

Ottumwa Tri-Weekly Courier

IOWA—Fair. Sun rises, 6:51 a. m.; sets, 5:55 p. m. LOCAL TEMP.—6 p. m., 42; 8 a. m., 29; 12 m., 31; max., 49; min., 20.

VOLUME SIXTY-EIGHT

OTTUMWA, WAPELLO COUNTY, IOWA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1916

NUMBER 8

NEW GUARANTEE TO BE DEMANDED FROM TEUTONS

U. S. Wants to Know if Liner Armed But Unresisting Will Be Torpedoed

SITUATION AGAIN VERY GRAVE ONE

Many Do Not Believe Kaiser Will Acquiesce in View Held by Americans

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—The submarine situation with its new developments was discussed at today's cabinet meeting. Secretary Lansing went to the white house before the cabinet assembled and discussed the question with the president at some length.

It was indicated today that Austria, too, will be notified of the assurances which the United States is asking for the future, so that the position of this government may be fully and uniformly known to the Germanic allies.

GERMANY IS INFORMED.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—A long dispatch from Ambassador von Bernstorff was on its way to Berlin today explaining that in its negotiations with Germany over submarine warfare, the United States will accept nothing short of a complete agreement covering all points for which it has contended as to assurance that the warfare in the future will be conducted in connection with the established principles of international law.

It is understood that the ambassador informed his government that the United States considers Germany's declaration of its intention to sink armed merchant ships without warning after February 29 inconsistent with the assurances given in the Arabic case. It was said that he told the Berlin foreign office that Secretary Lansing has informed him that the United States desires the German declaration regarding armed merchant ships to be modified and that the tentative communication designed to end the Lusitania case will not be formally accepted by this country until assurances regarding the future conduct of German submarine warfare are given.

In Teutonic diplomatic circles it was stated that the Berlin foreign office would not modify the declaration of intention to sink armed ships or inform this country that previous assurances were binding unless Great Britain should give assurances that a submarine which warns a British ship carrying defense armament would not be fired on.

GERMANS WORRIED OVER BIRTH RATE

Berlin, Feb. 17.—The declining birth rate in Germany, which was attracting attention before the war, is receiving more serious consideration in view of the losses sustained in the field. This subject was brought up today in the budget committee of the Prussian diet. A representative of the ministry predicted that unless a radical change should be made, Germany would soon be in the position of France, with deaths exceeding births.

The speaker also referred to the high rate of infant mortality. He also said one of the gravest hindrances to the growth of the population was the increase in the number of premature births caused deliberately, an evil which was not confined to the poorer classes.

SWEDES PROHIBIT DANISH SHIPMENTS

London, Feb. 18.—A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Co. says that according to the Enaelposten, the Swedish minister of justice has appointed a royal commission to prohibit transportation along Swedish territorial waters of goods forbidden to be exported from Sweden. The prohibition is said to be directed against Danish merchants who are largely interested in transporting merchandise to Russia through Swedish waters. This step, the newspaper points out, will make the Baltic a still more closed inland sea, the conditions being especially aggravated by the new mine field which the Germans have laid at the entrance into the Baltic.

MEXICANS HUNTING GEN. VILLA'S GOLD

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 18.—Gold and silver bullion of an estimated value of hundreds of thousands of dollars, said to have been confiscated by Francisco Villa, is being sought by Mexican government authorities, according to Andreas Garcia, Mexican consul here, who stated further that, if recovered, the treasure would be forfeited to the facto government.

SENATOR LODGE WANTS U. S. A. TO STAND ON RIGHTS

SOLOMON TELLS SENATE THAT THIS COUNTRY MUST NOT ABANDON ITS SEA PRINCIPLES.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—Senator Lodge, ranking minority member of the foreign relations committee, made a speech in the senate today declaring that abandonment by the United States at this time of the principle that its ports were open to and its citizens free to travel upon merchantmen of belligerent nations armed solely for defensive purposes, would be an unneutral act and a step toward war. He said it would make the United States the ally of the belligerent whose merchant marine had been swept from the seas.

The senator spoke at length, dwelling on the history of international law relating to the arming of merchantmen for defense and citing precedents in the record of the United States. He referred to reports that the administration was preparing to change its policy, which have been denied by Secretary Lansing since the issuance of the German and Austrian memoranda announcing their intention to treat armed merchant ships as war vessels after February 29. As late as the president's note of May 13, 1915, signed by Mr. Bryan, Senator Lodge said, "this government recognized that 'American citizens were within their undisputed rights in taking their ships and in traveling wherever their legitimate business calls them on the high seas.'"

Stand on This Law.

"The abandonment of those rights by any neutral government on the ground that the invention of submarines with the necessary limitations on the powers of capture possessed by those boats is inexcusable. Such abandonment could only rest on the ground that rights of neutrals, the rules which for centuries have been agreed upon by all nations for the protection of innocent lives on vessels captured in war, must be thrown aside and discarded in order that a new instrument of maritime destruction must not be impeded in its work of death and murder.

"There is, however, another side to this matter which is of even greater importance. There can be no question that any act by a neutral which alters conditions created by the war is an unneutral act and places the neutral on the side of one belligerent or the other.

Against Embargo.

"This is eminently true of any form of embargo, and there is no need that I should repeat the unanswerable argument on this point embodied by Mr. Lansing in his note of last August to the government of Austria-Hungary. The war and the war alone has also created conditions under which any change at this time in the attitude which we took officially at the outset of the war in regard to armed merchantmen would be an unneutral act.

"I can not believe that the administration thinks for a moment of altering the well defined position which it took at the outset of the European war, and I believe that it must stand as firmly on this question as it has on the question of the embargo. Should it act otherwise it would accept a humiliation and incur a danger of war from which even the boldest and the most unscrupulous would shrink."

DEMOCRATS SEE NEED FOR TARIFF

CAUCUS OF MARJORITY IN CONGRESS DECIDES TO REPEAL FREE SUGAR ACT.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—Legislation repealing the free sugar clause of the Underwood tariff law before May 1, the date on which the provision would become effective, with a resultant annual loss of \$40,000,000 of revenue, virtually was assured today as a result of the action of the house democratic caucus last night.

The proposed legislation was decided on by a vote of 84 to 20, after a vigorous fight against it led by Representative Keating of Colorado, who denounced the action as a repudiation of party doctrine. Ten democrats declined, because of other pledges or convictions, to be bound by the caucus decision.

FIRE STILL RAGING.

Butte, Mont., Feb. 18.—Fire, which caused the loss Monday night of twenty-one lives in the Anaconda Copper Co.'s Pennsylvania mine, still was raging today, the damage already done being estimated at \$100,000. Concrete bulkheads are being thrown up in various parts of the mine to check the fire's spread.

RUSS BAYONETS ROUT THE TURKS

Army Defending Erzerum Broken and Forced to Flee Before Victor

GREAT FORTRESS POORLY DEFENDED

Latest Reports Indicate That Garrison Was Not Captured Intact

Petrograd, Feb. 18.—The fall of Erzerum, the most important Turkish stronghold in Asia Minor, and for a long time considered impregnable, offers the unprecedented spectacle of a first class fortress built on a steep mountain ridge nearly a mile above sea level yielding to bayonet attack after only thirty-six hours' bombardment.

The operations were conducted under the most severe weather conditions, the snow being deep and the thermometer registering at times more than thirty degrees below zero. The Turkish army defending Erzerum, taken by surprise under the methods adopted by the Russians, is now said to be in disorderly flight on the roads leading to Sivas. As the garrison apparently scattered in all directions, it is assumed here that large numbers of men were taken prisoner, although official figures are still lacking.

Turks Over Confident.

After the taking of Niskala, it appeared that the Russian attack would be directed on the Turkish right flank, and by rapidly transferring troops, the Turks made all plans to resist the main assault from this quarter. Apparently they had little fear of the success of this attack because of the strong character of the fortifications in that direction and even less apprehension of danger from a frontal attack.

Nevertheless, after the Russians took by storm the first line forts February 2, there began persistent bombardment of the Turkish center, followed by a bayonet charge, which swept the defenders off their feet. The highest tribute is paid to the bravery of the Caucasian troops, whose charge is considered one of the most brilliant feats of the war.

It is recognized here that the success of the assault was due almost entirely to the bayonet work of these troops, since the artillery preparations were insufficient in intensity and duration, according to military experts, to reduce even a strong field position.

Opens Way to Capital.

The wiping out of this Turkish base tends to disrupt the whole Caucasian campaign of the Turks, as it not only served as a base of operations in the Caucasus, but also of those in Mesopotamia. Its fall leaves no strongly fortified point between Erzerum and Sivas, about 250 miles to the west, and brings more to the front consideration of an eventual attack on Constantinople from the east.

An attempt to retake Erzerum is anticipated, but there are enormous difficulties attending the bringing up of Turkish reinforcements, as it is assumed that Turkish forces in Mesopotamia can not be spared. The alternative for Turks seems to be to draw on those at Constantinople, from which all possible routes toward Erzerum are long and arduous. The most practicable is by railway to Urfa, whence it would be necessary to march overland more than 200 miles. The Black sea route to Trebizond has become impracticable because of the Russian domination of the Black sea littoral.

BRITONS REPULSED.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—The British have made a new attempt to retake the position south of Ypres, Belgium, recently captured by the Germans, but were beaten off with heavy losses, it was officially announced today. The army headquarters states that successful mine attacks were carried out northwest of Lens.

THIEF ON STAND AGAINST ROBBERS

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Eddie Mack, former convict and confessed accomplice in the bank robbery, testified today at the trial of the four other men accused of robbing the Washington Park National bank of \$15,000 a few weeks ago.

He told of his acquaintance with the four defendants, Alex Brodie, Charles and Harry Kramer and Harry Fein, and of the plans which they made to rob the bank including a visit to the teller's cage to have a bill changed and discover where the money was kept.

"What has been your means of livelihood for the past fourteen years?" was the first question asked.

"Picking pockets," replied Mack unhesitatingly.

Step by step in answer to the prosecutor's questions Mack related the story of the robbery.

Because of his confession Mack has been granted immunity.

SOUP POISONER TRYING TO CAUSE REIGN OF TERROR

JEAN CRONES AND FELLOW ANARCHISTS AT WORK TO OVERTURN GOVERNMENT.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Following the publication this morning in New York newspaper of another letter believed to have been written by Jean Crones, former chef at the University club of Chicago, local police officials put on the New York authorities the burden of responsibility for Crones' arrest. Crones is charged with putting poison in the soup served at the Mundelein banquet.

The federal government operatives here today continued to assist local authorities in tracing reports that the poisoning was the result of an anti-clerical plot of nation wide proportions. It was learned today that secret service agents received warning of such a conspiracy more than three months ago. At that time it was reported that anarchistic leaders had been holding secret meetings at Salida, Colo., discussing plans for a "reign of terror" to be created throughout the United States by the destruction of churches and public buildings. It was reported that the new \$2,500,000 federal building at Denver, Colo., was among those slated for destruction. Letters from Salida, Colo., were found among Crones' belongings.

CRONES IN NEW YORK.

New York, Feb. 18.—Believing that Jean Crones, the Chicago chef accused of poisoning the soup at a dinner of Catholic clergymen and laymen in that city, is in New York City or nearby, the police made every effort today to run him down. The authorities think Crones is the author of two letters mailed in this city to the New York Times, in which the writer boasts that he has escaped arrest and makes veiled threats.

The identification by John M. McCourt, assistant U. S. district attorney at Scranton, Pa., of the fac simile of the first Crones letter received here as the handwriting of the man wanted in Chicago, stimulated police authorities here. Crones' writing was identified by examination papers he had sent to a correspondence school in Scranton.

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HINDU TROOPS MUTINY

Berlin Reports That Britons Are Having Grave Trouble With Indian Natives in Egypt.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—A mutiny of Hindu troops in Egypt is reported by the Cologne Volks Zeitung as quoted by the Overseas News agency. It is said an entire regiment mutinied, killing twelve officers, including a major and that other Hindu troops went over to the mutineers. After a battle of two hours, it is said, the mutinous troops were routed. The news agency's statement adds:

"There have been other cases of mutiny, but the British have prevented publication of the details." The Cologne Volks Zeitung says that Maj. Gen. Sir John Maxwell, commander of the British forces in Egypt, has ordered the withdrawal of Mohammedan troops from the Suez canal and their transportation to another war theater where they will not fight against other Mohammedans. It is said there have been frequent desertions among these troops.

CONGRESS MAY ENQUIRE

Friction Between Federal and State Officers Over Cattle Disease in Illinois Becomes Acute.

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Friction between federal and state authorities on quarantine orders growing out of the foot and mouth disease may result in congressional investigation. The matter will be presented to a meeting of the Illinois stock breeders next week, which will protest against the order of the bureau placing all of Illinois north of the southern boundary of Christian county under quarantine for interstate shipments, except for immediate slaughter.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Senator Sterling spoke on his resolution pertaining to German admiralty's order to sink armed merchant ships of belligerents.

Senator Lodge in speech declared abandonment by United States of principle that its ports were open to and its citizens free to travel on armed belligerent merchantmen would be unneutral.

International Harvester Co., was charged with furnishing arms to Mexican revolutionists at agriculture committee's special investigation hearing.

HOUSE—Continued general debate on postoffice appropriation bill.

Capt. McKean told naval committee the navy's war plans are kept well up to date and he saw no need of a general staff.

WANT TO RAISE HALF A MILLION

Conference Authorizes Big Campaign for Wesleyan to Begin March 12

BISHOP BRISTOL IS HEARD IN ADDRESS

Resident Head of Methodist Church Gives Stirring Talk to the Public

Just before adjourning, Thursday evening, the Iowa conference in special session at the First Methodist church here, authorized a campaign which will bring the endowment of Iowa Wesleyan college at Mt. Pleasant up to \$750,000.

Work is to begin on the raising of \$350,000 in the conference of twenty counties in this part of the state on March 12 and will close on April 25. The other \$400,000 of the \$750,000 authorized by the conference is to be subscribed by Mt. Pleasant and Henry county. Of this amount \$100,000 has already been raised there and the extra \$300,000 is guaranteed after the conference trustees agreed to establish a chair of agriculture in the school.

Plan Out Campaign.

The plan of raising the money is to have a central compiling office at Mt. Pleasant under the direction of the college authorities and sub offices or stations in Ottumwa, Burlington, Muscatine and Oskaloosa. These will be placed in the charge of the district superintendents and an expert office manager who will be employed for the forty days' campaign.

With the present endowment this additional \$500,000 will bring it up to \$750,000 above all debts, money on annuities and the annual support of the conference through the church members.

Dr. E. J. Shook of Ottumwa, will be in charge of the work in this district of the conference and will have his headquarters here. Daily reports will be compiled from each district and sent into the main office at Mt. Pleasant.

Bristol is Pleasing.

Frank M. Bristol of Omaha, resident bishop of the Methodist church, addressed a public gathering Thursday evening. Practically all of the pastors and lay delegates remained over for today when the Methodist forward movement is being presented to them. Bishop Bristol proved to be a most entertaining speaker. He had a serious message and he presented it seriously; yet he had enough of the dramatic touch in his delivery to be interesting.

He dwelled on the sacrifices which have been made by the pioneers of Iowa and the early Methodists in the state for the cause of Christian education within its borders.

The educational standards which the Methodist church set up at the beginning of its existence were outlined by the speaker and declared to have occupied as important a place in the minds of the founders as any evangelistic plan.

The old plan of "scattering books," and the advice of those across the sea to the newcomers here to "remember the books," were mentioned by the bishop and he declared that the oldest circulating library in the United States was the Methodist itinerate preacher with his saddle bags full of books.

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EDITOR FROM IOWA LOST IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Feb. 18.—Whereabouts of Scott Laird, publisher of the Oelwein (Iowa) Daily News, and for many years publisher of the Winona (Minn.) Republican-Herald, is still a mystery. Mr. Laird disappeared from his room in a Chicago hotel early Wednesday morning, leaving his coat, hat and other belongings. He had settled his bill but had told no one, as far as has been learned, where he was going.

He came here to attend a meeting of middle west newspaper men. His friends, having been unable to get a trace of him, have called in the aid of the police.

IOWA OFFICER IN ARMY SUCCUMBS

San Francisco, Feb. 18.—Capt. Fred L. Perry, coast artillery corps, U. S. army, is dead at the Presidio here today. Death followed a capital operation performed two days ago.

Capt. Perry was born in Iowa in 1875. He served in the Spanish-American war as lieutenant in the first Colorado volunteers and was commissioned in the regular service in 1901.

NO BRANDEIS HEARING.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 18.—No witnesses were ready to be heard today before the senate judiciary subcommittee considering the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis to the supreme court, and today's hearing was abandoned.

PSEUDO-PRIEST PAYS FOR CRIME WITH HIS LIFE

HANS SCHMIDT IS EXECUTED AT SING SING; GOES WILLINGLY TO CHAIR.

Ossining, N. Y., Feb. 18.—Hans Schmidt was electrocuted at Sing Sing prison today for the murder of Anna Amuller September 2, 1913.

Schmidt went quietly to the death chamber, accompanied by the principal keeper and the Rev. Father Cashin, the prison chaplain. Leaving the death house, he said goodbye to those who remained.

When he entered the chamber, the guards attempted to direct him toward the chair but Schmidt gently shook them off and insisted on addressing the seventeen witnesses. The guards desisted from their efforts and with Father Cashin standing at one side and the keeper at the other, Schmidt said:

"Gentlemen, I ask forgiveness of all those I have injured or scandalized. I forgive all those who have injured me. My last wish is to say goodbye to my dear old mother."

Schmidt then seated himself in the electric chair and the current was applied three times. Within a minute he was dead. He had spent the night up to midnight in praying and talking with Father Cashin, and slept from midnight to 5 o'clock, when he was awakened for breakfast. He would take only a cup of coffee.

GOOD DETECTIVE WORK.

New York, Feb. 18.—When the torso of Anna Amuller's body was washed up on the New Jersey shore of the Hudson river there started a search which has had but few parallels in the annals of New York crime. There was but one faint clue, a pillow slip on which was embroidered the letter "A," but it was just such a pillow slip and his sole defense was that it was a "blood sacrifice murder."

The body had been dismembered and presumably all of it was thrown into the river, although the head was never found. Schmidt was twice placed on trial, the first jury, in December, 1913, failing to reach a verdict. In February, 1914, he was found guilty.

Besides the sordid story of Anna Amuller's infatuation for Schmidt, the trials revealed that his was a career of crime. He was engaged in a counterfeiting scheme at the time the murder was committed, and "Dr." A. Muret, who posed as a dentist, was sent to prison for seven years as Schmidt's accomplice in the latter's scheme. It was found that Schmidt also had posed as a physician, that he had committed numerous forgeries and had been guilty of other frauds. His attorneys pleaded their client was insane. The slayer, however, always contended that he was sane. He took no active part in his own defense. When he was sentenced he thanked the court and expressed a desire to be executed at once. He maintained the same stolid composure through all the various stages of his case.

The meeting proper opened at 10 o'clock. Bishop Bristol of Omaha, resident bishop for this section of Iowa, discussed the question, "Should Methodism expect a modern pentecost? If so, on what terms?"

A survey of the membership in the conference during the last five years, the privileges and duties of the conference membership and the question of "What does the conference need?" were discussed by the district superintendents.

The Methodist forward movement was presented by Bishop Henderson just before the recess at noon for lunch.

Afternoon Busy Time.

The afternoon session, which opened at 2:30, has been a busy time also. Questions involving personal and public evangelistic features of the forward movement, periodic and protracted membership and the question of "What does the conference need?" were discussed by the district superintendents.

Banquet for Bishops.

A banquet will be served at 6:30 this evening in the First church parlors to which the general public is invited. The visiting bishops will be the guests of honor and a few short talks will be made by them.

Great Evening Service.

The largest service of the day will come this evening when Bishop Henderson will talk. He is especially popular among young people and his message has that in it which appeals to every red blooded young man and woman in the city and conference.

Special sections are to be reserved in the balcony of the church for the Sunday school of the three congregations of the city and a booster crowd is expected. Everyone should be in their place by 7:30. A great consecration service is planned.

TEDDY DECLINES TO TALK POLITICS

St. Thomas, D. W. I., Feb. 18.—Theodore Roosevelt arrived here today from New York on the steamship Guiana. In the absence of the governor, who is at St. Croix, he was welcomed by the governor's secretary.

Col. Roosevelt inspected the recently completed harbor works and then drove about the town, visiting other places of interest. He dined with the governor's secretary.

The colonel declined to be interviewed on political affairs, saying he had come here for a rest. He will leave St. Thomas tomorrow.

THREE BISHOPS ARE GUESTS OF OTTUMWA TODAY

Prominent Officials of the Methodist Church Are Presenting Work

OUTLINE FORWARD MOVEMENT TO MEN

Two Hundred Laymen and Pastors Attending a Special Session

"The biggest thing in Methodism" is being presented to 300 churchmen and laymen at the First Methodist Episcopal church here by three of the most prominent officials of the church in the United States.

Bishops Theodore S. Henderson of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Frank M. Bristol of Omaha, and E. W. Hughes of San Francisco, assisted by Dr. John L. Hillman, pastor of the First church at Des Moines, District Superintendent E. J. Shook and the local pastors are outlining the Methodist forward movement to the visitors and the general public.

Ottumwa is Honored.

This local meeting is one of sixty being held throughout the United States, and Ottumwa has the honor of being selected as the place for the presenting of the work to the Iowa conference, consisting of about twenty counties in southern Iowa.

It is under the supervision of the general conference commission on evangelism, which in May, 1915, launched the movement. The goal is set for the acquisition of 250,000 new church members; 500,000 recruits to the Time Legion, and 1,000 decisions among young people for active Christian work as a life calling. It is planned to attain this end by May 1, 1916, but it is not the intention of those at the head of the forward movement to let it die at that time. Their hope is to launch a greater campaign which will stir the church into ever increasing activity and growth.

Under the leadership of Bishop Henderson, who is chairman of the movement committee, this high aim is being rapidly realized.

Having All Day Session.

The day's session began this morning at 9 o'clock with an intercession conference, which is awakening in Methodism under the direction of District Superintendent E. J. Shook of Ottumwa.

The meeting proper opened at 10 o'clock. Bishop Bristol of Omaha, resident bishop for this section of Iowa, discussed the question, "Should Methodism expect a modern pentecost? If so, on what terms?"

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