

The Daily Capital Journal

FULL LEASED
WIRE DISPATCHES

CIRCULATION IS
OVER 4000 DAILY

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR

SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS
STANDS—FIVE CENTS

WAR ON MERCHANTMEN DECREE NOW IN EFFECT

Relations of This Country and Germany Depend Entirely On What Future Develops—Many English Think Germany Was Running a Bluff In Her Decree—Others Made Uneasy by Reports That Germans Had Loosed Big Fleet of Submarines for Spectacular Opening of Campaign

By Charles P. Stewart,
United Press Staff Correspondent.

London, March 1.—The Teuton proclamation war on armed merchantmen went into effect at midnight.

Thus far there have been no results. More definite reports of torpedoings are expected for a day, or possibly two, and there is nothing to indicate that the sinking of the British vessel Thornaby, as reported to Lloyd's today, was the first Austro-German blow.

The number of submarines operating off Italy is known to have been greatly increased lately, probably in anticipation of the new campaign. Through that zone are now passing several armed Italian liners, legitimate prey under the new decree.

The situation here is similar to that prevailing at the dawn of the first German submarine campaign more than a year ago. Shipping men are divided in their opinion as to what Austria and Germany will do. Some regard the decree as a "bluff." Such persons are offering bets that no submarine will sink a liner without a warning.

Others, made uneasy by reports that the Germans have loosed a big fleet for a spectacular opening, are concerned for the safety of the crews of merchantmen and the passengers on liners.

Great Britain contends the campaign is without justification, and holds, officially, that the Germans have distorted English orders, seized from captive ships, to make it appear that the admiralty has ordered armed merchantships to attack submarines.

Lord Robert Cecil claims that the distortion arises in construction of a paragraph of English instructions to ships to restrain their fire until a submarine is within 800 yards. He claimed that this is a defensive measure, though the Germans asserted that it meant to restrain the fire until the submarine was within range so that the shot would be the more effective.

Washington, March 1.—Congress will soon go on record as to the administration's course toward Germany. Leaders today ratified President Wilson's proposal to Acting Chairman Fow of the House committee on the subject of the war on merchantmen and discussed with him the means of getting such a vote.

Since it is the president's purpose to demonstrate to Germany that the country supports him in the international situation, the leaders will frame the issue to bring out that idea.

Even while taking steps for a "show down," some leaders indicated their disbelief that congress—the house at least—is willing to support the president wholeheartedly.

Majority Leader Kitchin referred ironically to the executive's power over congress and intimated his belief that the majority of the house favors issuance of a warning to Americans not to travel on armed ships, in spite of the president's opposition to such a step. Speaker Clark has made a similar declaration, though he made no comment today.

The faculty of obedience has been

very highly developed in the house," said Kitchin.

Chairman Stone of the senate foreign committee declared he had found a rule whereby it is not necessary to obtain unanimous consent to pass resolutions approving the president's course. Senator Jones had declared he would thwart unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Stone intimated that the resolution will be limited to an endorsement of the Wilson course in the armed ship controversy, and will not refer to other phases of foreign policy. Thus, the administration would gain republican votes which would not be given to a support of the general administration policy.

Wilson Passes the Buck.
Washington, March 1.—Support and repudiation of President Wilson's Teuton policies by congress hangs in the balance.

While the government gravely waits the first Austro-German shot in the new campaign against armed merchantmen, the capital prepared today for a "show down" on the Wilson program, as a result of his request to Representative Fow, acting rules committee chairman, for a vote on the question of warning Americans from armed ships.

Negotiations with central powers waited while the contest between congress and president was put into motion, congress was in a turmoil over the Wilson challenge. The administration was confident that its hands would be upheld, despite the recent claim of Speaker Clark that the house stood two or three to one in favor of a warning.

There was little chance of a final vote today in either house, inasmuch as the president's letter to Fow suggested "full public discussion." Several days of preliminaries, with much oratory, made it possible that the final roll call would not be taken before next week.

Held Conference Today.
Senators Stone, Kern and Representative Flood conferred with the president at the White House today.

After the conference Stone said that congress would act on the president's request "at once." He added, however, that final action was impossible today.

The conference lasted for nearly an hour.

It was agreed that the text would be on a straight warning resolution, including the exact controversy about sustaining American rights of travel on armed ships. Flood said his foreign committee would bring out a new resolution, which Wilson will approve before the committee reports it. The rules committee then will report a special rule to make the resolution in order for consideration.

(Continued on Page Two.)

LATEST SHOWS 1,111 DROWNED

Paris, March 1.—The French auxiliary cruiser, Provence, reported yesterday officially as sunk in the Mediterranean went to her fate through the attack of a German submarine said an official announcement today.

The first figures placed the rescued at 870, but today's figures said that only 689 of the 1,500 aboard were rescued, though it is possible Greek fishing boats may have saved others.

It was confirmed today that the Provence was the formal patrol trans-Atlantic liner, more recently in the marine service.

EDGAR PIPER MAKES TELLING ADDRESS

Made Profound Impression In Showing Country's Unpreparedness

Edgar B. Piper, managing editor of the Oregonian, is emphatically in favor of preparedness. In an address last evening before the largest attendance of the winter of the members of the Six o'Clock club of the First Methodist church he gave reasons for his preparedness opinions by citing general world conditions of today and then referring to our military history.

As to the military achievements of our country, he referred to them as disastrous and disgraceful, in the sense that legislators had failed to understand what should have been done to prepare the country for wars that could have been foreseen, or had been brought on by the legislators themselves.

Following the history of the Japanese nation and its rise to world prominence within the past 60 years, he stated the fact that the Japanese were now asserting their rights to take a place among the nations, and that their interests and ambitions are sure to ultimately cross the United States. Reference was made to the Japanese trouble in California a few years ago, in which a crisis with Japan was averted only by the federal government asserting its power and compelling California to make peace with Japan.

Great Britain Grabbing.
Reference was also made to the fact that Great Britain was surely taking all the strategic positions in the world in order that it may eventually control the commerce of the world, and to the fact that finally this country will run counter to the ambitions of England.

"As far as our relations with Germany are concerned, 100,000,000 million people have been talking over a powder magazine," Mr. Piper declared.

"Right now our relations with Germany depends on whether we back down, or whether Germany backs down. Should Germany back down and be crippled in this war by the stand taken by the United States, a day of reckoning was coming and the same will happen should Germany win.

"Hurt, restricted, damaged and incensed by the stand we have taken against submarine warfare and our manufacture of munitions, does any one imagine that Germany will not feel angered against this nation? Personally, I think that if Germany is victorious we will be held to strict accountability at the close of the war and that possibly we may be asked to pay damages.

Have Angers in Germany.
School histories tell of the wonderful valor of American troops and of American militia, but Mr. Piper branded school histories as false and to a great extent, responsible for the unpreparedness of the country, from the fact that every man was taught that our inexperienced militia had won wonderful victories.

In reviewing history, Mr. Piper told the other side of the actions of inexperienced troops in which they not only ran away but even refused to fight. "America is always ready but never prepared to fight," he said.

A militia officer by competent men not political appointees was favored by Mr. Piper, provided the militia was under federal control and acting in unison for the country and not a particular state. He believed that such a federalized militia would be equal to any task.

In the formation of the new army proposed, and new militia, he was in favor of having it under federal control.

In a few preliminary remarks, Mr. Piper said that he had been in Salem 20 years ago, as a student at Willamette university. The 150 men present gave the closest attention to the speaker, urging him to continue after the expiration of the time limit. His remarks were frequently applauded when urging preparedness. The address made a deep impression.

Stole Purse From Pulpit.
Portland, Or., March 1.—While Miss Mollie Best told an audience at the fashionable White Temple church yesterday about conditions in the New York ghetto, a thief stole \$10 out of her handbag lying on a chair on the pulpit. Miss Best did not report her loss until today. She had just received the \$10 as payment for her lecture.

SIXTEEN BANDITS UNDER ARREST IN CITY OF ANGELS

Third Degree Methods Fail to Furnish Any Cue to Auto Gang

MANY WEAPONS FOUND MUCH LOOT IDENTIFIED

Another Gang Pulled In San Francisco Is Caught With the Plunder

Los Angeles, Cal., Mar. 1.—Each of the 16 bandit suspects arrested in the sudden police activity here remained firm today in protestations of innocence.

Third degree methods availed detectives nothing. The investigation is seemingly at a standstill until the Portland, Oregon, police telegraph important information which has been requested by Chief Sweeney. The alleged automobile bandit gang in jail here is said to have operated in Oregon.

In spite of their failure to elicit confessions, detectives still say they believe some of the prisoners have knowledge of the Culver City bank robbery and the murder of Captain Jack Hendrickson on West Adams street, as well as of the automobile bandit outrages of the past week.

Three women were caught in the raids and the police are especially interested in Miss Eva Douglas, alias Mrs. R. E. Renwick. She is said to have a mother and sister in Reno, Nevada. R. E. Renwick, one of the men arrested, is believed to be a recent arrival from Portland.

Assistant Police Chief George Home today declared he had discovered Rogues gallery portraits of many of the prisoners.

The police have confiscated twelve rifles, shotguns and revolvers as evidence. The weapons were found in the apartments rented by suspects, together with loot from recent robberies and a quantity of contraband drugs.

Woman Furnished Clue.
San Francisco, Mar. 1.—"Tipped off" by a woman, police early today raided an apartment here, recovered \$300 worth of alleged loot and arrested a woman giving the name of Josephine White, together with two ex-convicts and a third man. Further investigation led them to another apartment where they found stolen auto glass hidden in a bed and arrested Louis Boehme on a charge of receiving stolen property. They claim Boehme received some of the goods taken by the alleged thieves discovered in the first raid.

The woman was taken to police headquarters in her night clothing. Authorities believe she was a "look out."

Woman Does Not Want to Face the Charges

Los Angeles, Cal., March 1.—Pending settlement of extradition tangles in the case of Mrs. Isabel Clayburg, Seattle girl accused of blackmailing wealthy men there, Superior Judge William Los Angeles, has continued the habeas corpus proceedings until March 6th.

Earl Rogers, attorney for Mrs. Clayburg, is in Sacramento today to argue before a representative of Governor Johnson and cite legal reasons why the woman should not be extradited to Washington for trial.

GERMAN MEMORANDUM MAKES NO CHANGES IN PLEDGES TO AMERICA

By Carl W. Ackerman. (United Press staff correspondent.) (Copyright 1916, by the United Press.) Berlin, by wireless to Sayville, L. I., March 1.—Germany's memorandum declaring that armed merchantmen in the future will be considered warships does not change pledges Ambassador Von Bernstorff gave the United States, because when they were given no such thing as an armed merchantman liner was thought of, declared Baron Mumm von Schwarzenstein, of the foreign office, to the United Press.

When Germany made those pledges, he said, she never dreamed that the British would instruct merchant liners to conduct an offensive warfare.

"Therefore," he continued, "two German statements remain distinct and separate. The first, as made by Von Bernstorff applies to liners as they should be to conform to international law, not armed for offensive purposes. The second memorandum applies to ships armed for offensive purposes, contrary to international law."

Asked why, in view of President Wilson's letter, Germany will not admit the right of hostile merchantmen to arm for defensive purposes, the baron replied:

"Well, along with necessity, the privilege of arming merchant ships disappeared long ago, for 'cessante ratione legis cessat lex ipsa' (when the reason for a law ceases, the law itself ceases). This question can take a back seat for the merchantmen of our enemies are not only armed for defensive, but also for offensive purposes. This is clearly proved by British admiralty orders that fell into our hands. Look at these and you will see that although there are headlines to throw dust in people's eyes by speaking of defensively armed ships, yet they instruct merchantmen 'not to open fire at a range greater than 800 yards unless the enemy has already opened fire' and to 'fire in self-defense notwithstanding that the submarine may not have committed a definite hostile act.'"

Asked why, in view of President Wilson's letter, Germany will not admit the right of hostile merchantmen to arm for defensive purposes, the baron replied:

"Well, along with necessity, the privilege of arming merchant ships disappeared long ago, for 'cessante ratione legis cessat lex ipsa' (when the reason for a law ceases, the law itself ceases). This question can take a back seat for the merchantmen of our enemies are not only armed for defensive, but also for offensive purposes. This is clearly proved by British admiralty orders that fell into our hands. Look at these and you will see that although there are headlines to throw dust in people's eyes by speaking of defensively armed ships, yet they instruct merchantmen 'not to open fire at a range greater than 800 yards unless the enemy has already opened fire' and to 'fire in self-defense notwithstanding that the submarine may not have committed a definite hostile act.'"

Asked why, in view of President Wilson's letter, Germany will not admit the right of hostile merchantmen to arm for defensive purposes, the baron replied:

"Well, along with necessity, the privilege of arming merchant ships disappeared long ago, for 'cessante ratione legis cessat lex ipsa' (when the reason for a law ceases, the law itself ceases). This question can take a back seat for the merchantmen of our enemies are not only armed for defensive, but also for offensive purposes. This is clearly proved by British admiralty orders that fell into our hands. Look at these and you will see that although there are headlines to throw dust in people's eyes by speaking of defensively armed ships, yet they instruct merchantmen 'not to open fire at a range greater than 800 yards unless the enemy has already opened fire' and to 'fire in self-defense notwithstanding that the submarine may not have committed a definite hostile act.'"

Asked why, in view of President Wilson's letter, Germany will not admit the right of hostile merchantmen to arm for defensive purposes, the baron replied:

"Well, along with necessity, the privilege of arming merchant ships disappeared long ago, for 'cessante ratione legis cessat lex ipsa' (when the reason for a law ceases, the law itself ceases). This question can take a back seat for the merchantmen of our enemies are not only armed for defensive, but also for offensive purposes. This is clearly proved by British admiralty orders that fell into our hands. Look at these and you will see that although there are headlines to throw dust in people's eyes by speaking of defensively armed ships, yet they instruct merchantmen 'not to open fire at a range greater than 800 yards unless the enemy has already opened fire' and to 'fire in self-defense notwithstanding that the submarine may not have committed a definite hostile act.'"

SOME FISH STORY

Santa Monica, Cal., March 1.—Here's today's prize fish story:
S. T. Lassen was angling from the municipal pier when a \$5 gold piece fell from his vest pocket into the sea. An hour later he hooked a big halibut, landed it safely, whereupon it immediately disgorged the coin.
Beat it if you can.

DODGED ANNIVERSARIES

Redwood City, N. J., March 1.—So he could dodge the usual round of wedding anniversaries, and thus "not feel so old," Henry Alton, San Francisco, selected February 29 as the day to wed Miss L. L. Bresse, San Francisco.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY NATURAL HOME OF FLAX

Experts Who Know Conditions Unanimous In This Opinion

FLAX EXPERTS COMING

Corvallis, Or., Mar. 1.—(Special to Capital Journal)—Frank C. Miles, flax expert of the federal bureau of plant industry, expected to reach Salem this evening at 7:55. He will be joined tomorrow by A. B. Cordley, director of the Oregon experiment station, and these two specialists with Governor Whitcomb will inspect the flax plant at Salem. Mr. Miles and Dean Cordley will go to Portland Friday morning.

Portland, Or., Mar. 1.—Without exception, reports on the flax industry to the effect that the Willamette valley, both from the standpoint of soil and climate, offers a splendid place for its development while the industry in other countries is demoralized on account of war conditions.

These things are emphasized in the bulletin prepared under the direction of H. B. Miller, head of the school of commerce, University of Oregon, and which will soon be ready for distribution. Government reports embodied in the bulletin point out the large market that this country offers for flax fiber.

Demand Is Heavy.
The United States imports annually about \$3,000,000 worth of flax fiber and more than \$20,000,000 worth of linen goods," says the bulletin. "About one-third of the fiber comes from Russia, and about one-fourth from Belgium. Fully three-fourths of the linen imports are Irish. There appears to be no reason why American grown fiber and American manufactured linens should not be substituted for at least a large part of these imports."

For years it has been demonstrated that a very high grade of flax can be produced in abundance in the Willamette valley and to make the industry a success seems only to require experienced persons to handle it. Retting is one of the processes in producing flax fiber which requires the work of a person with expert practical knowledge. The government report says:

"The retting of flax consists of a treatment which will loosen the fiber from the woody portion of the stalk so that it may be readily removed. There are three principal methods of retting, viz: Dew retting, water retting and chemical retting.

Work Is Difficult.
The process is of such a nature that an inexperienced person should not attempt it."
(Continued on Page Two.)

STRUGGLE AT VERDUN STOPPED LAST NIGHT

Paris Issues Warning Lull Only Prelude to Further Offensive Against Pepper Heights and Forts East of There—Fighting Yesterday Was Fierce With No Decisive Results—Fresnes, 13 Miles South of Verdun Is Captured by Germans—Storm to Break Soon

London, March 1.—After days of furious struggles, the fighting around Verdun came almost to a complete stop last night, today's official statements agreed.

Paris uttered a warning, however, that the Germans probably are preparing for a further offensive on colossal lines. New drives against the Pepper Heights to the north of Verdun and against Forts De Tavenne and De Vaux east of the position where there was lively fighting, are believed presaged by the quietude of the night.

Berlin reported artillery fighting along the whole front, but no infantry attacks around Verdun. Paris told of an intermittent bombardment northwest of Verdun, but nothing else there.

German concentrations at Pont-a-Mousson were reported repelled by artillery, while both sides claimed minor air activities.

Before Lull Came.
In the death area to the east and north of the great Verdun fort, the shifting German attack in the drive to capture the city is now directed against Forts De Vaux and De Tavennes.

The Teuton warriors are battering the French on the Metz-Verdun railway with heavy artillery brought up from Etain to the eastward. At De Tavennes, the French have repelled repeated onslaughts. Teutons from Dieppe are advancing to De Vaux fort behind a curtain of artillery fire. The French are answering this attack and holding their positions east of Vaux village.

The German ring of iron is two-thirds around Fresnes, 13 miles southeast of Verdun. Particularly terrible is the fight around Manheulles, which Paris yesterday admitted the Teutons had captured. The French are trying hard to recapture it and to strengthen their front around Fresnes.

Meanwhile the artillery struggle to the north is increasing indicating that a fresh assault is under way against the Pepper Heights.

Artillery roars in a new outbreak along the whole western front. Thus far it is not a major offensive, except around Verdun and opinion is divided as to whether or no the reawakening on the entire line is the prelude of a general offensive or is merely designed by the Germans to engage the French so that they cannot shift reserves to Verdun.

Hard to hand fighting continues around Fort Douaumont. Bayonneted men are adding to the heaps of those slain by the guns. The struggle is at such close quarters that neither side can use artillery.

Paris reports that the Brandenburg troops inside the ruins of Douaumont are surrounded and that other Teutons are endeavoring to relieve them. On the other hand, Berlin claimed Douaumont is firmly held by the Brandenburg men, and that the entire neighborhood is under German control.

Lull in the Fighting.
Berlin, March 1.—A lull in the fighting before Verdun and elsewhere on the French front, was officially indicated today.

The German statement reported artillery battling there but mentioned no important infantry engagements.

An English biplane was shot down near Meun and two French biplanes, near Soissons.

"A German aeroplane stopped an enemy military train at the Bezonvaux-Jussy road by bombs and then successfully attacked it with machine guns, forcing the crew to alight," said the official statement, reporting the first incident of this kind in history.

Offensive Not Abandoned.
London, March 1.—A lull in the battle for Verdun was reported by a Paris wireless message today which warned, however, that there is no reason to believe that the offensive has been abandoned.

Swedish Ship Torpedoed.
Stockholm, March 1.—The 1,200 ton Swedish vessel Torborg has been sunk by an Austrian submarine in the Mediterranean. Her crew was landed at Leghorna.

British Ship Goes Down.
London, March 1.—The 1,800 ton British steamer Thornaby has been sunk, and her crew has perished, according to a Lloyd's dispatch today.

Insurance Rates Increased.
New York, March 1.—Because of the German campaign against armed merchantmen, insurance rates for trans-Atlantic ships, engaged in Mediterranean service, rose here today.

French Evacuate Fresnes.
Berlin, March 1.—The French evacuated Fresnes, southeast of Verdun on Tuesday, the Lokal Anzeiger's correspondent reported today.

The correspondent said also that the Germans occupied the Hennefont woods, four miles south of Etain, and that their westward movement continues. They had reached the foot of Cote Lorraine at several points.

This is the first report of such a move, London reported, however, that the Germans had almost surrounded Fresnes.

Wants War With Germany.
Rome, March 1.—A strong party was prepared to advocate war with Germany when parliament opened today. No action, however, is expected for several days, pending the outcome of conferences being held at the foreign office.

DECLARATION OF WAR EXPECTED BY PORTUGAL
Amsterdam, Mar. 1.—A German statement declared that Portugal anticipated Germany would answer the seizure by a declaration of war.

Portugal has been frankly pro-ally because of her relations with England, and has even aided against the Germans in Africa, despite the fact that she was not at war, officially, against the central powers.

THE WEATHER

GOOD DAY TO STAY IN DOORS
Oregon: Tonight and Thursday fair northwest, rain in southwest, rain or snow east portion, winds most from north.



Emma Fash, who graduated with such high honors in June, is still looking for something 'right an' remunerative. "Well, if there ain't a how an' buggy!" said Late Bud, this mornin'.