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The Daily Capital Journal

TODAY'S
WEATHER
Oregon: Tonight
and Thursday un-
settled, probably
with showers,
moderate wester-
ly winds.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 109

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GERMAN FORCES READY

Correspondent Figures That Eighty Fairly Fresh German Divisions Are Only Awaiting Order to Strike—Hindenburg Has Been Taking Advantage of Lull in Fighting to Reorganize Armies, Build Roads and Bridges, Etc.—British Still On Offensive at Certain Points and Make Gains Daily

Washington, May 8.—Heavy rain drenching Flanders has cooperated with the harassing fire of allied guns to block the German offensive, the British war mission declared today. "The enemy is experiencing great difficulty with his transportation and communication service," the mission adds. "The German is now realizing in the old Ypres salient what Flanders mud really is."

By William Knapp Simms
(United Press staff correspondent)

With the British armies in France, May 8.—Hindenburg appears about ready to strike again, unless the signs of the times are wholly deceitful. From various sources it is known that the vast machinery composed of roads, railways, bridges, airframes, airplanes and artillery concentrations stand ready while great armies of troops, re-fitted and re-freshed, await the pull of the trigger to the catapult which will hurl them into the fray. My personal computation shows that of 206 enemy infantry divisions (2,272,000 men) on the west front, about 120 are now in the line. Of the remainder, which is in reserve, about sixty were drawn out of recent battles. Of these, about forty are rested and re-fitted sufficiently to be ready for action elsewhere in the line.

Twenty-five divisions have taken no part in the offensive. Adding to the above between 15 and 20 divisions in reserve, one arrives at the probable total of more than 80 fairly fresh divisions which are now preparing to strike. Hindenburg presumably is much in the same position now as on March 21, with two important qualifications—his troops then were wholly fresh and doped with the infallibility of the German plans and had the advantage of a long winter of preparation in machinery; whereas the new drive must be undertaken with men doubting their own ability.

Australian Advance
Australian troops have advanced again north of the Somme. One advance, west of Morlaucourt (midway between Albert and the Somme) was to the depth of 300 yards on a 500 yard front. The other was north-east of Sully-Le-Sec, (on the north bank of the Somme, three miles south and west of Morlaucourt), 500 yards deep, on a front of 600 yards. The Australians first made a feint with a heavy bombardment in another portion of the sector between the Somme and the Aene. Then they attacked simultaneously on the two fronts where they made advances. The enemy put up a tremendous machine gun and shrapnel barrage, but

(Continued on page seven)

Walnut Timber Supply Up to Boy Scouts—Wilson

New York, May 8.—President Wilson, in a letter made public here yesterday, has assigned the 350,000 Boy Scouts of America to the task of finding walnut timber for war work. Black walnut, the letter says, is used for the ordnance department of the army for the manufacture of gun stocks and by the signal corps for propellers for battle and bombing airplanes. "In securing data," the president wrote, "the owners of black walnut timber should be advised of our pressing needs and they should be requested to show their patriotism by doing all in their power to assist the government in this great war." The scouts will search out the trees, ask the price and then communicate with officers of the organization.

VON BERNSTORFF'S CODE DECIPHERED IN OFFICIALS HANDS

Hugo Schmidt, German Paymaster in This Country Attempted to Destroy Cipher

Albany, N. Y., May 8.—The Von Bernstorff code, the cryptic means of communication employed by the German foreign office to keep in touch with Count Von Bernstorff while the latter was directing sabotage and other German activities in this country, has been deciphered, reconstructed and turned over to the Federal government by Attorney General Lewis. This was the code which Hugo Schmidt, the paymaster in this country of the German foreign office, attempted to destroy by burning in the furnace of the German club in New York City. Schmidt, who was in constant touch with Bernstorff, extensively used this code in attempts to deliver to Germany large stores of copper, wool and other war necessities. Fragmentary evidence of the code discovered in Schmidt's office enabled Deputy Attorney General Albert Becker to reconstruct what was probably the most enigmatic means of communication devised by the German foreign office. Thousands of wireless messages in Schmidt's possession contained the body and key to this code. When Schmidt became entangled in the attorney general's investigation of the activities of Paul Bolo Pasha who was recently executed by the French government for treason, he immediately made his way to the German club and tossed the papers containing the code into the furnace. At this inquiry the attorney general drew from Schmidt this fact and enough information about the code to facilitate its reconstruction from wireless and other messages found in Schmidt's files.

FARMERS RESPOND TO DEMAND FOR WAR NECESSITIES

Winter Wheat Crop Gives Promise of Being One of Largest in History

Washington, May 8.—The American farmer, responding to war necessities, will turn out a bumper wheat crop this year. Estimates by the agricultural department today were that the winter wheat crop would run 572,000,000 bushels, one of the largest in history. This estimate was 12,900,000 bushels in advance of that made a month ago and compared with a 418,000,000 bushel production for 1917.

The condition of the winter wheat crop on May 1 was 86.4 per cent of normal, against 78.6 on April 1; 73.2 on May 1, 1917, and 85.7 the ten year average on May 1.

Winter wheat acreage on May 1 was 38,392,000 acres, against 27,430,000 acres harvested last year and was 15.7 per cent less than the acreage sown last fall due to abandonment. The estimated yield per acre is 15.7 bushels.

The condition of the rye crop on May 1 was 85.8 of normal, against 85.8 April 1; 88.5 May 1, 1917 and 90.2 the ten year average. This condition forecasts a production of about 82,629,000 bushels, against 69,245,000 in 1917.

The condition of hay was 89.6 per cent of a normal against 88.7 on May 1, 1917, and 88.5 the ten year average forecasting a yield of 107,550,000 tons, against 94,930,000 tons in 1917 (estimated).

Stocks of hay on hand on farms May 1, were estimated at 11,096,000 tons, 11.7 per cent of the crop, against 12,659,000 tons May 1 last year.

The condition of pastures on May 1 was 83.1 per cent against 81.9 May 1, 1917 and 85.7 the ten year average. Of spring plowing 77.5 per cent was completed up to May 1 against 72.4 May 1, 1917, and 69.9 the ten year average.

(Continued on page three)

RATE INCREASES ON ALL RAILWAYS TO MEET EXPENSES

Higher Wages, Greater Cost of Fuel and Loss of Business Responsible

Washington, May 8.—Increases in freight and passenger rates are being planned by the railroad administration to meet a deficit which threatens to reach \$800,000,000 for the year. While the increase to be asked of the interstate commerce commission has not yet been determined upon, passenger officials here forecast a uniform 2.5-cent rate for the branch of the traffic. Freight rates it is believed will be boosted approximately 7 1/2 per cent. Rate increases are made necessary, it is said, by the vastly greater fuel bill—estimated at from \$50,000,000 to \$75,000,000 annually—and an increase in the payroll of over \$250,000,000 a year. Added to this has been a heavy decline in net revenues since January 1, as compared with last year. The terrific weather of January and February is held responsible for the losses. It was stated authoritatively today that Director General McAdoo would turn his attention to the rate and revenue problem immediately after disposing of the Lane wage commission's report and fuel contracts.

Dead Man Alleged To Have Been Spy

Los Angeles, Cal., May 8.—That Prussian spies sought to kill John Knox Portwood because he knew too much about their machinations and condemned them as enemies of America, will be one of the principal points in the defense of Portwood on charge of killing Herman Miller Jakopovich, whose cabin in the San Gabriel mountains is said to have been the headquarters for German leaders, including the much sought "Madame H" and Franz Schulerberg now interned. Taking of testimony in the case today, Jakopovich was killed Christmas day in a gun duel with Portwood which Portwood alleges was started by Jakopovich.

Corpse of Fly May Decide Fate of Accused

Los Angeles, Cal., May 8.—A post-mortem upon the remains of a common house fly is to play an important part in the trial of Lloyd E. Noble, reddy broker, held to the federal grand jury on charge of using the mails to defraud. Noble is charged by federal attorneys with forging names on two bank checks and also with making false entries in a notarial book since his hearing started. The length of time a fly, crushed between the two vital leaves of this book, has been dead will largely determine the strength of the last charge.

Germans Are Ready To Resume Offensive

The Germans are all primed for a resumption of their west front offensive on a large scale, it was intimated today in a United Press dispatch from the British front. The dispatch described the completion of enemy preparations, including the reconstruction of roads, railways and bridges, the concentration of artillery and the massing of re-fitted and rested troops, including many new divisions. The dispatch said that about 130 enemy divisions, or 1,560,000 men are in the line, with 70 divisions or 912,000 men, in reserve. Field Marshal Haig reported increased activity by the German artillery in the Metz area and Kemmel sectors early this morning. Kemmel, which was taken by the Germans several days ago at a frightful cost of lives, is about five miles south and slightly west of Ypres. Metz is six miles southwest of Kemmel. The only infantry action mentioned by Haig was another slight British advance between the Somme and the Aene. A United Press dispatch from the American front in Picardy reported a terrific bombardment of several towns and roads west of Montdidier, held by the Germans last night. In retaliation the Germans were shelling the American rear areas. The Americans were walloping in mud as the result of several days rainfall, but the weather had cleared again, rendering artillery and aerial activity easier.

The coal man doesn't want to rush things, of course, but he merely suggests that you put in your coal supply now, as a little later in the summer he will need his trucks to carry ice.

GENERAL MAURICE IS CHRONIC KICKER OF GREAT BRITAIN

His Career As Director of Military Operations Not Altogether Successful

By J. W. T. Mason
(United Press War Expert)

New York, May 8.—The issue of military resentment against the orders of the British civil government has been realized by Major General Maurice's public accusation of lying brought against Lloyd-George's ministry. No democratic government that deliberately misleads public opinion can continue to exist; but General Maurice has not yet proved that the civilian authorities have deceived the British people concerning the true facts of the war. This is General Maurice's second recent adventure in impetuous criticism. His first was his attack on General Foch during the German offensive in Flanders for not ordering French reserves northward as rapidly as General Maurice believed should have been done. If General Maurice had not been removed from his post because of this offense, it is highly improbable he would now be attempting to overthrow the Lloyd-George ministry to justify the right of militarists to challenge the power of the civil government. The charge of the mismanagement of fact, which General Maurice brings against the prime minister, relates to a declaration in the house of commons made a month ago. If the matter were as serious as General Maurice pretends to make out, it would have caused this

75 NAMES ON LIST OF TODAY'S CASUALTIES

Of These 13 Killed in Action, Five Deaths From Other Causes and 54 Wounded

Washington, May 8.—Today's casualty list contained a total of 75 names including 13 killed in action; three missing; two deaths from accidents; three deaths from disease; 13 wounded severely and 41 wounded slightly. Sergeant Joseph Stecina, previously reported missing, is now known to be a prisoner in Germany. His home is Webster, Mass. Killed in action: Lieutenant Egbert Williams Beach, 110 Sunnyside avenue, Piedmont, Cal. Arthur Gaylord, Minneapolis, Minn. Frank S. Huff, Chelsea, Mass. Corporal Kenneth L. Diver, Sunman, Ind. Privates Fred Buckley, Bayonne, N. J. Michael J. Conghlin, Monchester, Mass. John Deardosky, Hecla, Pa. Troy E. Forrest, Marmouth Springs, Ark. Glenn G. Henson, Fernfeld, Mo. John Linton, Chicago. Haupt S. Medawar, Mount Lebanon, Syria. William Phennig, 1512 North Main street, Los Angeles, Cal. Francis I. Valley, Tract City, Ala. Missing in action: Lieutenant William H. Gordon, New York. Privates Homer Akers, Florwood, Md. Louis Sander, Philadelphia, Pa. Med. of accident: Lieutenant Julian N. Dowell, Washington, D. C. Julia K. Girard, Chicago. Died of disease: Privates Henry Connor, Crowville, La. Timothy J. Shea, Fall River, Mass. James Shields, Greenville, Miss. Wounded severely: Corporal Joseph N. Walter, Baltimore, Md. Privates Raymond C. Bryant, Baltimore, Md.

Portland's Society Dancer Faces Jail

Portland, Or., May 8.—Ivan de Marec, virtuoso of the classic dance, knew today that he was guilty of faking his ads, but he didn't know how far the judge would go with it. After a score of Ivan's (pronounced Ee-va) feminine pupils had testified in his behalf and Ruth St. Denis had deigned to appear against him, the jury declared Ivan guilty as charged, but recommended clemency. "He seems to have followed the flamboyant practice that has long been used by all classes of the theatrical world, therefore we recommend him to the mercy of the court," said the jury. Miss Dennis, as the lawyers called Ruth, said de Marec had "lifted" word for word, whole paragraphs of her notices. The specific charge was that Ivan gave to the papers photographs purporting to be of himself, but which were of other Russian dancers. De Marec has been here 18 months instructing some stenographers and many idle women to trip the light fantastic toe. He was arrested just after he and his class had put on an Egyptian ballet. Ivan will be sentenced later tomorrow.

Abbe Martin



Notkin makes a mother as mad as for someone to give her baby a stick of licorice. Some fellows complain that they too are 't' fight an' then order a dancer 'gave enough t' relieve th' whol' evens' front.

YANKEE FLYERS DRAW GERMANS TO TOL SECTOR

Successes of Americans in Air Force Enemy to Send Special Fighters

General Maurice's retirement from his former position was undoubtedly due to a large extent to the instantaneous criticism in the United States of his equivocal attitude toward General Foch. America, therefore, is responsible in a measure for the turn General Maurice has sought to give to events. His public attack on the British government is a challenge to democratic governmental responsibility. It should strengthen the Lloyd-George ministry; but if the government falls on the issue, any succeeding premier would be compelled to disavow suspicions that he is an army appointee.

NEW TRICKS ARE USED TO DECOY OUR FLYERS

The Germans are using new tricks to deceive the American flyers, sending one or two German planes to cause an alarm and following them up with reinforcements greatly outnumbering the Americans who answer the alarm. Another maneuver is to send over one low flying German plane to lure American planes far into Germany, where a German squadron drops on them from the clouds.

Captain Hall Missing and Is Believed To Be Prisoner in German Lines

Captain James Norman Hall, of Colfax, Iowa, has been missing since an aerial combat this morning between three American and four German airplanes. The Americans were ten miles inside the German frontier, north of Toul when they spotted the enemy planes and attacked them. Hall was flying at the lowest altitude when the fight started. All the planes began diving and turning for the advantage of position. A comrade who last saw Hall believes he landed safely inside the German lines and is now a prisoner. The other two Americans returned safely to their lines. Their last glimpse of their opponents showed the latter

Rubber Imports Cut and Prices Controlled

Washington, May 8.—Restriction of crude rubber imports into the United States to 100,000 tons per year has been ordered by the war trade board, it was announced today. This was done, it was stated, "to conserve tonnage for military requirements." The new order is effective immediately. The war trade board also has put into effect an option system of regulation for rubber prices through which the cost of rubber is limited from the time of import up to the time it passes into the hands of the manufacturer.

RED CROSS DRIVE BEGINS MAY 20—LASTS ONE WEEK

Particulars Concerning New Drive For Funds to Assist in War Relief

Every dollar subscribed goes to Red Cross war work, 75 per cent of receipts to national Red Cross and 25 per cent to war work of local chapter. Receipts all net to the Red Cross. Expenses of state campaign will be defrayed by voluntary subscriptions in Portland and by chapters through out the state, and of local campaigns by voluntary contributions for that purpose.

John King Confesses Murder of Old Man

Martinez, Cal., May 8.—John King, aged 28, early today confessed to Deputy Sheriff Dyke Joslyn that he killed Frank Baptiste, aged 67, in Baptiste's houseboat at Bradford Monday night. A charge of murder was filed against King today. Joslyn arrested King in Stockton yesterday. King told Joslyn that he had a dispute with Baptiste over some money, and that he had been drinking. He said he struck Baptiste on the head with a sledge hammer. Baptiste ran a small store on his houseboat. He had lived in the Sacramento river delta section for nearly 30 years. His body was found Tuesday, the head beaten to a pulp.

BRITISH PREMIER FACING GRAVEST CRISIS OF CAREER

General Maurice's Charge of Lack of Veracity Seized by Opposition

The situation engendered by General Maurice's letter charging the premier with lack of veracity, which was brought to a head by Herbert Asquith's motion in favor of the house of commons investigating the charges, instead of allowing the government to appoint two judges for that purpose. Asquith's action amounts to a direct declaration of a lack of confidence in the government. R. L. Outwater, liberal member of parliament from Hanley, has given notice that he will ask Lloyd-George tomorrow whether the premier and Chancellor Bonar Law will continue to exercise the functions of their offices while the Maurice probes are investigating. Lloyd-George is likely to reply to Maurice. Political students generally believe the premier will be able to explain satisfactorily. Nevertheless, the

MOVE TO INVESTIGATE BACKED BY ASQUITH

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House Agrees to Report Land Grant Bill

Washington, May 8.—The house public lands subcommittee has agreed to report the Coos Bay war grant bill with the provision that 25 per cent of the proceeds from the lands and timber shall go to Coos and Douglas counties for apportionment by the county courts between the school, roads and port districts, with all of the remainder going to the federal treasury. The other amendments are unimportant. Upon Representative Simon's request the report is held until he can analyze it. He probably will ask a further amendment to include the payment of penalties and interest on unpaid taxes.

CREDIT TO GREAT BRITAIN

Washington, May 8.—An additional credit of \$75,000,000 has been advanced to Great Britain by the United States, bringing the total up to \$2,795,000,000 and the allied grand total to \$5,563,850,000, the treasury announced last yesterday.

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