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SPECIAL WILLAMETTE VAL-
LEY NEWS SERVICE

The Daily Capital Journal

TODAY'S WEATHER
Oregon: Tonight a mild Thursday rain west, probably snow east; portion tonight; moderate easterly winds.

THIS STOVE FEELS GOOD

FORTIETH YEAR—NO. 295

SALEM, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1917

PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS—FIVE CENTS

RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR OPENS WITH HARD FIGHTING

Bolsheviki Forces and sack Rebels in Conflict Around Tamunooka

ARMISTICE TERMS OF GERMANS WERE DRASTIC

Demanding Evacuation of Petrograd and Disarming of Baltic Fleet

London, Dec. 12.—Russia's civil war has apparently begun.

Dispatches today—all greatly delayed—reported the first actual clash between the Bolsheviks and the Cossack rebels around Tamunooka, about fifteen miles from Bielorod. The Cossacks were part of a force commanded by General Korniloff, well furnished with arms, machine guns and ammunition. The size of the Bolshevik army was not specified. No details were received as to the result of the fighting.

Dispatches from Petrograd dated Monday night and not received here until today reported uneasiness at the capital lest there might be riotous scenes Tuesday. The military revolutionary committee was exploring all soldiers to join a demonstration against the cadet and other moderate parties, as well as against Korniloff and Kaledines.

It was reported from Petrograd today that the terms of the German armistice proposal were that the Russians evacuate Petrograd until peace came. It was not stated whether the Germans would occupy the capital under such a scheme. Other points on which the Germans insisted were disarmament of the Baltic fleet and the cession of Ukraine to Austria including north shores of the Black sea.

One dispatch from Swedish sources today declared that Korniloff's forces had been defeated in their first clash with the Bolsheviks near Bielorod, according to officials of the Russian railway union. Kaledines was stated to be rushing reinforcements to Korniloff. The battle, according to this information, started last Friday evening and was in progress all day Sunday.

Arrested Envoy

Petrograd, Dec. 12.—General Kaledines promptly arrested one of a committee of Bolshevik naval representatives.

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EXPLOSION OCCURRED IN LOADING ROOM OF MUNITIONS PLANT

Only Five Workmen Injured, However, and Property Damage Not Great

Vilmington, Del., Dec. 12.—An explosion in a loading room of one of the mills of the Bethlehem Steel company munitions plant, which was felt 18 miles away, set fire to a portion of the establishment early today and threatened to cause heavy damage.

One man was killed, Chief of Police Jacobson of the plant was carrying a blazing case of shells from the building when they exploded. His head was blown off. No one else was injured.

The explosion followed a fire in the melting room of the projectile loading house. Only ten men were working there at the time and they fled from behind their protecting barriers to safety. The flames exploded hundreds of loaded projectiles stored in the room. For more than an hour after the fire started a barrage of shell fragments and shrapnel flew about the plant, driving firemen and others a half mile away to safety zones.

Some of the shrapnel struck houses in the Dobbinville section, a mile distant from the plant. The flames spread to one of the office buildings of the plant, but it was believed they would be prevented from reaching the projectile storage house or other mills.

Five workmen were slightly injured. Because of blocked trolley cars, hundreds of men who usually are at work at the hour of the explosion had not arrived when the blow up occurred.

The flames were extinguished at noon and an immediate investigation was begun by Superintendent Parris.

Chester, Pa., which plainly felt the first explosion, is 18 miles from New Castle. The Bethlehem plant at New Castle was erected since the European war began.

Empty projectiles are taken there.

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THE TRUCE OF THE BEAR

WILLIAM THAW HOPES THAT LIBERTY MOTOR WILL PROVE SUCCESS

Famous American War Aviator Asserts, However, That Only Test Reliable

By W. S. Forrest
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the French Armies in the Field, Dec. 12.—America's "Liberty motor" must be tested finally after months of hard usage in war service rather than in the first tests, in the opinion of Lieutenant William Thaw of Pittsburgh, "ace" of the Lafayette escadrille.

Thaw and his comrades in the famous Lafayette squadron of American flyers are vitally interested in the new motor. Before long they are to be attached to the United States army's aviation corps and naturally are anxious that the United States lead all nations in aerial equipment.

"While there appears little doubt that American engineers who designed the Liberty motor have assembled a wonderful piece of mechanism and an engine which will doubtless prove a real factor in aerial construction," Thaw explained to the United Press, "I think it is well to remember that even the best and most powerful of new motors so far built during the war have been subject to constant changes and improvements through months of heavy war strain. In addition to all that, an airplane motor is never perfect—never beyond improvement.

"If the Liberty motor can be constructed in lots of thousands and will stand up consistently to the terrific treatment that war flying imposes on motors, I, for one, pronounce it one of the greatest of all war inventions. I earnestly hope American newspapers have not been too enthusiastic."

TEXAS GIRL MAKES 610 MILE FLIGHT

Flies From San Diego to Presidio in 9 Hours and 10 Minutes

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—"It may seem silly for a mere slip of a girl like me to say it, but I truly would like to fly for Uncle Sam as an aviator in France. I should like, of course, to have a commission, if I could get it, but the outstanding idea of my ambition is to do something for the country in a military way by helping our aviators at the front."

Miss Katherine Stinson, little Texas aviatrix, made this comment to newspaper men today on completion of her non-stop flight from North Island, San Diego to the Presidio of San Francisco in 9 hours and ten minutes. This is an air line distance of 610 miles and breaks the previous record for non-stop flights by a woman which was set by Miss Ruth Law, who flew from Chicago to Hornell, N. Y., 512 miles.

"Now that I have completed this feat," Miss Stinson continued, "I would give everything to be back home and see mother and father. I wish I knew what they said and did when they knew I had made the trip."

In accomplishing the feat, Miss Stinson also attained the distinction of being the only living aviator who ever flew across the Tehachas, Silas Christy.

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LLOYD GEORGE AGAIN POSTPONES PROMISED STATEMENT ON WAR

Pledge Is Made to Commons, However, That Premier Will Speak Before Christmas

By Ed L. Keen
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, Dec. 12.—Premier Lloyd-George will make a statement on the war before the Christmas adjournment of parliament.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law made the announcement in the House of Commons late today. It had been expected that the premier himself would speak and that he would outline very fully the war aims of England.

Winston Churchill, minister of munitions, discussed war aims at Bedford yesterday and some newspaper comment today remarked on significant passages of that speech as hinting at the possibility of a general election in England. Churchill declared "President Wilson's statement of war aims is good enough for me," and denounced, inferentially, the supporters of the Lansdowne peace without a victory adhesion.

At the same time, former Premier Asquith, speaking at Birmingham, emphatically endorsed President Wilson's re-statement of war aims as those for which the allies as a whole were fighting. He insisted much criticism of the Lansdowne letter had been based on an erroneous reading of it.

Today's London newspapers regard Asquith's speech as a precise endorsement of President Wilson's war aims.

"The gist of Asquith's and Wilson's policy is that the German people must be taught that militarism does not pay," declared the Times.

"Any other interpretation of the Lansdowne letter was unwarranted. Asquith's attitude to the war is not in accord with the main idea of the letter."

"Asquith re-affirmed what President Wilson has voiced in the past year," the Chronicle declared.

The News glowingly praised Asquith. "Asquith and President Wilson only disagree with Lansdowne regarding the nature of the guarantees," the editorial asserted. "Asquith and Wilson insist on peace smothered by a league of nations and Lansdowne on peace by the old diplomacy."

This is the second postponement of a speech by Lloyd-George. He had been scheduled to address Lawyers at Gray's Inn last week, but the engagement was cancelled, owing to a severe cold which the Welsh statesman suddenly developed.

Lloyd-George spent the week end at his country home and his friends brought word back to London early this week that he had been planning a speech which would re-state Britain's aims in the war and which might be preliminary to their complete acquiescence.

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TROOPS RUSHED TO GERMAN LINES IN GREAT MASSES

Long Lines of Transports Are Literally Swarming With Re-inforcements

ENEMY AIR FORCES ARE UNUSUALLY ACTIVE

All Indications Point To Great German Offensive On West Front

By William Phillips Sims
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the British Armies in the Field, Dec. 12.—Long lines of transports literally swarming with German reinforcements were seen behind German lines on the northern British flank of the Cambrai sector today.

Great flocks of German planes endeavored unsuccessfully to prevent British aviators from searching out just such information.

Early this morning the Germans developed a very heavy gun fire on the British northern flank. Their concentration of air forces was the greatest the Germans have yet disclosed.

British aviators reported seeing great lines of motor lorries bringing up fresh German troops.

Every detail of the above dispatch gives information of military proceedings which nearly always are preliminary.

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PROBING OF WAR PROGRESS BEGUN BY COMMITTEE

Major General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance Gives Information On Stand

TELLS OF DELAYS CAUSED BY LACK OF SYSTEM

Says This Country Has Profited by Mistakes of European Allies

Washington, Dec. 12.—The snail-like pace of congress, war department red tape, bickering with contractors and the labor situation were blamed today by Major General Crozier, chief of ordnance for "serious delay" in getting America on a war footing.

General Crozier was the first witness at the senate military affairs committee investigation into the whole military situation.

Inability to obtain appropriations from congress quickly cost much time in getting started on an artillery program General Crozier stated.

"In September we had to get \$35,000,000 from the \$100,000,000 emergency fund granted the president to keep contractors at work on many of our orders," he said.

"We got one appropriation June 15 and no more until October. In the meantime, we discovered that the program on which we had embarked at the beginning of the war was no program at all, particularly as to artillery.

"Manufacturers refused to take risks of making contracts before congress had appropriated the money. Work could not be begun; we were helpless."

Trouble in Board

Bickering of the munitions board over prices also caused delay, Crozier said.

This board, since replaced by the war industries board, several times could not agree on a fair price for certain equipment. Secretary of War Baker on one occasion had to step in and end the bickering.

"In spite of delays and obstacles, aid granted by France and Great Britain will make it possible to supply the American forces abroad with plenty of artillery promptly," said Crozier.

Labor Problem Hinders

"The constant moving about of labor has hampered war contractors. Men

(Continued on page three)

CONGRESS WOMAN IS ACTIVE IN BEHALF OF LITTLE DAN CUPID

By George Martin
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Dec. 12.—Cupid has a champion in congress for the first time in history today.

Jeanette Rankin, representing the states of Montana and matrimony, though she herself is a spinster, took up the edgel for the chubby little heart-hunting chap she says has been abused by the law makers.

Her first move on Dan's behalf was the introduction of a bill to repeal the law compelling American women who marry aliens to relinquish their American citizenship and marry a foreign country also. This law, Miss Rankin said, has almost ruined Cupid's business in some parts of the country.

"In my state of Montana, for instance," she said, "many girls along the border near Canada love Canadian boys and cannot marry them without losing their American citizenship and therefore, also their Montana homesteads. A most unhappy situation."

It was while campaigning for election that Miss Rankin promised these love lost lassies that if elected she'd try to get them the right to do as they pleased.

Complaints About Oregon Troops Will Be Heeded

Washington, Dec. 12.—While the war department had not received Governor Withycombe's complaint of shortage of blankets for certain Oregon troops, it was said this afternoon that if any shortage existed it would be immediately corrected.

It was suggested, however, that some of the Oregon forces when transferred east had sold or lost a portion of their blankets and complaints followed. The issue was three blankets per man.

Abe Martin



Next time the Belgians the war hasn't hit nobody as hard as it's hit the 'tight-wads. Ever' once in a while we meet a fellow that's too honest to steal, too proud to work an 'sinecure' and too tired to work.

AMERICAN FRONT MAY BE OBJECTIVE OF GERMAN ASSAULT

By J. W. T. Mason
(Written for the United Press)

New York, Dec. 12.—America's battle front in France may be the mysterious objective for which Germany is massing new troops in the west.

No other part of the allies' line from the North sea to Switzerland presents such strategic possibilities to the Germans. It is now known that the American troops are facing the Germans within artillery range of the Lorraine border. At the same time Switzerland's exchange of communications with America concerning assurances that American troops will not trespass on Swiss territory, strongly suggests that Alsace, bordering Switzerland, is also within the American war lines.

The Alsace-Lorraine front, therefore, will probably be affire with some of the most intense activity of the war when America's major offensive begins. This front is dangerously near German territory in Lorraine and passes directly into Germany in southern Alsace.

There can be little doubt of the depression to German morale that would result from a quick advance by the Americans through Lorraine and Alsace toward the Rhine.

Another American Soldier Wounded In Action

Washington, Dec. 12.—Another American soldier in France has been severely wounded in action and three have died from natural causes, the war department announced today.

Wounded: First Lieutenant Edgar W. Young, McKenney, Va., medical corps, attached to the British forces.

Dead: Corporal R. C. Evans, Palmyra, Tenn., December 9.

Private I. M. Shaw, Columbia, Mo., December 29.

Private J. A. Morris, Fon Du Lac, Wis., drowned, December 4.

President Makes Several Important Appointments

Washington, Dec. 12.—The president today sent the following nominations to the senate:

R. H. Meyer, Wisconsin, member in torstate commerce commission, seven year term, expiring December 31, 1924, re-appointment.

Chauncey D. Snow, Massachusetts, to be chief of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce.

G. M. Hones, of Ohio, to be assistant chief of bureau foreign and domestic commerce, department of commerce.

FEW XMAS FURLONGUES

Washington, Dec. 12.—Christmas furloughs will not be granted to any extent in the national army or national guards.

Secretary of War Baker said this afternoon he had answered all requests for widespread furloughs in the negative. He deems it unwise to burden the railroads with troop movements and upset the military discipline at this time.