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The Tacoma Times

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WEATHER Tacoma: Fair tonight and Saturday. Washington: Same.

GERMAN THIRD LINE BROKEN

Tacoma Liner Destroyed By Fire; Origin a Mystery

SUFFER A BIG DEFEAT ON SOMME

LONDON, Sept. 15.—British troops have broken the German third line in the great assault inaugurated this morning, said a Reuters dispatch from Press headquarters at the British front this afternoon. It is reported that the village of Piers, a mile and one half northwest of Ghinchy, has been captured. The British are sweeping eastward toward the village of Norval, about two miles directly north of Combles, in a great movement that threatens to surround the Germans in Combles and effect their capture. The greater part of Bouleaux wood, a mile northwest of Combles, has already been captured by Gen. Haig's men. The British advance, according to fragmentary bulletins received here tonight, is the greatest made by Gen. Haig's men since the opening day of the allied offensive.

D. O. SMITH REPLACES FACKLER!

Taking over his new duties Friday morning, immediately after the city council had unanimously ratified his appointment, Chief of Police Harry M. Smith lost no time in putting into effect his plans to reorganize the police department. Chief Smith's first move was to demote Detective Captain William Fackler and replace him by Capt. D. O. Smith, who was acting-chief from January until May, and who was reduced to the rank of detective when Pettit took office. Fackler Back to Old Job. Capt. Fackler will resume his former work as pawn shop inspector, with Detective Albertson as assistant. Several other important changes will be announced Monday, according to the new chief. It is intimated that a change will be made in the office of night captain of detectives, now held by Capt. Frank Geary. Chief Smith will maintain his office in the Bertillon department of the central station. He will continue to handle the Bertillon work, with an assistant. "All that I can say today is that I shall do my utmost to uphold the law and to maintain order in Tacoma," announced Chief Smith Friday.

SCENIC GEM IN DANGER



CLEAR LAKE.—Photo by A. H. Barnes.

BY MABEL ABBOTT What would you think of a woman who, because she had a great many jewels, would sit and look on indifferently while somebody pried the golden setting off one of the finest, and used it to make fillings for teeth? Well, Tacoma is looking on indifferently while the wonderful, irreplaceable setting is pried off one of her finest jewels, and used to make houses and barns and chicken coops. Returning travelers bring word that a start toward logging operations has been begun on the edge of Clear Lake. Clear lake is a little lake like a black pearl, on the original stage road to Mount Tacoma, about five miles north of Eatonville. It is half a mile wide and three-fourths of a mile long, and its surface is 250 feet above the Ohop valley. It is a geological phenomenon, being 900 feet deep. This incredible depth is explained by some on the hypothesis that it is an old crater. However that may be, Clear Lake offers the loveliest view of the mountain, rising above its green-rimmed mirror, that is to be had from any lake in that region. The timber around it is mostly fir and hemlock, and the trees are dense and thrifty, not of enormous size or unusual value commercially, but perfect from the standpoint of park purposes.

The frontage is clean, not muddy or reedy as many of the lakes are. The lake occupies the greater part of a section of land, which is owned by timber companies. A logging road is now being built, some logs for construction purposes having already been cut; and in a very short time, unless some way can be found to save it, Clear Lake will be set, not in stately, perfect trees, but in raw stumps and ragged remnants. What can be done about it? Well, the land and the timber belong to the men who bought it, to be sure; but timber owners may be just as public-spirited as anybody else, and it doesn't seem impossible that if they were asked to wait until some arrangement could be made to buy enough land to leave the lake undisturbed, or possibly to get the state to trade them other land for it, since it is by no means exclusively a Tacoma asset, they might prove entirely willing to do, and might even meet the plan half way. With a little time to call the attention of the people to the fact that the timber around Clear Lake is worth more to the city and to the state standing than it is in the form of lumber, there are several things that might be done. But every tree that falls is a loss that cannot be replaced for centuries; and whatever is done must be done quickly. Let's have practical suggestions, and let's have them right away.

SWEDEN HOLDS UP FINLAND'S COFFEE

BERLIN, via wireless to Sayville, Sept. 15.—Presumably in retaliation for the stoppage of coffee shipments to Sweden by the British government, Sweden has detained 10,000 tons of coffee destined for Finland. There is a great scarcity of coffee in Finland as a result.

IT'S TACOMA DAY AT THE BIG FAIR

Friday is Tacoma day at the Western Washington fair, also Children's day. All school children will be admitted to the grounds free. Many Tacomans will assemble at the Commercial club at 12:30, and go in a body on a special train, which will leave at 1, and return at 5:30.

Soldiers Now Sing of the Bells of H-1

LONDON, Sept. 15.—(By mail) "Tipperary" has given way at the battle front to a new song with a raggy lilt whose theme is the bullets will always get the other fellow. Here are the words: "The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling. For you, but not for me. For me the angels sing a-ling-a-ling. They've got the goods for me. Oh death, where is thy sting-a-ling-a-ling. Oh grave thy victory? The bells of hell go ting-a-ling-a-ling. For you but not for me."

CORPORATION TO BOOST INDUSTRIES

The formation of a corporation to be known as the Tacoma Industries Corporation, to promote the industrial development of Tacoma, proposed by A. J. Ritchie at the Rotary club luncheon Thursday, will be voted on at the meeting next Thursday.

FIRE DESTROYS PUYALLUP HOME

PUYALLUP, Sept. 15.—The \$3,000 residence of F. B. Parks was destroyed by fire yesterday. The Puyallup fire department was unable to save it because of lack of water.

OWNERS DENY BARK HAS RUN AGROUND

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 15.—Reports that the bark Star of Chile was aground and in danger off Point Pedro, south of the Golden Gate, were denied today by officials of the Alaska Packers association, owners of the ship.

Highway Builders Must Revise Ideas, Says Expert

"These are not the days of gentle horses and narrow wagons, when men were content to pass their fellow-travelers at a speed of three miles an hour," said H. Thomson, of Seattle, addressing a joint session of the associations of county commissioners and engineers in the Commercial club rooms Friday on "Country Pavements." "Builders of country roads," he prophesied, "must prepare for constantly increasing loads to be moved at constantly greater speeds. The roads must be made to stand up to the strain of the motor trucks and the heavy trucks. No permanent pavement should be constructed anywhere so as to produce a grade crossing with either steam or interurban railway, and there should be no 'deadman's curves.'" Prof. H. K. Benson of the University of Washington pointed out an opportunity to avoid wood waste. "Enormous quantities of wood are now destroyed," he said, "in saw mill incinerators and in land-clearing. If charcoal were utilized locally in briquetted fuel, and used in the construction of roads, it would save a great deal of wood."

SNOWING IN MINN; 74 HERE

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 15.—The first snow of the season was reported falling at Little Falls, Minn., today, while temperatures remained below freezing. Late corn and vegetables were damaged. South Dakota points reported freezing, damaging gardens. Corn, having hardened, was benefited rather than damaged. In Tacoma the temperature at noon Friday was 74 degrees, according to Weather Man Cover.

N. Y. STRIKE STILL BITTERLY FOUGHT

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.—With subway and elevated lines running at better than normal capacity and taking care of the overflow from the tied up surface lines, officials of New York's traction systems today declared the carmen's strike was broken. With a showing of some 10,000 former employes sticking to their strike, union labor leaders countered with a threat that unless a settlement came on their own terms they would tie up the city on Monday with a sympathetic strike of 400,000 trade unionists.

PLANNING TO MOVE GUARD BACK HOME

EL PASO, Tex., Sept. 15.—The Texas National Guard is planning to move back home from the Mexican border.

First 16-Inch Shell to Be Fired in U. S. Rips Through Dwelling

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 15.—How a 16-inch solid steel shell tore straight through a home near the government testing grounds at Indian Head, Maryland, passing through the room adjoining that in which were a woman and her three daughters, was reported to Washington today. It was the first 16-inch shell ever fired in the United States. Sailing from the mouth of the first 16-inch gun ever set up in this country, the shell ripped through a thick section of tough armor plate, thence through a huge bank of sand, and tilting upward as a result of this resistance, described a mile-long arc through the air. Mrs. Mary Swann had just finished preparing the midday meal for her husband, William O. Swann—one of the men handling the gun. Her two smallest children had followed her into the dining room, joining her 18-year-old daughter. There was a terrific roar and crash. The house shook. When she recovered from her fright Mrs. Swann went into the kitchen. There were great gaping holes in opposite walls. Outside the house lay the huge mass of steel, still hot. Little Essie Swann, age 4, now uses the big steel cylinder as a hobby horse, and her mother looks on, beaming at the thought the child is alive to do so.

PROHIS ATTACK BILL 24

The Prohibition Special, bringing J. Frank Hanly, prohibition candidate for president, Ira Landrith, candidate for vice president, and leaders of the party, arrived at the Union Station at 3:30 Friday morning, for a brief campaign in this city. The campaign party, which is making a nation-wide tour, had 50 minutes to stay in Tacoma. The candidates were hurried in flag-bedded autos to the Colonial theater, where they addressed a big crowd of men and women. Students of the College of Puget Sound attended the meeting in a body. Those who made addresses were Gov. Hanly, Landrith, Oliver W. Stewart, chairman of the national campaign committee, and R. C. Sargent of Tacoma. "Prohibition is bound to come," said Candidate Landrith, who was the first speaker. "How long, think you, will a government like ours tolerate as a law-protected and civically respected business an institution that is an outlawed criminal in 80 out of every hundred acres of that government's domain?" Referring to initiative bills Nos. 18 and 24, known as the hotel and brewers' bills, Landrith shouted: "Say 'Kill Them.' 'Kill them! Kill them before they get any more votes!'"

NOT A LIFE LOST WHEN \$2,000,000 CONGRESS BURNS

(United Press Leased Wire.) MARSHFIELD, Ore., Sept. 15.—Smoke pouring from its upper works and its steel plates red hot in spots from the rumbling blaze inside, all that is left of the \$2,000,000 coast liner Congress lay on Coos Bay spit today, practically a total loss. In Marshfield and North Bend, 423 passengers and crew, many clad in coats and caps, senseless and in some cases suffering from nervous shock, were distributed among the townspeople, awaiting the arrival of special trains to carry them on to Tacoma and Seattle. So far as is known now, not a single life was lost. Fire was discovered in the second storage of the Congress at 1 p. m. yesterday. Capt. Cousins decided to make a 30-mile run for shore. Narrow Escape. The race with death was won by a hairsbreadth. When the burning liner cast anchor off Coos Bay, fire was roaring forward, herding terrified passengers toward the bow. "Captain Cousins ordered lifeboats lowered after the smoke began to get hot under our feet," said Chief Steward Damsden. "As heat from the flames became more intense, some passengers began sobbing. Massed on One Side. The real wrench came when we began lowering lifeboats and the order 'Women and children first' was given out. Many women refused to leave their husbands. "By this time the smoke and hot fumes were so dense and suffocating on the port side that all efforts to launch boats there were abandoned and the passengers massed to starboard. "In spite of the steadily gaining fire, there was no panic. We lowered seven boats as smoothly as if in practice. The sea was calm and passengers were carried immediately to the dredge Michie, three miles off shore. After all passengers were saved we tried to rescue some of their clothing and other effects. "We barely started this work when fire came shooting up the hatches and through the warped decks. Seamen, their eyes reddened from smoke inflammation, many with slightly burned, were hailed as heroes today by the rescued passengers. (Continued on Page Eight.)

(United Press Leased Wire.) MARSHFIELD, Ore., Sept. 15.—Officers of the burned liner Congress were unable to tell today how the fire started. They agreed it originated in cargo under the second stowage, aft. Smoke curling up from the hold gave the first warning. There is nothing left of the crack steamer but its metal parts—steel hull, smokestacks and masts. Smoke was still drifting from the blackened shell at noon. A report that several passengers had been overlooked in their staterooms and suffocated were denied today by officers. They declared a careful check had been made and every person accounted for. The special train from Eugene to convey passengers north is due to arrive early this afternoon. Its appearance is eagerly awaited by the 423 men, women and children saved from the floating furnace. Many went to the beach this morning to view the wreck. The Congress lies a short distance offshore. Many Babies Aboard. "I never saw so many babies and little toddlers aboard ship before," said Mrs. D. K. Smith of Seattle. "This added to the danger, but nearly everybody was composed. Some were hysterical, but most laughed and joked." Mrs. F. L. Ashton of Seattle saved a baby. It's seaisick mother left it in Mrs. Ashton's care. She carried it down a ladder to a lifeboat, and restored it to the mother on shore. Mrs. Ashton's hand was crushed by the lifeboat and the steamer's side.

President's Sister Is Near Death

(United Press Leased Wire.) ASBURY PARK, N. J., Sept. 15.—President Wilson received word shortly before noon today that his sister, Mrs. Annie E. Howe, who is gravely ill at New London, Conn., is sinking rapidly. He immediately cancelled other engagements and made tentative arrangements to go to New London later in the day.

HALF CARLOAD OF WHISKY CAPTURED

SEATTLE, Sept. 15.—Half a carload of whisky, consigned to what officers say is a non-existent drug store at Maple Valley, was seized by deputy sheriffs last night.

SUMMER TAX LEVY INCREASES 1 MILL

SUMNER, Sept. 15.—A budget of \$6,500 for 1917 was decided upon by the city council last night. There probably will be a tax increase of one mill to cover the increase in the police department and the installation of a new lighting system.

Talk o' the Times

Greetings, do you remember those immortal words, "All that I have or that I expect to be is interwoven with the future of Seattle?" All Tacoma papers agree now that Poindexter is nominated on first choice votes. Roosevelt sends Poindexter congratulations; how about Hughes? No use talking 'er 'ave to call this new party chief Smith II. Maybe Seattle... to keep the lights burned on the statue of Liberty. She'll be going into the movies next. The finest after-dinner speaker in the world is the man who says: "Walter, give that check to me." OUR OWN TRAVELOGUES CHIHUAHUA—Chihuahua is a city in Mexico where everybody but the Americans is happy. The president is looking for a new place to live.

Chance to Get Free "Civilization" Seats

Are you a good speller? Also an early riser? The Times will give two free tickets to the photoplay "Civilization," to open Sunday at the Tacoma theater, to each of the first four persons who find a word spelled in any classification in the classified page of The Times. "Civilization" is one of the great photoplay spectacles of the age. Better take a look at the classified page right away.