

Full Leased Wire Dispatches

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PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS - FIVE CENTS

TO ASK LEGISLATURE TO ABOLISH COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE

Commissioner Ferguson Says Do Away With One of County Officials

SAYS WORK COULD BE HANDLED BY OTHERS

Only Nine Counties Have Recorder at the Present Time

In the opinion of Insurance Commissioner Ferguson, the office of county recorder, which is maintained in only nine of the 37 counties of the state, "appears to be unnecessary and a burden to the taxpayers"—a sort of veritable appendix to the office of county clerk, and should be abolished.

Mr. Ferguson also points out the practice of county clerks, generally, of charging many items of expense to the "current expense" account, which, he states, is very ambiguous and covers an unlimited latitude, and this practice, he recommends, should be abandoned and all items of expense should be properly located to certain specific functions of the county government.

Recording of instruments is done by county clerk in all counties except Benton, Clackamas, Jackson, Linn, Marion, Umatilla, Union, Washington and Yamhill. In those counties there is a separate office known as county recorder, which appears to be unnecessary and a burden to the taxpayers of those counties.

According to the statement issued by Commissioner Ferguson this morning the total expense of conducting the affairs of the office of the county clerk for Marion county for the nine months period prior to September 30, 1914, was \$5,583.42, and that of the office of county recorder \$3,929.29, making an aggregate of \$9,512.71 for the two departments, which expense, if they could be consolidated, he thinks, could be very materially reduced.

The total cost of conducting the offices of county clerk in the several counties of the state for the nine months' period ending September 30, 1914, which was prior to the incurring of the heavy expense incident to the holding of the general election in November, was \$160,317.61, and for the nine counties which maintain recorders' departments, \$21,905.35, making a grand total of \$182,222.96.

Severe Storm Hit Lower Georgia Today

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 7.—Death and destruction were left in the wake of a violent storm which hit lower Georgia and upper Florida early today. A woman and her son were killed at Abbeville and one person was killed at Quitman. The damage to property and livestock was estimated at \$500,000.

RUSSIA'S HUNGARIAN CAMPAIGN EXPLAINED

Development In Two Directions Responsible for Tardiness

By J. W. T. Mason. (Former London Correspondent for the United Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—Russia's campaign against Hungary apparently is being developed from two directions, which probably accounts for its slow progress thus far.

Instead of crossing the Carpathians from the north alone, on their way to Budapest, the Slavs appear to have undertaken a double advance from the north and east.

The eastern movement is being developed in Bukovina, the Hungarian crown land bordering on Rumania. This district is already held by the Russians and they are reported to be concentrating toward the province of Transylvania, which is in Budapest's direction.

ENGLAND EXPECTS AN AERO RAID SOON

Appearance of Scouting Zeppelins Taken As Indicating Attack

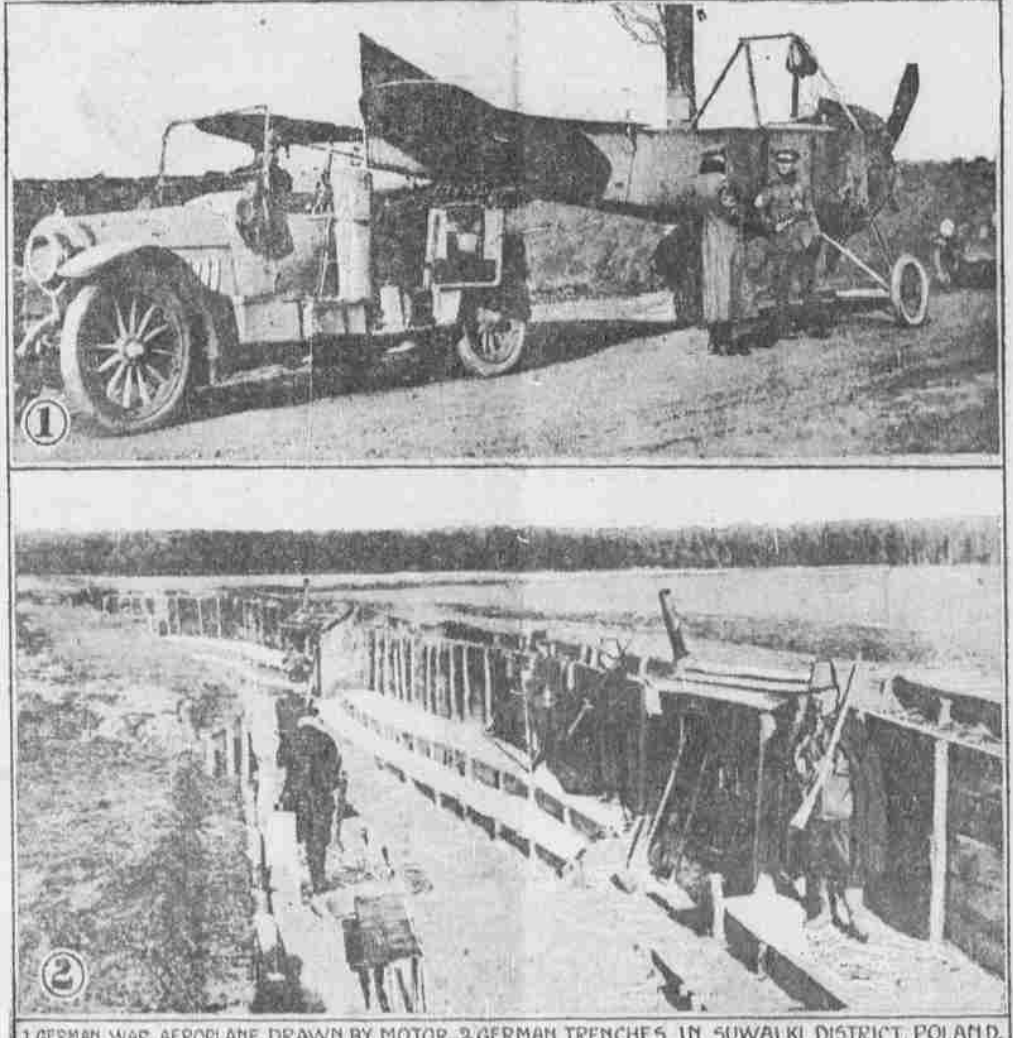
London, Jan. 7.—Precautions the military authorities were taking today indicated a belief that the Germans were planning to attempt an aerial raid on a large scale soon.

Reinforcements were being sent to all the coast guard stations. Aeroplanes were being strengthened. The police had orders to enforce rigidly all lighting regulations.

These steps followed the discovery that Zeppelins have been cruising over the Dover strait, escorted by armed aeroplanes.

It was believed they were sent up for information concerning air currents and other details, preliminary to a general attack, presumably on London.

GERMAN AEROPLANE DRAWN BY MOTOR IN WEST AND GERMAN TRENCHES USED IN THE EAST



The upper picture shows a German army aeroplane being drawn by a motor in the Belgian-France territory. The lower one shows type of German trenches at Suwalki, Poland.

SIERCKS TO ATTRACT NO MORE ATTENTION

Governor West Announces Matter Will Receive No Official Attention

Insofar as he is personally and officially concerned, the complete and unqualified repudiation of the confession of John G. H. Siercks to the murder of Mrs. Daisy Weisman and little son, Harold, in Columbia county, September 4, 1911, which was made yesterday, Governor West states that the investigation into the facts surrounding the confession has ended, and unless something tangible can be presented to him he will let the matter drop.

At a conference held at the insane asylum last night, however, between Roscoe P. Hurst, of Portland, attorney for young Siercks; Warden B. K. Lawson, of the penitentiary; Rev. MacLaren, who was instrumental in procuring the imbecile's confession, and District Attorney Dillard, of Columbia county, who presented the case against Siercks for the crime, Gustav Siercks, father of the boy, and Superintendent Steiner, who was present, and took part in the conference in his official capacity only as custodian of the insane youth, it was decided that the investigation will be carried on semi-officially in order to establish whether or not it could have been possible for young Siercks to have covered the ground and committed the crime in the manner he claimed he did in his self-repudiated confession.

Col. Lawson, warden of the penitentiary, intends to go over the ground himself, covering the same route described by the feeble-minded youth in his confession, to satisfy himself whether or not it could have been accomplished in the time stated in the confession, but in doing so he will act in his private capacity only. He stated this morning that he would leave on the errand as soon as he could get away from his duties and will probably go today.

As a result of the conference last night it was given out that young Siercks denied that any force or other means of coercion had been used in securing his confession to the crime. He admits that he blamed Rev. MacLaren for exercising his influence upon him in securing the confession, but he says he was not forced to do so. He still maintains that his confession was utterly false and was manufactured for the purpose of saving the life of J. A. Pender, who stands convicted of the crime.

THE WAR LINEUP

England.—German aerial raid foreseen and precautionary measures taken; American steamship Denver, stopped by British cruiser and diverted to Oahu; released before Washington has time to file protest. France and Belgium.—Two-mile gain claimed for allies in Yser region; Paris reports tell of progress elsewhere along the line; Germans attacking in Artois. Austria.—Slavs assume offensive in Miswa district; Poland campaign elsewhere hampered by weather; Turks reported fleeing in Transcaucasia.

MEXICAN SITUATION MOST SERIOUS YET

Novo Laredo, Mex., Jan. 7.—That Mexico's plight is more serious now than it has been at any time since the late President Francisco I. Madero started his revolution against Porfirio Diaz was the declaration here today of General Martin Espinoza, who has just reached Novo Laredo from Mexico City. Espinoza presided over the Zapata-Gutiérrez convention for one day. The convention was a farce, Espinoza declared, being controlled by Zapata with armed guards, while General Villis, General Angeles and even Provisional President Gutiérrez himself were under constant surveillance when they attended the gathering.

Life in the capital had become unbearable, Espinoza said, and the city was practically depopulated as a result of Carranzistas withdrawing in fear of a Villista attack.

WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVE

Copenhagen, Jan. 7.—Japan has agreed to send a diplomatic representative to the Vatican, it was stated in Berlin advice received here today.

SAY JAPS BACK OF CHINESE REBELLION

Supporters of Yuan Shi Kai Lay Trouble to Nippon Government

Shanghai, Jan. 7.—Supporters here of President Yuan Shi Kai are openly, though not officially, accusing the Japanese of being behind much of the native dissatisfaction with the present Peking regime.

Yuan, they say, is disliked at Tokio because he seems likely to establish too strong a government for the Mikado to dominate. They point out that such men as Dr. Sun Yat Sen, when driven into exile for conspiring against the emperor, they have invariably been welcomed in Japan despite the fact that their views are such as the Japanese authorities will not tolerate, if they know of them, among the Japanese themselves.

Not only this, it is asserted, but they have been allowed to continue their plotting in safe refuges in Tokio, Kobe, Nagasaki and elsewhere, all protests from Peking that Japan is being used by agitators against the Chinese government for the development of their plans meeting with nothing but bland disregard.

Aside from protection and moral support Tokio officialdom is declared in all probability to be lending financial assistance to the revolutionists where it seems necessary.

VICTIMS OF ELEVATOR ACCIDENT MAY DIE

San Francisco, Jan. 7.—Three victims of yesterday's elevator accident in the California-Pacific building here were at the point of death today. They were Earl Pressy of Berkeley, Harold H. Pitting of Alameda and Chester Stohr of San Francisco.

RUMANIA PREPARING TO ENTER CONFLICT

Reservists Warned to Be Prepared For a Call to Colors Soon

Bucharest, Rumania, via Petrograd, Jan. 7.—Rumanian reservists having been warned to prepare for a call to the colors, the feeling was one of uncertainty throughout the country today that the nation was soon to be actively engaged in the European war.

There is no question that the development will be popular. Even at the royal palace, it is said there is no such opposition to joining the allies as existed before the death of the late King Charles, who was thoroughly German in sympathy. Officialdom, aside from royalty, is as strongly for participation in the conflict on the allies' side as are the masses of the people.

It cannot honestly be said that any very bitter hatred is felt for the Teutonic combination as is felt between Germany and England, for instance. Rather, Rumanians think their country has an opportunity to achieve an important place in Europe and it is ambition which is responsible for their desire to take a hand in the pending conflict.

It was taken everywhere as a foregone conclusion today that it was against Austria that Rumania would be pitted and the expectation was that there would be an immediate invasion of the former country following a declaration of hostilities.

There was much speculation concerning Bulgaria's attitude but the general judgment was that some agreement had been reached between the Bucharest and Sofia governments by which the Bulgarians would keep their hands off, perhaps in return for the territory they were compelled to surrender to Rumania at the end of the Balkan war—a sacrifice the Rumanians can well afford to make if they gain what they hope from Austria.

Many rumors were also current of a compact with Italy by which they country will become Rumania's ally.

GERMAN ATROCITIES IN BELGIUM VERIFIED

Report of Commission Shows That Officers Permitted Outrages

Havre, Jan. 7.—That almost unbelievable crimes have been proven as asserted in the report of the commission headed by George Payelle, first president of the court of accounts, which has been investigating charges of German atrocities in Belgium, it was stated here today.

The complete report, it was added, would be published tomorrow. It is about 20,000 words and asserts that the investigators saw positive proofs of the horrible things related.

UNINTERRUPTED SUCCESSSES IS CLAIM OF ALLIES

German Attack On Allies' Ammunition Bases Easily Repulsed

Paris, Jan. 7.—Uninterrupted successes by the allies everywhere they were in contact with the Kaiser's forces were claimed today by both official and unofficial advices received from the western war zone.

GERMAN BATTERIES NEAR RIVER LYS SILENCED

French Are Making Steady Progress In Face of Enemy at Alsace

Among other claims was the repulse of a German aerial attack on Dunkirk and the allies' ammunition supply bases in its vicinity. The hostile aviators were said to have been driven away by the accurate fire from the French aero guns.

Between the North sea and the River Lys, it was declared the French artillery had silenced a number of the Germans main batteries. There had been no infantry engagements in this district, it was stated, on account of the continued rains and floods.

Desperate fighting was said to have occurred Wednesday night and to be still in progress today in the vicinity of Lille. The Germans, attacking under cover of mine throwers and artillery, drove the French from one of their trenches, it was admitted, but later it was declared the Gallic troops were reinforced and recaptured the position.

The German advance east of Rheims was reported checked, as were assaults at Watville, Kolschlag and in the Waesche region.

The French, it was asserted, were holding the woods three miles west of Athlirch and making steady progress in the rest of the fighting in Alsace.

Decisive Battle to Be Fought Near Vera Cruz

Washington, Jan. 7.—Villistas and Carranzistas were preparing today for a decisive battle to be fought between Vera Cruz and Mexico City, according to advices received at the state department. The dispatches indicated that the battle may be the final reckoning between the two factions.

Several additional carloads of wounded soldiers reached Vera Cruz today from Puebla recently captured by Carranzistas from the Villista garrison. It was also reported that black small-pox was spreading rapidly in Vera Cruz.

GERMANS DENY THAT MERCIER WAS ARRESTED

London, Jan. 7.—From Berlin a wireless message was received today denying Wednesday's report that Cardinal Mercier had been arrested by the Germans in Belgium for telling the Belgians that they were not morally bound to respect German orders.

"WORLD AT WAR" ATLAS

The Capital Journal has just received a new shipment of the "World at War" atlases. They are of a later and revised edition, compared with those we have been giving away to our subscribers. Instead of 16 pages, they consist of 24 large, highly-illustrated pages, printed on heavy enameled book.

The atlas contains splendid colored maps of all the warring countries, with routes of travel and railroad lines; many tables of army and navy and general statistics—in fact, the work is a complete ready-reference library for students of the great war. It is a book which would ordinarily sell for \$1.00 or \$1.50, but we are having them made up in large lots and buy them at a price which allows us to give them away to subscribers on very easy conditions.

All who pay three months subscription, old or new, back subscription or in advance, in case their paper is delivered by carrier, will receive one of these atlases free. All mail subscribers, old or new, who pay a year's subscription (\$3.00), either back subscription or in advance, will also be entitled to receive an atlas without extra charge.

This is the most liberal offer the Capital Journal has ever made.

The Weather

Prosperity is here again. Oregon: Rain today and Friday; southeasterly winds.

Be careful how you drop remarks; they may hit the wrong chap.

Once a coward, always a liar.