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The Daily Capital Journal

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THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1916

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HARVEST OF DEATH IS SHOWING HEAVY YIELD

German Crown Prince Within Two Miles of Coveted Goal-- Distorted Corpses Pile Battlefield While River of Wounded Flows to Rear--Manv Towns and 10,000 Prisoners Captured by Germans--French Claim German Advance Is Checked--Joffre Takes Command

London, Feb. 25.—Though Paris officially report today that the violence of the German drive against Verdun was diminishing, the Berlin-official announcement of capture of six more villages, and thousands of prisoners along an eight mile front before the city. At some points, the German crown prince's men are within two miles of their coveted goal. Not only have the French wings been driven back but the center, too, has been forced to a point within six miles of the city.

It is a trail of blood the Germans are leaving. Distorted corpses of the best fighters of France and Germany and thousands of wounded are the battle's harvest. Berlin said the French losses had been particularly heavy and that the Germans lost only what might be expected from the magnitude of the struggle.

The Paris communique, while claiming to have checked the Teutons for the time being, virtually admitted, as Berlin said, that the Germans had taken Champ Neuville, Beaumont, Ornes and the farms and villages between, including Cottelette, Marmont and Chambrettes.

General Joffre, French commander in chief, has taken personal direction of the French defense. Paris hails this enthusiastically, as meaning a sure turn of fortunes.

The apparent contradiction in the official statements—Paris telling of a check and a lull in the infantry and artillery battling and Berlin reporting fresh gains—was probably due to the fact that the Paris statement is later. The Berlin statement probably covered events of the early night after which, as Paris said, there were no infantry attacks.

In addition to revealing appalling losses, Berlin claimed 10,000 prisoners had already been taken, together with much booty.

London, Feb. 25.—The French are checking the German crown prince's drive against Verdun and apparently are holding their own except at a few minor points, a special dispatch from Paris today declared.

In capturing Snuagneux and other positions to the eastward, the Germans placed themselves within two miles of the fort of Douaumont and within easy range of Tavennes and Vaux. The guns of these positions, however, are reported trained on the attacking forces while at the same time a perfunctory fire is directed from French field redoubts and advanced trenches.

The report check may be only temporary, however, for the Verdun drive is the greatest Teuton offensive since the Marne defeat. The human sacrifices of the past few days, coupled with the reported order of a German corps commander saying the Germans are bent upon their "last offensive in France," indicates that the Teutons may be prepared to press their victories to a capture of Verdun at any price.

Meanwhile Paris manifests supreme confidence in the outcome. The French believe the Verdun offensive must fail because of its enormous cost in human life.

For some weeks they have been aware of the German preparations, and in the meantime have not been idle. Airmen kept watch of building of supply railroads for reinforcing and sending munitions to the front.

Blizzards Hamper Russians. Petrograd, Feb. 25.—Blizzards are partially thwarting the Russian pursuit of Turks driven from Erzerum when that city fell. The Slav right wing, however, is approaching Bishch, east of Trebizond.

The Russians have dislodged the Turks from fortifications at Bishch and the Sakhne mountain passes. The Turks are retreating toward Kermansah.

Moewe Raids South Atlantic. Tenerife, Feb. 25.—The German commerce raider Moewe harassed British commerce off South America between January 16 and February 9, according to the captain of one of the victims which arrived here today.

The Moewe has been reported to be the raider which captured the African liner Agam, recently taken into Newport News, W. Va., as a prize. It was thought, too, she was responsible for taking the British steamer Westburn, which was brought into the Canaries this week and later taken out within the three mile limit and scuttled.

The captain said that the whereabouts of the Moewe had been a mystery but that between the dates mentioned she had cruised between South America and the Brazilian island of Fernando De Noronha.

The Moewe encountered the 4,600 ton British steamer Flamenco while the latter was heading for Valparaiso. This vessel attempted to escape and wireless for help, but she was overtaken and captured.

Her main cabin is a knacker like better than the society of another knacker. The Fisher folks are the greatest something for nothing seems to be the best.

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WAR NEWS OF ONE YEAR AGO TODAY

The Franco-British fleet bombarded the Dardanelles forts, demolishing many on both sides of the straits. The Germans opened a direct line into Warsaw by capturing the strategic point city of Przemysl.

ANOTHER STEP TAKEN IN HYDE LAND CASE

Judge Galloway Overrules Demurrer--Case Must Be Tried On Merits

The Albany Democrat yesterday had the following court proceedings in the Hyde land fraud case:

In department No. 2 of the circuit court this morning Judge Wm. Galloway made his decision overruling the demurrer of the defendants in the case of the state of Oregon vs. E. A. Hyde, A. S. Bahlin et al to recover title to some 47,000 acres of timber land. The defendant demurred to the complaint, holding that the U. S. government should have been made a party to the suit and that action should have been started sooner.

In his decision Judge Galloway held that the government was not a party to the suit on account of the fact that the suit was over state lands and held to the contention that the case was filed in court as soon as possible on account of the papers in the case being held by the government prosecutors in Washington from 1904 to 1912.

The first complaint was filed by ex-Attorney General A. M. Crawford, on November 20, 1914, and a supplementary complaint was filed by Attorney General Geo. Brown, January 12, 1915, to compel defendants to return to the state over 34,000 acres of school lands. The complaint states that E. A. Hyde, ex-time promoter of San Francisco, with his associates in 1898-99 secured title to some 47,000 acres of school land in Linn, Lane, Klamath, Jackson, Clackamas, Hood River and Crook counties. Entries were made through 140 dummy entries, most of whom were real persons, but 33 of whom were fictitious. The land is valued at \$500,000.

After a trial lasting four years Hyde was convicted by a federal grand jury in Washington, D. C. in 1908, and he was convicted the same year to serve 18 months in prison. J. H. Snyder was convicted with Hyde, and J. A. Benson and Henry Diamond were acquitted.

After securing patents to these lands Hyde and his associates, asked to be allowed to exchange them for like lands in the Cascade forest. Some 10,000 acres have since been transferred, and the defendants will have to give an accounting for. Hyde went to the extent of bribing government officials, and even causing forest reserves to be created to serve his own purposes. He secured 150,000 acres in California.

By Judge Galloway's decision today defendants were given 30 days in which to answer and plaintiff 10 days more in which to file reply.

WILL PLACE VICTIMS OF GANG ON STAND

Those Who Have Paid Money to Blackmailers Will Have to Tell About It

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 25.—Assurance that all the wealthy alleged victims of the Seattle "badger" gang will be called as witnesses when the case against Louis P. Sichel, Mrs. Isabel Clayburg and Miss Lillian Peterson comes to trial here, was given today by Prosecutor Alfred Lundin.

A new complaint against the two men and Sichel is being filed in superior court by Lundin today, in which is charged conspiracy to blackmail a wealthy mining promoter "and others" between April 1, 1914, and April 1, 1915.

"Mrs. Clayburg will be extradited on that charge," said Lundin, "as well as Miss Peterson, if she is apprehended." Photos of the alleged victims, all of whom are wealthy and prominent, will be used as evidence, according to Lundin. The pictures are said to show the men in compromising situations.

"I have evidence," said Sheriff Hodge today, "that one of the women involved in the alleged blackmailing is now collecting the rentals of a wealthy apartment house owner here, who, I am told, hurried to Los Angeles immediately after the story was made public."

LABOR LEADERS ARRESTED

Washington, Feb. 25.—Refusing to give \$5,000 bail when United States Commissioner Taylor held that they must answer Tuesday in New York for an indictment charging conspiracy in the labor National Peace Council case, ex-Representative Fowler, Herman Schulze and Henry Martin were arrested today.

WANTS RESERVE SHIPS SENT TO THE PACIFIC

Admiral Winslow Against It, But Would Provide More Navy Yards

Washington, Feb. 25.—Transfer of reserve ships of the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific coast was suggested by Representative Stephens of California to the house naval committee today. Admiral Winslow, Pacific fleet commander, said, however, that this is inadvisable at present and he expressed the desire that the Atlantic fleet be kept intact.

He was in favor of improving navy yard facilities on the Pacific coast and he thought the Puget Sound yard should be better prepared, though he regarded it as questionable whether the nation should spend money on the Mare Island yard.

"Wouldn't you favor sending a board of officers to the coast to locate a new yard, if one is established?" asked Stephens.

"Yes," answered the admiral. Winslow said that 48 submarines for the Pacific coast would not be excessive, and he counseled construction of larger types than now are used.

He did not believe that the Mare Island yard could be developed into a first class yard, as when it was selected there was no idea of the large ships we would build eventually.

Winslow declared the American navy is not efficient and that it will not be unless the promotion system is based upon selection instead of seniority. Experts, he said, are too old when they reach responsible positions.

SCHOOL SYSTEM IN NEED OF REFORM

Immigration Worker Would Have Children Handled More Intellegently

San Francisco, Feb. 25.—More intelligent handling of immigrant children in the schools and the preparation for reception of an immense immigrant horde following the European war are two problems this country should examine more closely, believes Mary Antin, famous immigration worker and author, who arrived in San Francisco today.

Miss Antin came to America an immigrant. She fought her way to the top and for years has been an advocate of immigration reforms.

"The public should realize that every third person in this country is either foreign born, or born of foreign parents," she remarked.

"Three millions cannot speak the English language, and twice that number cannot read it. After the war, millions more, sickened by the war horrors, will see in America a new haven of rest.

"Let us start with the American school system. The method of educating the children of immigrants is old fashioned. Teachers do not acquaint these people with the fundamental principles of American government. They should be better trained for intelligent citizenship. Memorizing preambles of the constitution will never do it. The educators should discuss personally and simply the value of freedom, of the ballot and the necessity of looking into various issues and election questions."

SLIGHT EARTHQUAKE FELT

Long Beach, Cal., Feb. 25.—Residents of the eastern part of Long Beach felt about a dozen short earthquake shocks between 8:30 and 9 o'clock this morning which rattled doors, windows and dishes. No damage has been reported. Each shock was of about five seconds duration.

RETIRED BANKER IS KILLED BY BURGLAR IN WIFE'S PRESENCE

San Jose, Cal., Feb. 25.—Fighting with a burglar in the dark of his home today, George A. Jones, aged 70, a wealthy retired banker, was stabbed to death while Mrs. Jones groped in the room for her husband, thinking he was suffering from a nightmare.

The woman, aroused from her sleep in a room adjoining her husband's, heard a noise in the kitchen. She believed her husband had wandered there as he previously and suffered from nightmares and somnambulism.

She stretched forth her hand, and touched her husband. Horrified, she found he was struggling with a burglar. She ran from the house, screaming, summoned J. F. Otto, a neighbor, and returned to find her husband lying on the floor and the burglar gone. There were five knife wounds on his body. His jugular vein had been hacked, and his nose was split almost to the mouth.

PROTEST IS SENT ENGLAND

Washington, Feb. 25.—A protest against British seizure of German ships from the China Mail liner China, (American), while en route from China to San Francisco, was forwarded by the state department to England today.

PASSENGER TRAIN IS HELD UP BY BANDITS

Five Heavy Packages of Registered Mail Taken, Value of Which Is Unknown

Tasoma, Wash., Feb. 25.—That the bandits who held up and robbed Northern Pacific passenger train No. 2 near Covington last night, probably escaped in an automobile following the robbery was indicated early today by reports coming from the train crew, who said that half an hour after the robbers disappeared in the forest an automobile going at high speed toward Seattle passed the train. The machine came from the direction of Ravensdale and it was believed the car had been waiting to pick up the bandits when they finished their work.

What booty, if any, was obtained by the robbers is not known at this time. Five heavy packages of registered mail including mail from the Orient that was being forwarded to New York, was taken, according to latest information. Postoffice officials here say they do not know the contents of the foreign pouches, each of which weighed pounds and may have contained packages of great value. The express safe withstood the efforts of the men to dynamite it. Northern Express Agent W. W. Ward said today that there was little money in the express safe.

The bandits boarded the train at E. Auburn, crawled over the tender and flashed lights in the faces of Engineer Moore and Fireman Wright. They backed up their orders with large revolvers. Both were masked.

Moore was commanded to "set the air" and cut off his headlight. He was held on the locomotive while Wright was forced to uncouple the mail and express cars. Then Moore was ordered to go ahead. About a mile and a half on the track the engineer was commanded to stop, and open the baggage car door. She refused to do. The men then fired several shots over the head of the express clerk inside. He finally opened the door and admitted one of the bandits. The engine was then driven within a mile and a half of Ravensdale, where the attempt was made to blow the safe, and where the mail pouches were rifled.

Within a half hour after the train was held on, news of the robbery was given by Flagman Bird, who escaped from the robbers and to Covington where he gave the alarm. Poses from various nearby towns were soon out on the trail of the robbers and it is thought the poses will be able to cut off every avenue of escape.

Made Rich Haul

Tasoma, Wash., Feb. 25.—More than \$5,000 in negotiable paper and registered mail sent from Tacoma to Seattle was secured by the bandits who held up the eastbound North Coast Limited of the Northern Pacific railroad near Covington and rifled mail pouches, it was learned here today.

Dr. D. H. Bell told the postoffice officials that in one of the sacks of mail taken was \$4,600 worth of negotiable certificates of deposit that he had sent to a bank at Kenmore, North Dakota. It is reported that \$200 worth of bond coupons, sent by a local bank, were in one of the stolen pouches.

E. C. Blanchard, general manager of the Pacific division of the Northern Pacific railroad said at noon today that no word had been received from the company's special agents who are out with the posse searching for the bandits.

WILSON AND CONGRESS CLASH OVER "WARNING"

President Tells Conferees He Will Not Budge From His Position of Insisting Germany Recognize Every American Right--Speaker Clark Tells Him the House Is Overwhelmingly In Favor of Warning--Gore Introduces Bill Making It Illegal for Americans to Travel On Armed Merchant Ships

Washington, Feb. 25.—Arguments of house conferees on the German situation failed to swerve President Wilson today from his stand that the German armed merchantman decree transgresses international law and that Americans ought not to be warned from such vessels.

After nearly an hour's session with Speaker Clark, Majority Leader Kitchin and Chairman Flood of the house foreign committee, there was still a disagreement between the president and congress as to the decree. The upshot of the session, however, was no action was to be taken by congress today at least.

President Wilson emphatically told the conferees that he would not budge from his plan of insisting that Germany recognize every American right.

Just as positively, Speaker Clark replied that the house is overwhelmingly in favor of issuing a warning.

For the present, the house will take no action, the conferees said. It is not believed that members will evolve their decision before next week. In the interval Germany's reply to the American position will undoubtedly be at hand, so that the president will have an opportunity to determine his further action, which undoubtedly will have a bearing on the position congress takes.

In leaving the conference, Speaker Clark, besieged by newspapermen said:

"I told the president what the sentiment of the house is. Senator Stone's letter and the president's reply are the last word on both sides of the question. When the house members read these letters, they will determine what the situation is."

While the conferees admitted that neither side had succeeded in changing the convictions of the other, they said they had promised the president their utmost support in preventing summary action on the part of the house.

Upon reaching his office at the capitol, Speaker Clark elaborated his previous statement, saying:

"There is a rumor that Germans will postpone operations of their decree to the middle of March or the first of April. I am just guessing as I see it, but if it is true, it will give more time for consideration. If they postpone it I think the whole matter, as far as the house is concerned, will remain in statu quo.

"The sum and substance of the conference, outside of explaining the temper of the house and much arguing on both sides, is that the situation is fully set out in the two letters. We explained how the house feels. We told the president that a warning would carry in the house by two to one if it came to a vote. Some say it would carry by three to one.

"There was a great deal of talk about international law and precedent which it is not necessary to repeat. President Wilson stands on his letter to Senator Stone, as I see it. The warning resolution will not come up for consideration. If they try to obtain unanimous consent, but, of course, there would be numerous objections."

Major Leader Kitchin said that matters remained in statu quo and that he preferred to let Speaker Clark talk of the meeting.

Following the conference, an important session of the cabinet was scheduled to consider the German problem.

Senator Stone's View

Senator Stone's announcing his view that a warning should be issued to Americans not to travel on armed merchantmen, elicited another letter from the president last night in which he adhered to the decision, that, while he would try to maintain peace, he would do so only if the honor of America was upheld. Stone announced, however, in his letter that he would try to prevent an outbreak in congress on the subject of issuing a warning.

The Stone letter followed a reported disagreement between him and President Wilson in their Monday night conference. Stone said he revealed the president's position insofar as he could without violating confidence. This position showed the president to be firm for insistence upon the opponents of Americans to travel on armed ships.

The President's Position

In reply the president said in part: "No nation or group of nations has the right while the war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have

in honor no choice as to what our own course should be."

At the same time, he declared he had no reason to question the good faith of the central powers in past negotiations, and "for one feel confident that we shall have none in the future."

"While declaring that the armed merchantman decree seemed for the present to offer insuperable obstacles, he voiced the opinion "that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect on it."

Chairman Flood, like Speaker Clark, said he had heard "rumors" that operation of the decree would be postponed.

"The situation is hopeful," he said. "I am sure there will be no action in the house today."

The state department said, however, that it had received nothing to justify rumors of a postponement. Secretaries of State Lansing went to the White House for a 10 minute talk with the president in advance of the cabinet meeting.

Gore Insists on Warning

Washington, Feb. 25.—Immediately upon the convening of the senate today, Senator Gore introduced his bill making it illegal for Americans to travel upon armed vessels during the war, and also a resolution providing for a warning to them to refrain from such travel.

A resolution by Senator Jones of Washington requesting President Wilson not to sever diplomatic relations with any nation and not to place America in a position where she could not honorably avoid war, was tabled.

After a two hour session, the cabinet declared itself solidly behind the president, and resolved not to close the President's position.

(Continued on Page Three.)

THE WEATHER

Oregon: Fair tonight and Saturday; northerly winds.

