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WIRE DISPATCHES

# The Daily Capital Journal

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THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1916

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## HALF MILLION ENGAGED IN TERRIFIC STRUGGLE

### Thousands of Great Guns Pouring Shells Into French Position at Verdun--Its Fall Would Mean Germans Would Make Another Drive at Paris--Streams of Wounded Pouring Back From Battle Front--German Make Important Gains at Many Points

London, Feb. 24.—The German crown prince's gigantic offensive around Verdun is the beginning of a renewed drive toward Paris, according to Amsterdam advices from Berlin today.

With thousands of guns blasting the defenses, the plan is to wreck the Verdun fortress and then begin a smash towards the French capital, 132 miles away. Berlin was reported to believe that, should Verdun fall, it would mark the beginning of the end of the war.

Fully half a million men are engaged in the struggle in the woods to the north and northeast of the fortress, while extremely fierce artillery and infantry moves are taking place on both banks of the Meuse.

The Amsterdam dispatches told of streams of wounded Germans heading into Germany during the past two days, the fruits of the new campaign. The Teuton losses, as reported by Amsterdam, during the few days of the offensive, have been the largest in five months.

A Paris dispatch to the Times, while emphasizing the importance of the conflict, said that the tremendous German losses assured defeat of the Verdun campaign, because a victory would involve too great a sacrifice.

If the gains claimed by Berlin are true, her soldiers are now approaching the outer forts of the town. One more drive, equal to the last, may allow the German 42 centimeter guns to open upon the fortress.

The Berlin statement yesterday claimed capture of nearly six and one-half miles in the Verdun region, at many points of which the Germans penetrated to a depth of two miles. The entire front covers about 25 miles, while at last reports the Germans were about 10 miles to the north of Verdun.

The crown prince has been appointed commander in chief of the Alsace and Meuse regions.

London, Feb. 24.—Under the eyes of the Kaiser, the German crown prince has forced his way to within gun range of the fortress city of Verdun.

Berlin claimed today the Teutons had captured towns as far as Samogneux, only six miles from the northern outskirts of the fortress; Paris admitted Samogneux had been stormed, though it claimed the Teuton attack there had been repulsed. Berlin told of enormous gains; Paris admitted some.

Losses on both sides have probably mounted to the great total of 60,000 men in the few days since the prince began his onslaught. And still the combat rages along the 25 mile front of Verdun, with no signs of weakening.

The German official statement claimed the Germans had cleared the way before them in capturing Brabant-Sur-Meuse, Hamont, Samogneux, Jod and Herbe, together with the forested district north and northwest of Beaumont.

Losses Are Appalling.

Paris admitted the loss of Brabant-Sur-Meuse and part of the Caures wood, four miles eastward, after announcing yesterday that the French had re-occupied the latter territory. The official communique told of appalling losses on both sides. In an attack on Samogneux, Paris said, the Germans were thrown back, while in a new onslaught

against Beaumont, seven miles northeast of Verdun, the Teutons lost many men.

Both Berlin and Paris indicated that the struggle on the 25 mile front had continued without cessation during the night.

Conceding that the German 42 centimeter guns might reduce Verdun to ruins, critics declared that the Germans must pierce a remarkable system of defensive field positions before they can actually begin a drive toward Paris. Talk of such a drive is current. The prince's efforts are said to be only the preliminaries to a desperate movement on the French capital.

But in his onward march, the crown prince has yet to cope with row after row of strongly fortified field positions protecting Verdun from both the front and rear.

In the earlier assaults, several whole corps of Teutons were slain. It is predicted here that the German losses will be so great as to defeat the present offensive, though the French, too, have lost heavily.

### French Driven Back.

Paris, Feb. 24.—French troops have evacuated the village of Brabant-Sur-Meuse, eight miles north of Verdun, under the heavy attack of the German crown prince in his drive for Verdun, the war office admitted today.

The French also lost a part of the Caures wood, four miles east of Brabant, after re-occupying it yesterday. Elsewhere, however, said the communique, the Germans were repulsed.

After capturing Brabant, the Germans were repulsed in storming Samogneux, only six miles from Verdun. Both sides lost many men.

The German center made a fresh attack on Beaumont, seven miles northeast of Verdun, but was repulsed, said the communique. There, the German sacrifices were especially great.

Infantry attacks marked the night hours along an eight mile front from Brabant through the Caures woods to Beaumont, while artillery flashed and roared along a 25 mile front.

Fresh airmen raided Metz and set fire to the gas plant.

London, Feb. 24.—Reports that a Japanese fleet is in the Mediterranean are unfounded, the United Press was authoritatively informed today.

### Kaiser at the Front.

Copenhagen, Feb. 24.—Kaiser Wilhelm has arrived at the Verdun front to encourage his men, said Berlin advices today. He has addressed them daily urging that they conquer Verdun at any cost.

### Claim Great Gains.

Berlin, Feb. 24.—Detailing further successes in the mighty fight for Verdun.

(Continued on Page Three.)

### S. P. WOULD COMPROMISE ON FORFEITED LANDS

Washington, Feb. 24.—A possible compromise in the Oregon-California land grant cases was suggested to the house public lands committee today by J. P. Blair, general counsel for the Southern Pacific railroad. His proposition will be submitted upon arrival of the railroad's land commissioners next week.

Blair reaffirmed that the railroad is entitled to \$2.50 per acre and the timber on the lands involved and he claimed that congress cannot again vest the title as Senator Chamberlain proposes, though it may take the lands under right of eminent domain and then dispose of them.

### WAR ENDS WHEN TONGS DECLARE ARMISTICE

### Peace Envoys the Cause—District Attorney Tells Them What Is Coming

Portland, Ore., Feb. 24.—Chinatown suddenly resumed its bustle and stir today. There was no tong war. Blinds were raised and doors opened where for 10 days they had been closed tight. On the street appeared numerous blinking Chinese who had remained hidden in dark cellars or barricaded rooms since the war started.

Hop Sing tong men chatted on street corners with Bing Kongs, Bow Leongs and Siew Sings. None of them carried revolvers. A man suddenly transformed Chinatown.

The hatchet was buried last night. For 30 days it will actually be a crime for a Hop Sing to shoot a Bing Kong or vice versa. At the end of that time, if the "Henry Fords of the tong war," who arrived from San Francisco yesterday, are unable to patch up a permanent peace, the gunmen will get back into their trenches and begin shooting one another again from dark alleys and doorways.

Great ceremony attended the signing of the armistice agreement. Many speeches were made, and huge breakers of prohibition liquor consumed. Lee Way, president of the Hop Sings, and Jung Bong, chief of the Bing Kongs, made the longest and most pious speeches and impressively signed their names and placed their seals at the bottom of a sheet of chicken tracks.

Wong Wok Lee, president of the San Francisco peace society, presided. At his right sat District Attorney Evans, a much respected guest. Evans also made a speech. It was not at all pacific. It went something like this:

"All I've got to say is that if you fellows don't stop shooting one another, every tongman in Portland will land in the county jail, and most of you will go to the penitentiary as accessories to some of these murders that have been committed."

### STEAMER WESTBURN SCUTTLED BY GERMANS

### Was Held As Prize But Fearing to Lose Her Dashed to Sea and Sunk Her

London, Feb. 24.—Taking no chance of having their prize, the British steamer Westburn, snatched from them, the German crew in charge of her dashed out to sea today from Santa Cruz in the Canaries, scuttled her and then escaped in boats, according to Santa Cruz dispatches.

Before the vessel was sunk, the prisoners aboard her were put safely ashore.

The dispatches said that the German commander scuttled her because the Spanish authorities had hinted they would probably return the vessel to its British owners if it interned. Fearing that warships of the Canaries would capture the boat if she tried to escape, the commander took the ship to a point within the three mile limit and sank her. He then returned to Santa Cruz and will probably intern.

Spain would have been forced to return the ship to the owners in case of internment, inasmuch as she has no treaty with Germany which would permit internment.

The Westburn, a 3,500 ton vessel, put into Santa Cruz for repairs, with a small prize crew and more than 200 prisoners from British ships.

The impression here is that the Westburn was captured by the same German raider which recently captured the Appam and sent her into Newport News, Va. Included in the prisoners were members of the Clan McTavish crew, said to have been captured by the German raider, supposedly the Moewe, at about the time of the Appam capture. Indications are that the same raider captured other vessels whose crews were aboard the Westburn.

### PORTUGAL SEIZES INTERNED SHIPS OF TEUTON ALLIES

### Takes Possession of 36 Austrian and German Steamers in the Tagus

### FIRE NATIONAL SALUTE AS FLAGS WERE CHANGED

### Declaration of War by Germany and Austria Expected Immediately

Lisbon, Feb. 24.—Austria and Germany are expected to declare war upon Portugal immediately as a result of the Portuguese navy's seizure of 36 Austrian and German steamers, some of them large, lying in the Tagus river.

Foreign Minister Costa announced today that the vessels were confiscated because Portugal needed transports and feared the Teuton ships would escape to the Atlantic and possibly raid vessels of the entente allies. In this connection he cited the fact that the German steamer Ockenfels had escaped from Funchal, Madeira island.

Though Germany and Portugal have not been at war, Portugal has openly sided with the allies and has aided the English against Germans in German Africa.

The confiscation is expected to force a break between Portugal and the central powers, but officials are confident that Spain, friendly to the Teuton empires, will continue neutral at least for the present.

The ships were seized by Captain Rego yesterday afternoon. He stripped the Teuton colors from them, ran up the Portuguese flag and then fired a national salute.

### Street Car Turns Turtle No Cause Can Be Found

Portland, Ore., Feb. 24.—Six people are hurt today, none of them seriously, because a street car toppled over while slowly rounding a curve at 11 o'clock last night.

Railroad experts, after an investigation declared it was a mystery what caused the car to turn over. The grades were right, the track clear, and the car wasn't going fast. Two other similar accidents have occurred in the past year.

### WOMAN'S CONFESSION TIGHTENS NET ABOUT "BADGER" SYNDICATE

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 24.—Charged with intending to blackmail a wealthy mining and clubman of this city, Louis E. Siehler, arrested in connection with the alleged operations here and in other Pacific coast cities of an extensive "badger" syndicate, was free today on \$5,000 bail.

Prosecutor Lundin, who issued the complaint against Siehler, asserts that he is the cameraman who obtained photographs which were used later in the alleged blackmail operations.

In sixth paragraph, please make it read "in an attempt to extort \$2,000 from the wealthy mining man," eliminating the name.

Deputy Sheriff Brewer and McGill-Hiray arrested Siehler immediately after a warrant had been issued by Lundin. They had been searching for him for more than 24 hours and had orders to pick him up without a warrant.

Siehler refused to discuss the case other than to say he knew nothing about the "blackmail syndicate," but admitted he knew both Isabel Clayburg, now under arrest in Los Angeles, and Lillian Peterson, who is said to have left Billings, Mont., within the last week for Los Angeles.

Siehler is a lawyer, private detective and former financial agent, who lives at 327 East 58th street. He is the owner of considerable property.

He is charged with blackmail in "having threatened to connive at, and publish a libel" in an attempt to extort \$2,000 from a prominent mining man.

The latter is said to have refused to pay Siehler anything and to have threatened to deal summarily with anyone who attempted to force the issue.

Mrs. S.—whose confession to Deputy Sheriff Hally has been the basis for the action taken against the alleged blackmailers, says she never received any money for her alleged part in the job.

Deputy Sheriff Hally left early this morning for Los Angeles to bring back

### WILLAMETTE TOO COSTLY

Washington, Feb. 24.—A report of the army engineers to congress today disapproved of the improvement of Ventura, Cal., harbor with a breakwater.

Another report said that improvements proposing to construct a six foot channel between Oregon City and Corvallis on the Willamette river is inadvisable at present, as little definite co-operation was promised, and the project would require 20 locks at too much expense.

### THEY DIED HAPPY

Dahloegh, Ga., Feb. 24.—Three men were reported here today to have met death by drowning in a well of "moonshine" liquor some miles from here.

### PIRATE CAR BANDITS TERRORIZE AUTOISTS

### One Who Refused to Stop Is Followed by Shower of Bullets and Buckshot

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 24.—Having a theory that the "private car" bandits who are terrorizing automobilists may have a lurking place in the Calabasas country, up the San Fernando valley, Sheriff Cline today considered sending an armed expedition there to try and route them out.

The "private car" appeared again last night. This time it operated on Venice boulevard, just outside the city limits. Motorists reported four masked men jumped into the middle of the highway holding rifles and sawed off shotgun ready, ordering their intended victim to halt.

One young man, whose name is withheld by the authorities, instead of stopping at command stepped on his accelerator and rushed past the four thugs in a great burst of speed. Instantly the "private car" dashed into the boulevard from a place of concealment in a grove and took up the pursuit. The young man said when he attained a speed of 55 miles an hour the bandits appeared unable to keep up and gradually fell behind, showering his machine with bullets and buckshot.

### WILL GO ON DRY DOCK

New York, Feb. 24.—The French liner Espagne, whose passengers were warned against sailing on her, will not depart for Bordeaux but instead will go into drydock.

Agents denied that the cancellation was due to the warnings, and explained the hull needed scraping.

Passengers may sail on the LaFayette Saturday or have their money refunded.

## DISPUTE WITH GERMANY REACHES ACUTE STAGE

### Large Faction in Congress at Odds With President Wilson As To Course To Take—Insist On Americans Being Warned Not To Take Passage On Armed Merchantmen—Republicans Stand by Wilson's Position—Fear War May Follow Breaking of Diplomatic Relations

Washington, Feb. 24.—When congress met today, indications were that President Wilson had won the first skirmish in his fight against a proposed congressional warning to Americans to keep off armed ships. An effort to adopt such a resolution will be suppressed, and there will be no necessity for his appearing before the members with a message on the German-American situation as administration authorities had predicted. Leaders were so confident that the situation was well in hand that Chairman Stone and Flood of the senate and house foreign committees did not arrange to confer with the president over the warning as they had planned.

Flood declared the house committee would not report any warning resolution; Stone, having avoided the opportunity for consideration of the warning question through taking a recess yesterday instead of adjournment, needed only to guard against oratory on the subject.

Ambassador Von Bernstorff said today he had not yet received instructions from Berlin as to his course toward the American refusal to concur in the Teuton proclamation of war against armed ships.

Objection by Senator Brandegee prevented Senator Gore from getting a hearing on his bill to prevent Americans from traveling on armed ships. Unanimous consent was necessary to allow Gore to speak.

### Gore is Ruled Out.

Gore appealed to Vice-President Marshall, who ruled that his bill was not admissible after Brandegee had objected. A resolution accompanying the bill asked that Americans abstain from the right of traveling on armed ships, while the bill itself proposed that passports for such travel be withheld.

Several senators are opposed to the president's course, but they favor informing him of their sentiments, privately, rather than to have an outbreak on the floor.

Senator LaFollette, en route here from Wisconsin, will aid in dissuading the president from maintaining his present position, but failing in this, he will not support that position.

Representative Foster introduced a substitution for the McLemore resolution which would "authorize" instead of "request" the president to issue a warning. The McLemore resolution proposed that anyone disobeying the warning should sacrifice the right to American protection.

President Wilson was said to have telephoned Flood last night during a conference of the committee members after hearing of the McLemore plan.

Despite the fact that a rupture had been prevented at least temporarily, administration leaders were uneasy.

"I regard this as the most serious matter I have ever had to help face," said one. "We have met it thus far, but it is a bad situation."

How strong the opposition to the president is was evidenced from the fact that such men as Speaker Clark and Senators Overman and Cummins favor a warning. The senators have decided, however, not to push any action.

### Republicans Back Him.

Friends of the president feared that perhaps it would be necessary for him to depend upon republican members to stave off passage of the warning resolution. Representative Cooper, of the house foreign committee, said, however, that many minority members stand with the democrats in favor of a warning.

On the other hand, Senators Gallinger, Lodge and Root and other prominent republicans sustain the president's position. Minority Mann is also with the executive.

The administration is trying hard to postpone action by congress, and those supporting the president believe that, in the meantime, the excitement will subside. The executive's friends pointed out that passage of a warning resolu-

### THE WEATHER

HELLO THERE

Oregon: Fair tonight and Friday; easterly winds.



Look out for the fellow who says money is a secondary consideration. Tipton had says that 'judging' by our eyes, the brewers 'll be fer woman suffrage before another year.