

Spray Courier

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NEWS NOTES OF CURRENT WEEK

Resume of World's Important Events Told in Brief.

The allied fleets have silenced the Turkish forts at the entrance to the Dardanelles.

War experts say the loss of the Dardanelles will mean the complete subjugation of Turkey.

An extensive gang of Chinese smugglers has been unearthed along the northern border of Washington.

Rockefeller scientists have sent to the war zone a new method of reducing mortality from tetanus.

The Commerce commission reports that the Louisville & Nashville railroad spent millions in politics, to raise which "watered" stock was issued.

Figures compiled by the Holland postal authorities show that since the beginning of the war 864 German newspapers have suspended publication.

The London Daily Mail's Copenhagen correspondent says it is reported from Berlin that the German casualties in East Prussia and Poland during the last three weeks are estimated at about 200,000.

The municipality of Berlin has decided to acquire the Berlin electrical works, which at present has the monopoly of supplying current for traction, light and power purposes. The price will be about \$31,000,000.

Governor Ferguson, of Texas, has addressed to President Wilson a communication saying continual raiding is going on along the Rio Grande border for 75 miles inland as a result of the starving condition of the Mexican people.

In the house of commons Sir Edward Grey, secretary for foreign affairs, made the important announcement, which was received with cheers, that Great Britain sympathized with Russia's aspirations to gain access to the open sea through Turkey.

The American submarines C-3 and C-5 have been ordered from Cristobal to Balboa to work out certain defense problems in connection with the coast artillery relating to mine laying and target practice. The submarines will be the first American fighting craft to use the canal.

The British steamer, Deptford, 1208 tons, was sunk in the North Sea, off Scarborough, and the British steamer Western Coast was sunk in the English Channel off Beachy Head Friday. One sailor on the Deptford lost his life. It is not known whether the losses were due to mines or to submarines.

The friendly relations between Japan and the United States were dwelt upon by both Japanese and Americans at the annual banquet of the Japan society in New York. Ambassador and Vice Countess Chinda and Admiral Baron Dewa, representing the Japanese government at the Panama-Pacific exposition, were guests of honor.

Two aeroplanes of the allies were seen from Constance flying southward. As a result there was great excitement in Friedrichshafen. The Zeppelin stationed there, it is said, were covered with metal netting, all lights in the town were extinguished and the people took to the cells. The aeroplanes flew over Meersburg and later reached Belfort safely.

A \$100,000,000 issue of treasury bills offered in London was over-subscribed.

The Idaho senate votes 24 to 6 to make the state dry after January 1, 1916.

The condition of Sarah Bernhardt, after the amputation of her right leg, is considered excellent by her physicians.

Effective Sunday, the Great Northern will restore its night train between Seattle and Portland, which was taken off several weeks ago because of light travel. Increasing traffic as a result of the opening of the San Francisco exposition is given as the reason for restoring the train.

A Havas dispatch from Toulon says the commissioners sent out by the American embassy in Paris to inquire into conditions at French concentration camps have concluded their investigations in the department of Basse-Alpes and Var and report having found international regulations strictly observed.

Secretary Bryan appeared at the cabinet meeting Wednesday wearing on his coat lapel an enamel white dove of peace with an olive branch in its mouth. The secretary said it was a gift of a friend and pointed to it when questioned concerning possible complications for the United States in the foreign situation.

Washington Gets Hopeful Reports From Europe

Washington, D. C. — Encouraging reports from both Ambassadors Page and Gerard at London and Berlin, respectively, were received by President Wilson and his cabinet concerning the attitude of Great Britain and Germany toward the latest American proposals for the safeguarding of neutral commerce from the dangers of submarines and mines, and the unrestricted shipment of foodstuffs to the civilian population of belligerent countries.

Complete replies are not expected for some time, because the subject is still under consideration by England and her allies.

Germany's willingness to make concessions and negotiate for an understanding on the vexatious questions already has been made known informally to the United States and a formal acquiescence is expected in a day or two. All eyes now are turned on London, where the opinion is understood as yet to be divided on the merits of the suggestions.

Some of the leading men in the British cabinet are said to favor in principle the American proposals as a means of solving the problem with as little inconvenience to neutral countries as possible. Another element, however, is said to be impressed by the military value of further restriction of supplies to Germany and more reprisals and there is some indication that when the final resolution on the American proposals is to be made the military faction will present strong opposition to them.

The exact nature of the proposals is still unknown because of the rigid reticence of the officials both here and abroad, but each day adds information on the subject. Briefly, this much of the contents of the American suggestions now has been confirmed. The United States has asked that the previous rules of international law with respect to the shipment by neutrals of conditional contraband destined to civilian populations and not the belligerent forces of an enemy, remain unaltered.

A system is suggested whereby proof can be furnished that the supplies will be used by the civilian population.

The removal of all floating mines by Germany as well as Great Britain is proposed, this not to apply, however, to mines used for protection of coast defenses and harbors, pilots to be furnished to guide neutral ships through such fields as remain.

Attention is called to Germany's promise that if foodstuffs are not detained when destined to her civilian population the submarine warfare on merchant ships will be abandoned.

Farmers Not Heard in Fixing Price of Wheat

New York — Joseph Leiter, long a famous wheat operator, testified at the state inquiry into the cost of bread that the farmer had nothing to say about the price at which his wheat should be sold. That, he added, was determined at the terminal markets.

"The Liverpool exchange, which is the leading exchange of the world," he said, "usually fixes the price."

Mr. Leiter said 75 per cent of the elevators are owned either by the big wheat operators or the railroads, while 25 per cent were owned by independent or small operators and farmers' co-operative societies. The United States has controlled the wheat prices of the world since September 1, 1914, and will continue to do so until another crop is raised, Mr. Leiter asserted.

Mr. Leiter gave it as his opinion that the "invisible supply" of wheat, or that which is in the hands of farmers and not recorded in the government report, has been a large factor in keeping down the price.

"The farmers have become the largest speculators in the country; they will hold crop after crop, sometimes for so long as four years," he said. "In a year such as we are having we find that there is an enormous lot of wheat that isn't covered by the government records. If it wasn't for this fact the prices today would be much higher."

"There isn't anybody left in the speculative market now," Mr. Leiter said. "The speculators got out after the price passed the \$1.40 mark—the small trader was forced out and the big one was frightened out. The rise would have come much sooner had it not been for speculation."

Traitor General Is Shot.

Copenhagen — The newspapers here publish a Berlin dispatch reporting the killing of a prominent Turkish general in Syria. His death was ordered from Constantinople, it is said, the charge being made that he committed treason in endeavoring to carry out negotiations for peace. The basis of the general's negotiations, it is said, was the proclaiming of himself as sultan, the limiting of Turkey to Asia and the abandoning of Palestine and Mesopotamia to England.

SHIPS BOMBARD TURKISH FORTS

Constantinople to Be Taken By Allies at All Risk.

Mineweepers Clear Ship Channel and Heaviest Part of Great War Is Now Begun.

London—Twenty-eight warships of the allied fleet entered the Dardanelles Saturday and bombarded the inner forts, according to a dispatch from the Athens correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph company. The message adds that a battleship bombarded a Turkish camp on the Gulf of Saros.

After having completed the destruction of the forts at the entrance of the Dardanelles, the allied fleet of British and French warships, the greatest which has ever been in action, is now attacking the chief forts, which heretofore have stood between Turkey and invasion by the sea.

Apparently the outer forts could not withstand a great bombardment, and when they had been leveled and deserted by their defenders, men were landed from the ships to complete the work of demolition, while mine-sweepers cleared a passage for ships in the straits.

More serious work is now ahead, for the all-important fortifications at Kilid Bahr and Chanak, which guard the narrowest part of the straits, which the fleet is now approaching. There is no doubt, however, that the allied commanders have their instructions to make their way to Constantinople in spite of obstacles and have been supplied with the best means of carrying out these orders.

American Liner Captured by French Warships

Paris—A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the Channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is officially made.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam January 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton to be trans-shipped to Bremen. It was fully expected at that time that the ship would be seized on her way to Rotterdam.

Great Britain questioned the validity of the recent transfer of the Dacia from German to American registry. The Dacia touched at Norfolk February 11 and proceeded.

The Dacia was formerly a Hamburg-American freight steamship which had been used before the war in trade with Bremen and New Orleans and other Gulf ports. At the outbreak of the hostilities she was interned at Port Arthur, Tex.

The Dacia was bought on December 24 by an American and on January 4 American registry was obtained. It was then announced that she was to be used to relieve the cotton congestion and loading was begun with a cargo of cotton to be taken to Rotterdam and thence shipped to Bremen, where it was already sold.

Representations were made immediately by the British embassy at Washington, questioning the validity of the transfer of the interned vessel and it was generally understood that if she sailed she would be seized by British or French warships and taken before a prize court.

War Budget Yet Grows.

Berlin—The Federal council adopted the preliminary budget estimates, including 10,042,000,000 marks (\$2,510,500,000) for extraordinary expenditures. This amount is for carrying on the war.

The estimates of ordinary expenditures is 3,323,000,000 marks (\$83,075,000). Almost all of the amount to be devoted to the war will be raised by loans.

The Cologne Savings bank has subscribed 20,000,000 marks and the Victoria Insurance company to \$30,000,000 of the new war loan.

Russians Dislodge Turks.

Petrograd — Russian successes are reported in an official communication from the general staff of the army in the Caucasus. The statement says: "On February 28, on a line from Trans-Choruk, our troops progressed with success, dislodging the Turkish forces from their positions."

"In the passes south of Alacherkerte our troops in an engagement seized two Turkish artillery pieces."

German Cruiser Gets Two.

London—Lloyd's correspondent at La Concepcion, Chile, sends the following dispatch: "The steamer Skerries reports that the British bark Kid-almon and the French bark Jean were sunk by the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Frederick in December. The crews are at Easter Island and have refused to be taken off."

Remains of Russian Army Thought Powerless

Suwalki, Poland — The remains of the Russian tenth army, torn to remnants in the Mazurian Lakes country by Field Marshal von Hindenberg's East Prussian force, comprise but a negligible quantity in the operations that are now under way.

The recent overwhelming victory of the Germans was accomplished by the most terrific fighting after striking forced marches.

This fighting has been described as the February campaign in East Prussia and Northern Poland, and it is regarded here as a second Tannenberg.

The Russians composing the tenth army were under command of General Siewers. It is true that this commander, by a skillful use of the railroad at his disposal and by the sacrifices at times of entire battalions in order to bring off a few guns, succeeded in saving a greater part of his artillery, but no fewer than 60,000 of his 150,000 men are already counted among the German prisoners, while his killed and wounded in the four days' battle with which these operations were inaugurated and the subsequent running fights are estimated at 30,000 men.

On the streets of Suwalki there could be heard the sound of artillery from a swampy region to the southeast, where an isolated Russian division, perhaps 10,000 men strong, has been completely surrounded, but is still offering resistance.

Several thousand Russians probably remain in small scattered bands, or are wandering as stragglers within the ring which the German troops have now closed around the woods and swamps between Suwalki, Augustowo and the German frontier, but the capture of the wanderers is expected here and is regarded as merely an incident in a campaign to which this great success is called only the prelude.

It is not believed among German military men at Suwalki that General Siewers will be able to bring one-fifth of his troops safely behind the fortress at Grodno—a safety which may not be of long duration.

The foregoing statement may seem to be exaggerated, but a correspondent, motoring along the line of the Russian retreat over roads deep with snow and through a desolate and swampy country, gained an impression of complete defeat and demoralization which scarcely can be conveyed in words.

Carranza Loses 1500 Men, 6 Military Trains

Washington, D. C. — Fifteen hundred Carranza soldiers were killed and many captured by Villa troops at the battle of Zayula, according to General Villa's version of the fighting, forwarded from Chihuahua to the State department. After the battle, which took place last Friday, Villa reported that he personally headed the columns, pursuing the Carranza troops toward Manzanalillo. Villa said his own losses were 100 killed and 250 wounded.

Six military trains and the headquarters of General Dieguez, governor of Jalisco, were among the equipment which Villa said he had captured.

Defeat of General Carrasco, a Carranza commander, and the capture of Rosario, on the west coast of the republic, also were reported by Villa. Carrasco was said to have lost 500 men missing and to have retreated.

Allied Fleet Would Lower Wheat Cost

New York — If the Dardanelles should be opened by the allies' fleet, releasing grain from Russia and the Danubian countries, there would be a radical change in the situation that is keeping up wheat prices in the United States, said C. H. Canby, president of the Chicago board of trade, testifying before the state's investigation into food prices.

"It was Europe's tremendous demand, not speculation, that put up prices," said Mr. Canby.

He knew on the best of authority, he said, that one European belligerent would gladly pay \$2 a bushel for 50,000,000 bushels of wheat, if it could make the purchase.

He added that the situation is clearing up, wheat has reached its limit, and by the spring, when the shipments from Argentina begin, it will be well in hand.

The recent increase in the cost of wheat bread and flour will not cause suffering among the poor, he added. The rise in the price of wheat, he said, will be balanced by a decrease in the price of potatoes and other edibles.

Shetland Isles in Zone.

Amsterdam—A semi-official dispatch received here from Berlin says that the Orkney and Shetland islands, lying off the northeastern coast of Scotland at the head of the North Sea, and also Kirkwall harbor, in the Orkney Islands, must be regarded as lying within the war zone. The passages on both sides of the France islands, almost midway between Scotland and Iceland, are not endangered, the dispatch says.

Legislature Appropriates \$6,477,031 All Told

Salem — The appropriations of the Twenty-eighth Legislative assembly make an approximate total of \$6,477,031, or \$1,258,890 less than the preceding session. These figures are based on the actual general and continuing appropriations totals, and an estimate of \$350,000 for special appropriations.

Appropriations for the general fund total \$3,516,300, and those cared for by existing laws, millage tax and special funds total \$2,619,731. The aggregate appropriations for the 1913 session were \$7,735,921.68. Money was appropriated directly by the last legislature for the University of Oregon and the Oregon Agricultural college, while all but three or four items will be taken care of in the future by millage tax.

While the ways and means committee gave the appropriation for the Industrial Accident commission as \$967,187, it is as a matter of fact only about \$126,000, being one-seventh of the amount collected in fees by the department.

Following are the general state appropriations:

Oregon state hospital, \$675,166; Eastern Oregon state hospital, \$305,860; penitentiary, \$202,000; institution for feeble minded, \$144,961; capitol and Supreme court buildings, \$58,650; institute for blind, \$23,213; school for deaf, \$54,987; compilation laws, resolutions and memorials of 28th legislative assembly, \$8000; industrial school for girls, \$34,200; training school, \$65,275; legislative expenses, \$65,000; special agents, \$7000; library, \$23,800; Supreme court library, \$15,612; water board, \$35,395; engineer, \$37,430; department of education, \$39,088; bounty on wild animals, \$110,000; orphans and foundlings, \$100,000; board of health, \$30,000; social hygiene society, \$15,000; Florence Crittenden home, \$7500; Patton home, \$6000; Historical society, \$12,000; tuberculosis hospital, \$53,125; state treasury department, \$36,375; executive department, \$23,700; secretary of state, \$61,000; old soldiers' home, \$31,658.75; board of horticulture, \$12,000; forestry board, \$60,000; livestock sanitary board, \$49,940; Humane society, \$2000; National guard, \$155,000; completing

Eugene armory, \$6000; board of control, \$16,000; sealer of weights and measures, \$10,000; fee for legal services, I. H. Van Winkle and Martin Pipes, \$2200; State Fair, \$38,931.87; attorney general's office, \$35,000; sundry deficiency claims, (13 items), \$8,179.27; 28th legislative assembly miscellaneous printing, etc., \$27,000; election expenses, \$55,000; fugitives from justice, rewards, \$19,298.56; miscellaneous claims (23 items), \$6,457.63; Industrial Welfare commission, \$7000; Pilot commission, \$2400; labor commissioner, \$11,500; child labor commissioner, \$5000; wayward girls, \$20,000; Supreme court, \$99,600; bureau of mines and geology, \$25,000; mineral exhibit Panama-Pacific exposition, \$10,000; dairy and food commissioner, \$39,000; Land department, \$18,000; Banking department, \$15,000; tax commission, \$30,000; railroad commission, \$80,000; Circuit judges, \$200,000; district attorneys and deputies, \$134,000, and purchase of land for Oregon hospital, \$25,000.

Following are appropriations cared for by existing laws, millage tax and special funds, for which no new appropriations are necessary: Agricultural fairs, \$95,400; barber examiners, \$15,000; corporation commissioners, \$37,200; teachers' examiners, \$20,900; dental examiners, \$4,200; Oregon Agricultural college resident instruction, \$760,000; expert stations \$207,400; Agricultural college extension service \$194,106; University of Oregon, \$570,000; highway commission, \$490,000; industrial accident commission, \$126,000; insurance department \$30,000; optometry board, \$830; medical examiners, \$1095; motor vehicle registration, \$47,150, and stallion registration board, \$11,400.

Among the special appropriations are the following:

Returning Oregon Panama-Pacific exposition exhibit to state and establishing permanent exhibit of Oregon products, \$15,000; exterminating rabbits, \$3000; Roseburg armory, \$4000; payment deficiency traveling expenses veterans to Gettysburg celebration, \$4819.90; issuing blue book, \$2200; naval militia, \$15,000; special election to vote on measures of session, \$12,000.

Some Canneries, Loosely Organized, Do Not Pay

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—"Some of the canneries in the Northwest are making great success. Others are just about existing and still others are bankrupt," said Professor C. I. Lewis, when addressing the farmers who were attending the Farmers' Week at the Oregon Agricultural college. Professor Lewis attributes many of these failures to the fact that the canneries are run by private capital, whereas most of those now in existence in the Northwest are either co-operative or associative canneries.

"One of the greatest troubles with our co-operative canneries is that many of them are so loosely organized that they cannot do any legal business."

Polk Exhibits Planned.

Monmouth — Plans for exhibits at the 1915 Polk County fair have been made by pupils in the schools of this city. Gardens will be planted at the earliest clearing of the weather and drying off of the ground. In addition to having instructions as to the proper cultivation of vegetables on the plots, pupils are to have gardens at home. High school students, however, will have only home gardens, as the school garden plan has been abandoned. Great interest has been centered upon garden work by the grammar school boys for the past two years. They do not wait for the season to arrive before plans take form. The earliest vegetable raised command high prices at market.

Polk Nearly Rid of Pest.

Monmouth — The war on gophers, which has been conducted in Polk county for two years has at last secured a grip on the common field pests' work and destruction has abated partially, according to the statements of extensive land owners in this section. The farmers say the clover crop has attracted the gophers. In the summer and fall months the gophers undermine the clover plants and stop seed development. The animals also fatten in potato fields and sap plant life in gardens in the early summer.

Students Win In Strike.

Eugene—Three hundred high school students, who "struck" several weeks ago and refused to attend certain classes to which the school board had fixed a tuition fee, were sustained by an opinion of George M. Brown, attorney general. He holds that the school board has no right to charge tuition to any classes.

The legal authorities of association work in this country say that all associations must be purely mutual. However, many of our associations are not of this type and the most successful canneries in the state today is not a pure co-operative association. I do not believe that it is possible to run an association successfully without paying dividends. A second great difficulty which is made by the canneries in the Northwest is their lack of capital. If your farmers do not feel that they are willing to put in \$25 each to start a cannery they had better leave it alone. I believe that \$10,000 is necessary to successfully start a cannery."

Man Lost Since Fire Found.

Marshfield — Joseph Booker, whose body was searched for in the ruins of the Bunker Hill boarding house, where seven persons perished by fire, was found in a Smith-Powers logging camp at Wagner.

The reason for his disappearance without leaving any word caused the widespread search to be made. He was found in a small waiting depot at Bunker Hill the morning after the fire, waited there for daylight and then started for the Wagner camps on foot.

Reclamation Is Planned.

Marshfield—A definite movement is on at Coquille looking to clearing a tract of the rich Coquille Valley bottom lands to be utilized for experimental purposes. It is proposed to clear 40 acres of a 2500-acre tract for the owners and turn them over to persons who are willing to farm this sedimentary deposit. The owner has been offering \$18 an acre for clearing, slashing and burning, but laborers believe the work cannot be done for that amount. The Coquille Commercial club expects to offer an increase over the \$18 offer sufficient to get the work done.

Mountain Water Sought.

Eugene—A \$2000 gravity water system is planned by the little town of Florence on the Lane county coast, at the mouth of the Siuslaw river, according to J. W. Bergman, cashier of the Lane County State and Savings Bank, and W. H. O'Kelley, both of Florence. The city, it is said, has the assurance that sufficient bonds can be sold upon satisfactory terms. It proposes to take the water from the mountains, 12 miles distant.