



# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



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## OESSEL ISLE IN GERMAN POSSESSION

### Kaiser's Military Machine Proceeding With Rapidity to Carry Out Program of Dominance in Gulf of Riga—German Battleship Strikes Mine—Intense Artillery Battle on Flanders Front Prepares Another British Drive.

BERLIN, Oct. 17.—German troops have captured the Russian island of Oesel, in the Gulf of Riga, in its entirety, it was officially announced today by the German general staff.

The German statement says that Teuton naval forces had encounters with Russian torpedo boat destroyers and gunboats north of Oesel island and in the Bay of Riga, and these resulted favorably for the Germans. The Russian ships were compelled to retire. The German vessels, it is added, sustained no losses.

Naval aircraft dropped bombs on Pernau, a Russian port on the Gulf of Riga, where large fires were observed.

On the main fighting front in the east there was a revival of activity. Russians attempted to advance, the statement says, but were driven back.

### Control Riga Gulf.

The German military and naval machine is obviously proceeding with rapidity to carry out its program of gaining complete dominance in the Gulf of Riga. It has all of Oesel island, off the mouth of the gulf, already in its grasp.

All arms of the German service seem engaged in the operations, even a fleet of Zeppelins being on hand to make observations. The Russian naval forces are now bearing the brunt of the resistance to the German effort and Petrograd reports their patrol ships keeping in touch with and having encounters with German torpedo craft.

Berlin does not admit any losses in the engagements north of Oesel island, in which the Russians reported two German torpedo craft sunk and two damaged, while conceding the loss of one Russian destroyer. Furthermore, Petrograd today reports that a German dreadnaught struck a mine off Oesel island on October 12, making for the coast after the explosion of the mine, the ultimate fate of the warship not being known.

### Halg Prepares Drive.

All the important infantry fighting last night in the western war theater was confined to the French front, where attacks by the Germans in the Aisne and Champagne sectors, as well as in the Verdun region, were repulsed by General Petain's troops.

There is promise of a speedy renewal of the activity in Flanders, however. Field Marshal Haig, for instance, sends from British headquarters today one of those laconic reports that so frequently have preceded the periodic attacks on that front.

"Nothing of special interest to report," has meant in several of these cases that the British guns had opened their terrific drunfire preparatory to an attack.

The German high command apparently is anticipating a renewal of the British drive, as the latest Berlin statement in reporting the intense artillery activity in Flanders said "attacks had taken place, up to the present."

### Bulgars Cede Villages.

There has been a spell of comparative quiet on the Balkan front.

## FRENCH DEPUTIES SUSTAIN GOVERNMENT

PARIS, Oct. 17.—The chamber of deputies, after a secret session this evening, resumed its public session, closing the secret report on the statement concerning Alsace-Lorraine, made in the chamber last Friday by Foreign Minister Ribot, by voting to pass to the next business. The motion was carried by 313 to 0, the socialists refusing to vote.

## DICTATORSHIP BEING PLANNED BY MICHAELIS

### Forces Actually at Work for Military Dictatorship or at Least for Continuance of Chancellor in Office in Defiance of the Reichstag—Socialists Vote Against War Credits.

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 17.—The Berlin correspondent of the Fremdenblatt of Hamburg discloses indications that forces actually are at work in the entourage of Chancellor Michaelis, with the thought of a military dictatorship or at least with the idea of having the chancellor continue in office in defiance of the reichstag, supporting himself by military backing. Conservative and socialist papers in Germany have been engaged in a controversy for some time on the subject of a dictatorship, but hitherto it had not seemed to be of such a nature that it should be taken seriously.

### Withhold Credits.

AMSTERDAM, Oct. 17.—A German socialist newspaper says that the socialists have decided to vote against the new war credit of 10,000,000,000 marks which is to be submitted to the reichstag in December unless Chancellor Michaelis resigns.

Except for the independent socialists, represented in the reichstag by about twenty deputies, who broke away from the party last year, the socialists have supported the German government thru the war and voted for the war credits. Defection of the entire socialist party in the reichstag will present a serious division, inasmuch as the social democrats and the independent socialists combined have 108 seats, a greater number than any other party.

### Michaelis Must Go.

Admiral Von Capelle's announcement in the reichstag at the outbreak in the German navy, with his insinuations that three independent socialist deputies were concerned in the movement, arrayed against the government the whole socialist party, already displeased with the attitude of Chancellor Michaelis toward the reichstag peace resolution, and by his countenancing of pan-German propaganda. The Voerwaerts of Berlin, the great German socialist organ, declared that the chancellor must go and that the socialists would oppose him unrelentingly.

## ISLAND CONGRESS CHAMPIONS CAUSE OF U. S. IN WAR

MANILA, Oct. 17.—The insular congress opened today, its first act being the adoption of a resolution affirming the adherence of the Filipino people to the cause of the United States in the world war.

Francis Burton Harrison, the governor general, in his message to the congress, urged legislation authorizing the government to proceed with the food campaign already begun by the administration. He asked liberal treatment of all government employees who have been called to serve in the war. Regarding economic legislation, he suggested a postponement until the end of the war of the contemplated changes in the Philippine tariff.

Authority was asked by the governor-general to reduce the intrinsic value of silver coins and to issue peso bills. Legislation for the establishment of a Philippine mint also was requested.

The governor-general reported the treasury to be in sound condition, and therefore asked congress to make adequate appropriations, particularly for public works, education and the promotion of health.

L. A. Dollar who has been serving in the navy since last July when he enlisted in San Francisco and who has been spending his five days' furlough here visiting relatives, left today to report for duty at the San Diego training station. He expects to be assigned to active duty on board ship in the near future.

## RAILROADS ASK CERTAIN FREIGHT RATE INCREASES

### Eastern Railroads Seek Temporary Financial Relief Thru Higher Charges on Commodities, Such as Brick, Copper, Stone and Sand—Application for Increase to Follow

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Eastern railroads today, asking the interstate commerce commission for temporary financial relief thru certain freight rate increases, gave notice that formal applications for general increases of an extended nature soon would be asked.

George Stuart Patterson, on behalf of the roads, outlined their suggestion to the commission.

"We come," he said, "with two specific suggestions. The first is whether it is not practicable and whether a blanket application should not be filed by the carriers asking for permission to file tariffs covering all those commodities such as brick, copper, stone, sand and many other commodities.

"The second suggestion is this: Would it not be desirable and in accordance with the public interest to postpone the hearings which have now been set with respect to the tariffs under suspension, covering increased rates on grain, grain products, livestock, dressed meats and certain other miscellaneous commodities.

"It is the opinion of the gentlemen whom I represent that any relief which will be secured from permitting these increased rates in respect to these commodities will be only a temporary relief and that it is only a question of a short time when the needs of the eastern carriers will be brought to the attention of this commission on a much more general and more specific way than is contemplated in these particular tariffs."

The commission, after hearing the railroad executive's suggestion, advised them that it would confer and communicate with them later.

## IOWA PROHIBITION ELECTION IN DOUBT

DES MOINES, Ia., Oct. 17.—Available returns from Monday's prohibition election show a majority against the constitutional amendment forbidding the manufacture and sale of liquor in Iowa of 3390 at 2 p. m. today. Fifty-one scattering precincts are yet to be heard from, the vote standing 210,049 against and 206,659 for the amendment.

An official count may be necessary to determine the result of the election.

A victory for the amendment means the constitutional prohibition of manufacture and sale of liquor in the state until a legislature is elected which would re-submit the question to popular vote. A victory for the wets would mean the immediate legal sale of liquor until the statutory provision under which the state is now dry is repealed. This would be impossible until the next legislature convenes, two years hence.

## MOB ATTACKS RUSSIAN GENERALS

PETROGRAD, Oct. 17.—The generals arrested for participation in the Korniloff uprising on their departure from Berditchev, province of Kiev, on October 10, were compelled to walk three miles to the railroad station, while they were jeered, pelted with missiles and threatened by a mob of several thousand persons. The officers barely escaped alive thru the strategy of a member of the cadet guard, who started the train out of the station as it was being fired upon by the mob, according to reports which have just arrived here.

General Arloff was struck in the eye by a missile, while General Yanovsky's spine was injured seriously.

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## SHIPYARD STRIKE SETTLED; MEN TO RETURN MONDAY

SEATTLE, Oct. 17.—Seattle's shipyard strike was considered temporarily settled today and the strikers, numbering approximately 12,000, were expected to return to work Monday as a result of a patriotic appeal made to the men by the federal wage adjustment board here recently.

The decision to return to work on Monday was made at a meeting last night of the metal trades council, which called the strike. The council voted to instruct its members to return to work under conditions existing before the strike and to leave their claims for higher wages and the closed shop in the hands of the adjustment board.

Thirteen of the fourteen unions affiliated with the council previously had voted to end the strike, but the fourteenth union, the boilermakers, decided to remain out. In view of the council's action it was expected the boilermakers will reverse their decision.

By Monday the men will have been on strike three weeks and one day. Work on a number of government contracts was halted by the strike.

A committee from the Metal Trades Council today made public the following statement:

"In compliance with the expressed wishes of the United States wage adjustment board, the Metal Trades Council of Seattle and vicinity, confident that its interests will be fully protected, and desiring to remove as far as possible all obstacles in the way of the fulfillment of the United States shipbuilding program, voted to return to work in the Seattle shipyards Monday, October 22, pending the awards of the wage adjustment board.

"Upon receipt of the board's decisions, their findings will immediately be communicated to all affiliated unions for their acceptance or rejection."

## UNITED STATES IN WAR CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—While official announcement is being withheld, it is practically certain that the United States will be represented at the coming conference of all the nations at war against Germany, which probably will be held in Paris.

Secretary Lansing today authorized the statement that it definitely had been decided that there would be a conference and that the United States was considering participating in it with the possibility that it would be decided to do so.

## Germans Bombard Nancy

PARIS, Oct. 17.—Ten persons were killed and forty wounded in a bombardment of Nancy last night by German aviators, the war office announced. On Monday and Tuesday twenty-five German airplanes were destroyed by the French or compelled to land in damaged condition.

French airplanes have bombed several military establishments behind the German lines.

## GOVERNMENT THREATENS TO OPERATE MINES

### Fuel Administrator Garfield Warns Coal Operators and Miners Where Strikes Have Occurred That Drastic Action Will Be Taken If Work Does Not Proceed at Once.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield today warned coal operators and miners where strikes have occurred or are impending that the government would take charge of coal production if it continues to be threatened by strikes.

After a conference with John F. White, president of the United Mine Workers, over strikes called or impending in Illinois, Ohio, and Indiana, Mr. Garfield sent a telegram to operators and miners alike giving notice that the government would deal most drastically with strikes intended to force a revision of government prices to meet wage increases.

### Garfield's Telegram.

The fuel administrator's telegram follows:

"American citizens engaged in the mining of coal, whether operators or miners, are for the most part mindful of the fact that our country is at war and that the burden rests upon them to produce the coal needed without interruption. But there are evidently some who fail to understand the gravity of the situation and who do not hesitate to advocate strikes at the present time as a means of forcing the government to at once decide whether the wage increase, agreed to at the meeting recently held at Washington by the operators and miners of the central district, should justly be covered by an advance in the prices fixed by the president.

"The matter has been submitted to me and all concerned are expected to co-operate. I am giving immediate and close attention to the situation and hope to reach a decision at an early date. The only circumstance within my control which will delay that decision will be the violation of the spirit of the arrangement between the operators and miners which was that under no circumstances should the production of coal in the United States at the present time be allowed to diminish.

"If either the operators or miners attempt to bring pressure upon me to reach a decision, I shall postpone it and use whatever powers are necessary to compel the production of coal to meet the country's needs."

### Chicago Threatened.

CHICAGO, Oct. 17.—Unless the coal strike is settled within ten days, business in Chicago will be paralyzed, according to a statement made today by Fred W. Upham, president of the largest coal company in the city.

"There is less than ten days' supply in the city, and no coal is coming in," said Mr. Upham.

"The situation is the most serious which ever confronted the city," continued Mr. Upham. He added that his company had but three days' supply on hand. He said he believed there was not a building in the city outside the industrial plants with more than a six days' supply on hand. Most of them, he said, could run only three days more.

"Commercial life in Chicago will be wrecked by next week unless Fuel Administrator Garfield moves quickly," said Mr. Upham. "Before the strike situation was bad. This is the climax."

## FOREIGN POSTAGE RATES RAISED

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Great Britain has agreed to a modification of the postal treaty which fixed a two cent letter rate from the United States, so as to increase it to three cents for practically all foreign letters not wakening the two cent stamp.

This will bring a large quantity of foreign mail into the class where the United States may collect the additional one cent letter tax imposed by the war tax bill.

The three cent rate also will apply to the Bahamas, Canada, Cuba, Barbadoes, British Guiana, British Honduras, Dominican republic, Dutch West Indies, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Leeward Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, New Zealand and Panama.

The three-cent rate becomes effective November 2.

## BARITONE STARVING IN DETENTION CAMP

NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—Dinah Gilly, the Algerian baritone, and formerly with the Metropolitan Opera company here, is starving in an internment camp at Raab, Austria, according to a letter received from him by Eugene Boncher of this city, dated August 27 last. New York friends today started a fund for the singer.

The baritone left London three days before war began and was at Stratz castle, Bohemia, when put under guard as a French subject. After two years he was removed at his own request to the detention camp. Here he has been obliged to pay for lodgings and food supplies.

## U. S. WARSHIPS MASTER U-BOAT MENACE ABROAD

### Decrease in Sinkings Due Largely to Effectiveness of American Destroyers, Which Steam Collectively Nearly a Million Miles—Each Vessel Has Encountered a Submarine.

BASE OF AMERICAN FLOTILLA, IN BRITISH WATERS, Sept. 20.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—In these five months of active service that they have seen in the great war, the American destroyers have steamed collectively a total distance of 875,000 miles. This is more by several times than the distance cruised in two whole years of peace. And what makes the figures all the more impressive is that they have been reached without the loss thru an accident of war, of a single life or a very serious mishap to any of the units.

Roughly, the destroyers have spent five-eighths of their time at sea and their average time in port has been three days after each turn of five or six outside.

### Technique Learned.

Clear weather and long days have favored them and aided the men in learning the technique of their business of combating the submarines, conveying troop ships and merchantmen, patrolling the shipping routes and rescuing survivors from torpedoed ships.

The Americans, therefore, can claim no small part of the credit for the gradual decrease in shipping losses. First of all, the addition of their units to the allied forces, patrolling as they do an area as large as that bounded roughly by the great Y formed by New York, Detroit and Knoxville, was certain to make life less comfortable for the U-boats. Next the Americans applied all the tactics of the long-experienced British and in some instances improved on them. All the destroyers added to their equipment depth charges and other devices. Then the crews learned some more about the business of smoke screening a merchant fleet while they beat off the attacking submarine with gunfire and depth charges. Their gunnery, too, has greatly improved. One crew saw a spar of a sunken ship the other day which they at first thought was a periscope, and shattered it at 2000 yards.

### New Ideas Apollod.

New ideas also have been and are constantly being worked, with a view to rendering the work of the submarine increasingly difficult. Filled with enthusiasm over each new experience had with the enemy, the Americans are not slow to apply a more effective method of dealing with him the next time he shows his head above water. For instance, two officers, working on designs for new destroyers, have introduced many new ideas, gained from observations made in this anti-submarine game. Still others have suggested changes in gun firing. In fact, something new, altho not always practicable, is being worked out all the time.

In the period of active service over here, each destroyer has taken many turns at patrol duty. This means five or six days away from port in varying kinds of weather when the routine is "eat, sleep, stand watch and get seasick." Occasionally this routine is broken by the call to general quarters usually caused by the presence of a U-boat or crew of a torpedoed ship.

### Depth Charges Fired.

Every destroyer has to its credit at

(Continued on page three)

## COMMISSIONS FROM CIVIL LIFE HELD UP

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—General Bliss, chief of staff of the army, has abruptly ended the practice of commissioning officers from civil life to the staff corps of various branches of the army and calling them into active service before actual need for their services exists.

Indications that the practice has grown out of all bounds, particularly in the medical, signal and quartermaster's corps, led the chief of staff to take this action.

## NORWEGIAN SHIP SUNK BY U-BOAT

COPENHAGEN, Oct. 17.—The Norwegian steamer Theinis has been sunk in the Mediterranean, according to an announcement by the Norwegian foreign office received here today. All the members of the crew are missing.

The Theinis, 7402 tons gross and 445 feet long, was built in Sunderland, England, in 1911 and owned in Tonsberg.