. The second submarine was sunk by a British torpedo-boat destroyer while attacking an armed steamer.

CHRISTIANIA, Sept. 19.—German submarines have sunk the Norwegian steamships Paeto, of 2372 tons, and the Thomas Krag, 3569 tons, it was announced today at the Norwegian foreign office. Two men from each vessel perished.

The Bergen correspondent of the Aftonsladet says that the armed steamer which sank a German submarine in the North sea while the U-boat was shelling a neutral sailing ship was an American steamer.

### THOMPSON CLIMBS INTO BAND WAGON

CHICAGO, Sept. 19.—Mayor Wm. Hale Thompson, whose opposition to sending troops abroad aroused comment all over the country, apparently climbed into the patriotic band wagon today with a proclamation occasioned by the departure of selected men from Chicago to the Rockford cantonment. In the course of the preamble he says:

"Whereas, it is the duty of all patriotic citizens to stand by our country in time of controversy with any other country and to show in an unmistakable way that the American people stand behind the army and the navy which represent the majesty of our government."

He calls upon citizens of the "sixth German city" as he labelled it some time ago, to show soldiers and sailors we are "united in a common love for the blessings of our free government."

### CONFEREES ON WAR BOND BILL IN AGREEMENT

Measure Calling for Eleven and a Half Billion War Credits to Be Finally Passed by House and Senate This Week—War Deficiency Bill in Senate Hands.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1.—Agreement on the war credits bill authorizing \$11,538,000,000 of new bonds and certificates was reached today by senate and house conferees with no change in the issues proposed.

Adoption of the conference report tomorrow by the senate and by the house on Friday is planned.

Minor changes only were made by the conferees. They adopted expense allowances of one-fifth of one per cent for the bonds and war saving certificates as originally recommended by Secretary McAdoo, and one-tenth of one per cent for the treasury certificates of indebtedness. They eliminated Senator La Follette's amendment fixing the rate on the war saving certificates at 4 per cent, and retained the house provision giving the secretary of the treasury full authority to demand the rate which is expected to be slightly more than 4 per cent.

#### Four Billions for Allies.

The bill authorizes \$7,538,000,000 of new convertible 4 per cent bonds, subject to income surtaxes and war excess profit taxes. Of these four billion are for new loans to the allies, the remainder to convert the 3 1/2 per cent liberty loan and to refund miscellaneous bonds. Issuance of \$2,000,000,000 of war savings certificates and same amount of short term treasury certificates of indebtedness also was provided.

Carrying \$7,000,000,000, the war deficiency bill is today in the senate's hands, following its passage yesterday by the house without a dissenting vote. The senate probably will act promptly after its appropriations committee, which now is considering the bill, reports.

#### Baker a Witness.

The committee today began hearings on the bill with Secretary Baker appearing as the first witness. The secretary was expected to present new estimates for the army which, together with other estimates, may bring the bill's total up to about \$8,000,000,000. The bill is the biggest money measure in American history. Among the larger items of appropriations are: Shipping board, \$1,749,000,000; fortifications, \$1,495,000,000; emergency funds, \$200,000,000; torpedo boat destroyers, \$235,000,000, and machine guns, \$138,000,000.

With the beginning of senate hearings on the bill today, Secretary Baker presented estimates for additional appropriations of \$287,415,000, principally for ordnance and the engineering service.

### AMERICAN TANKER PLATURIA TORPEDOED

LONDON, Sept. 19.—The American steamer Platuria was torpedoed by a German submarine on September 15. Forty-five survivors have been landed by the Italian steamer Andrea. The master of the Platuria and eight of the crew were drowned.

The Platuria was a tank steamship of 3445 tons register, owned by the Standard Oil company and was formerly known as the Diamant. She left Newport News, Va., in July, with cargo of oil for Italian ports. She was commanded by Captain John Leslie.

Captain Leslie lived in Jersey City, N. J. All told there were 41 members of the crew and 12 naval gunners. Among the crew including the captain were 16 Americans, including T. Johnson, baker boy, 1248 Iron st., Bellingham, Wa.

### PROSPECTS GOOD FOR SETTLEMENT COAST STRIKES

Entire Coast to Be Considered as Unit in Determining Wage for Shipyard Employes at Gompers' Suggestion—Metal Trades Refuse the Mare Island Wage Scale.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Labor department officials today expressed the opinion that there "is some prospect of adjustment soon of the shipbuilding and iron workers strike at San Francisco."

Their estimate was based largely, it was said, upon a telegram received from W. T. Boyce, assistant commissioner of immigration at San Francisco, who is acting as conciliator. Mr. Boyce reported conferences last night and that he expected to resume them today.

#### Coast as a Unit.

Urgent suggestion from the American Federation of Labor, however, that the entire Pacific coast should be considered a unit in determining wage scales for shipyard employes dimmed the hope of shipping board officials of settling independently the strike of iron workers at San Francisco. Consequently the shipping board devoted more attention to solution of the difficulty arising out of a Seattle company's action in granting high union wage demands. Chairman Hurley of the board considered postponing his trip to the coast until he could confer with the general manager of the Seattle company due to arrive here tomorrow. Mr. Hurley had planned to leave late today.

#### Another Conference.

The suggestion of federal conciliators that the San Francisco strikers go back to work temporarily on the basis of the Mare Island wage scale, recently increased about ten percent, was not received favorably by officials of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor. They explained that the Mare Island scale was based on rates in commercial plants about San Francisco and was considered too low. International officers of the federation expressed the opinion that the San Francisco dispute could not be settled before the Seattle situation is composed.

Mr. Hurley and Samuel Gompers arranged another conference today on the problem.

### RETAIL MERCHANTS TO BE ORGANIZED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—Merchant representatives are to be named for all states to assist in organizing retail merchants for work in co-operation with the food administration.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19.—The food administration has commissioned Henry Wolfer, formerly head of the Minnesota State Binder Twine Works, to investigate the sisal and hemp industry, with a view to action toward reducing prices. The price has risen 500 per cent since the war began.

### SMUGGLED BOOZE UNDER WATERMELONS

TACOMA, Wn., Sept. 19.—Hidden under a carload of watermelons, the first big consignment of liquor to be seized since the federal dry law went into effect was taken last night at Buckley when the city and county dry squad found seven cases of whiskey value \$1600 under present conditions. The car was consigned to E. A. Dillon, a California jobber, who is now held at the county jail, and who denies knowledge of the shipment.