

Amateur gardeners, there is some valuable information for you in a table printed today on page two.

# The Tacoma Times

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THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA.

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TACOMA, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1917.

VOL. XIV. NO. 85.

WEATHER  
Tacoma: Unsettled, probably showers.  
Washington: Same, cooler tonight east portion.

## WHEREABOUTS OF CAPT. JEBSEN WORRIES U. S. BELL ORDERS N. G. W. TO LAKE

### MOBILIZATION OF MILITIA SET FOR SATURDAY

Maj. Gen. J. Franklin Bell has ordered the mobilization of the Washington National Guard at American Lake Saturday, according to word received from San Francisco Thursday.

The order, it is understood, applies only to the 2d infantry regiment, now mobilized in Seattle, which will be transferred to the American Lake camp.

Everything is in readiness at Cosgrove for the troops when they arrive Saturday to establish the mobilization camp, it was announced.

Neither Troop B nor Tacoma's four companies of coast artillery had received mobilization orders Thursday morning.

The Oregon National Guard has been ordered to mobilize at Vancouver Barracks Friday, thus placing two army camps in this state.

Gen. Bell has also issued orders dividing the western department of the army into three districts for administrative purposes, it was announced.

### TACOMA TO BUILD FOR U. S.

Tacoma, as a growing shipbuilding center of the Pacific coast, is destined today to have a big part in the immediate building of 1,000 wooden vessels to transport supplies for the U. S. army, to supply the allies with food and munitions, and to offset losses to shipping caused by ruthless submarine warfare.

How many of these vessels will be carved out of Washington timber by Tacoma shipbuilders will be determined when they meet in conference here with Vice Chairman Theodore Brent of the federal shipping board, April 6.

With the announcement of the shipping board's program for 1,000 ships, each with 3,000 tons cargo capacity, Brent declared Thursday that most of them would be built in Pacific coast yards, where enough timber and skilled labor has been secured.

The vessels will be built under rush orders.

#### Two Yards Ready Now.

It looks today as if there will be some bustling along Tacoma's waterfront during the months that are coming.

Two Tacoma yards—the Seaborn yards on the city waterway and the Barbare Bros. yards at Old Town—are equipped right now to turn out a number of the vessels under the supervision of the shipping board.

Three vessels of a similar type are under construction at the Seaborn yards, and it was announced that the plant could provide for the construction of considerably more than that number at one time.

Nicholas Barbare of Barbare Bros. declared that three wooden vessels of the type planned could be built in his yards.

Many more can be handled as soon as the plants of Tacoma's new shipbuilding companies are completed.

#### \$50,000,000 Available.

Just how many of the ships the Todd Shipbuilding corporation, the Washington Shipbuilding Co., the Tacoma Shipbuilding Co. and the Western Shipbuilding Co. at Gig Harbor will be ready to turn out when their plants are completed, will not be learned until after the conference with Vice Chairman Brent.

In this conference will be included the shipbuilders of Hoquiam, Aberdeen and Olympia.

Brent has announced that \$50,000,000 is immediately available for the building program, and that congress may vote \$200,000,000 if it is needed.

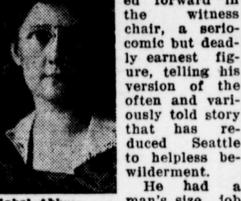
Meanwhile Tacoma shipbuilding concerns are rushing their plans to get into action.

### Gill Knew for Certain the Time He Went to Bed December 24

By Mabel Abbott.  
SEATTLE, March 29.—Mayor Gill testified in his own behalf Wednesday in the liquor-graft case.

Lean, cartoonable, slipping with one lank leg hooked over the other, he leaned forward in the witness chair, a seriocomic but deadly earnest figure, telling his version of the often and variously told story that has reduced Seattle to helpless bewilderment.

He had a man's size job on his hands, if he was telling the truth, he had a barbed wire entanglement of lies to conquer; if he was telling a lie, he had to tell one that would hold together against the terrible force of truth.



Recess interrupted the mayor's testimony. The long-suffering jury and the insatiable audience took breath.

And then Judge Bausman called—"Mrs. Gill!" And the mayor's wife followed the marshal through the craning crowd.

It was the first time most of them had ever seen her, probably.

Mrs. Gill is as little known as her husband is well known.

She faced them quietly, a pleasant picture in her pretty hat of the new mustard-yellow, and her brown furs that fell apart to show a modest trinket dangling at her throat.

It was a simple, though important thing that she was to testify to—merely whether her husband had had any telephone call at their home on Christmas eve.

### ATTORNEY FINISHES HIS PLEA FOR MAYOR

(By United Press.)  
SEATTLE, March 29.—"There are two people who await your verdict most anxiously. One is little Mrs. Gill, with her two boys. The other is Logan Billingsley, emissary of hell!"

With these words, Attorney Frederick Bausman this morning closed his dramatic plea for Mayor Hiram C. Gill before the jury that will decide the fate of the city's chief executive, his chief of police and four city detectives on trial for conspiracy to aid the Billingsley bootlegging syndicate.

Logan Billingsley has claimed he called the mayor at his house that night; and in telling of the call, he said the telephone was answered by a woman's voice.

Judge Bausman questioned Mrs. Gill. Had there been any such call? Was there any other woman in the house but herself? At what time had the mayor gone to bed? How did she know these things?

She answered simply—a little nervously, her furs rising and falling with quick breaths between her words—but clearly.

"There was no such call. There was no other woman in the house; I had let the maid go home because it was Christmas eve."

"We have three telephones in the house. The one in our room is on the side of the bed, and I always answer it, because Mr. Gill's hearing is very defective, and he cannot hear it. He could not hear it more than 20 or 25 feet away, even if it rang loudly, and it is muffled, so he could not hear it at all. I am a light sleeper, and it wakes me."

"The telephone did not ring at all that night."

"Mr. Gill retired about 12 o'clock."

"That was practically all. She was not cross-examined."

As she slipped down from the stand, her husband stepped up, only a few eyes saw him pat her arm as she passed him.

The stern business of the day went on.

The mayor was questioned concerning "drug stores" and raids; disputed conversations; "the papers" on which the whole tangled plot turns, in proper melodramatic style; and all the hard and dangerous and doubtful sides of the problem that has torn the city's government to pieces.

He answered steadily and keenly. It was a two-sided fight.

There seemed no room in the harsh work that was going forward, for gentleness.

They came to the question of the Christmas eve telephone call.

"Do you remember last Christmas eve?" asked the attorney.

"Yes," said the mayor, swinging his dangle leg.

"Where were you?"

"At home."

"Did anybody at all call you on the telephone that night?"

"Only the chief of police, about 8 or 9 o'clock. I went to bed just a little bit before 12 o'clock."

"How do you remember that?" asked the lawyer.

The mayor paused, and his face changed. The sardonic humor that is the joy of his cartoonists softened to something different, as he glanced toward the woman in the pretty new mustard-yellow hat and the brown furs, sitting grave and shy in the crowded courtroom.

"I remember," he said slowly, "because I had dozed off while Mrs. Gill was around getting herself ready to come to bed; and when she came, she poked me and waked me up, and wished me a Merry Christmas."

### PEACE OFFER LIKELY

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
LONDON, March 29.—German Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg may strive to stave off a growing sentiment for democratizing of Germany today by a new peace offer.

At the very least he is expected to announce sweeping reforms in Germany's governmental structure permitting more active participation by the people, according to rumors here.

German socialists have united in formidable demands which the government apparently realizes have the backing of a large part of the people.

Herr Scheidemann, socialist, who has heretofore supported the government's war policy, was understood to have warned von Bethmann-Hollweg that the democratizing of Germany must start at once.

Dispatches from Berlin even hinted that the socialists are demanding immediate institution of a constitutional monarchy like England, claiming that Germany is the only autocratic government now left alive and in order to maintain the friendship in future years of the rest of the world's democracies, she must change.

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### CHIEF WILL POUR \$2,000 BOOZE AWAY

Police Chief Harry M. Smith is preparing to pour nearly \$2,000 of bonded whisky into the city's sewers. The liquor was seized by policemen last week when it came to Tacoma for two local druggists.

"The druggists have 10 days in which to claim their liquor, if they think they have a legal claim," said Chief Smith Thursday.

"The time is nearly up, and neither one has even uttered a complaint because we seized the booze."

"As soon as the 10 days are up, the stuff goes to the fishes."

"Your speech, as taken from the Congressional Record, is as partisan pro-German argument as any that has been advanced by Zimmermann or Von Bethmann-Hollweg, and your remarks in regard to the sinking of the Lusitania are so like those of the German chancellor that the public press of this country has accused you openly of appropriating his language."

"Your speech has been quoted with approval by all pro-German organs, and German spies have referred to you as a 'messenger sent from the Almighty to plead the cause of Germany.'"

"Your attitude has been as of one who was in favor of abandoning every right now possessed by American citizens to a war-mad nation, which seeks by a campaign of frightfulness, to drive neutral nations from the defense."

The letter was in reply to one received by the chapter from Jones March 19, enclosing a copy of a letter sent by him to W. V. Blain of Everett, explaining his actions in the armed neutrality bill.

After citing acts of German ruthlessness and plotting against Americans, the letter says:

"Your speech and that of Senator Stone have been quoted at large in the pro-German papers, and have conveyed to the ruthless German general staff the idea that America was divided and under no condition would she go to war. So Germany's acts have become more atrocious and she has thrown off all restraint."

"You plead 'not guilty,' but fortunately we have the congressional record of March 3, in which are contained your remarks on the sinking of the Lusitania, in which you carry out the idea that the U. S. should have warned its citizens to keep off the high seas."

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### Former Tacoman, Free Lance of Kaiser, Is Thought to Be Alive; Often Reported Dead

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
VANCOUVER, B. C., March 29.—The sinking of a Japanese warship in the South Pacific ocean by a German submarine was reported today by the Canadian News, a Japanese newspaper published here. The paper declared the report was based on a cablegram from Tokio.

The fact that a German raider of some type has been operating in the South Pacific and Indian oceans has been known for some time.

The uncertain fate of Capt. Frederick Jebesen, "master adventurer" of the Pacific, is today a matter of grave concern for Uncle Sam's intelligence department.

Alive, he must at this time be reckoned as a grim potential menace to the United States, and especially to this part of it.

Lieutenant in the German naval reserve and doughty skipper, Jebesen's exploits since the outbreak of the war rival the wildest fiction. From the equator to the Sound, his escapades in behalf of the Teuton cause have shown him a genius at intrigue.

Whether they be sympathizers with the kaiser's cause or with the allies—and they're fairly evenly divided—the men along Tacoma's waterfront have both a soft spot in their hearts and a vast admiration for Capt. Jebesen.

About 10 years ago, I believe it was, he began coming occasionally to Tacoma. Captain he was then of the little German steamer Erna, owned by an uncle. He was barely past his majority, as I recall, and the youngest master in the German merchant marine.

Tall, blond, handsome, impulsive, of the good fellow type, he was an interesting and pleasant man to meet. I recall dining with him in his honey cabin aboard ship and later in the little back room of the old Peerless cafe, where he consumed quantities of steamed clams and thick steak.

Not long after, he was graduated from the station of master to a position as shore manager for the Erna and a sister ship or two. Still later he was a member of the firm of Jebesen & Ostrander. While those duties of late years have taken him to many ports, he occasionally has returned to Tacoma.

Often Reported Dead.

Since the war started he has been the kaiser's most fearless aid and adroit free lance in the Western sea.

Reports of his death rival the mortality record of Villa, and have probably been just as much inspired and exaggerated. They are not credited in official quarters.

Recent rumor locates him vaguely in the South Seas, keeping under cover, awaiting word to strike where his sharpened judgment dictates, in case of actual hostilities between this country and Germany.

Highly Resourceful.

Hints that Capt. Jebesen has established a German submarine base in the far Pacific have frequently come out of the Orient lately. Their ready credence along the waterfront is a tribute to his uncanny resourcefulness.

Heretofore Jebesen's clashes with U. S. authorities have been over violations of neutrality regulations. Time after time he has been detained and the ban placed upon his ships and cargoes. He always turned up with others.

When the German cruisers Leipzig and Scharnhorst, prior to their destruction by the British roving fleet, menaced allied shipping in the Pacific, Jebesen managed to

supply them with coal and provisions out of San Francisco. Several times thereafter, under elaborate intrigue, he managed to evade clearance restrictions, keeping in touch with the German vessels along the Mexican and Brazilian coasts.

Like a ghost he slipped through the British, Australian and Japanese patrols. "Will o' the Wisp" they dubbed him.

He ran arms and Mexican soldiers from port to port for presumably pro-German Mexican factions and otherwise actively interested himself in military affairs there.

Jebesen had a close mouth, an irritating smile and suave demeanor, an alertness that never relaxed and the courage of a bulldog. His mysterious disappearance baffled even his closest confidantes. And his reappearance were just as startling.

Knows the Coast.

The "master adventurer" knows the west coast like a book, its defenses, its sea retreats, the ships that come and go, and the peculiarities of the men who man them.

At any moment this knowledge may become highly dangerous in the maritime genius who is sworn to serve his kaiser. That is why Uncle Sam's intelligence department is today so anxious to locate and keep tab on Jebesen, the elusive.

### START DRIVE FOR SUFFRAGE

(United Press Leased Wire.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 29.—Miss Jeanette Rankin, the "lady from Montana," will introduce in congress the Susan B. Anthony constitutional amendment for universal suffrage as her first official act after being sworn in on Monday.

While Miss Rankin is introducing and pushing her woman suffrage resolution in the house, Senator Jones (Wash.) will start the battle for ballots in the senate, according to plans completed today.

### S. A. R. ACCUSES JONES

Accusing U. S. Senator Wesley L. Jones of "giving aid, assistance and encouragement to an enemy of the U. S.," the Alexander Hamilton chapter of the Sons of American Revolution sent a burning letter to the Washington senator Thursday, directing him to cut out debate and hair-splitting and to stand with President Wilson in a firm policy for national defense.

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### YEAR IN PEN FOR PERJURY

Fred (or E. E.) Carpenter, who created a sensation in the McCabe-Lindberg trial last January, was sentenced Thursday to serve from 12 to 18 months in the penitentiary at Walla Walla by Judge Eyster.

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