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PRICE TEN CENTS.

GERMANY WILL EXPEL 5,000,000 TO CONSERVE FOOD Kaiser Will Personally Direct Submarines GOVERNMENT SHIPS MAY OPERATE TO ALASKA

NEW SHIPS MAY TRADE IN ALASKA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The ships purchased under the administration ship-purchase bill, if it should become a law, will be permitted to engage in the Alaska traffic. Such was brought out in the course of the debate in the House. While the bill was being discussed there Representative Albert Johnson, of Washington, asked the question as to whether or not, under the amendment adopted in the Democratic caucus, vessels of foreign bottoms, bought under the terms of the bill, could trade directly from the Atlantic with Alaska. The answer was in the affirmative.

Representative Raymond B. Stevens, of New Hampshire, who subsequently bolted the caucus got the caucus to write in Alaska.

President Says Ship Bill Safe.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—President Woodrow Wilson said today that there will be no need for an extra session of Congress, but that the ship-purchase bill and other necessary legislation will be adopted.

ASK THAT CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION START

Business men of Juneau are discussing the idea of taking organized action to hasten the beginning of construction work on the Juneau capitol building as soon as the civil sundry appropriation bill shall have passed the Senate. The bill provides for a continuation of the work, and appropriates \$75,000 additional money for that purpose.

Of the original appropriation for a Juneau public building \$177,500 remained after the site and the work of investigating the foundation were paid for. This sum is still available, and the addition of the \$75,000 carried in the sundry bill will increase the total available sum to \$252,500. This is \$75,000 less than Secretary of the Treasury William G. McAdoo has estimated that will be required for the building, but it is enough to pay for all the work that can be performed before another Congress convenes, which can make additional funds available.

The delay upon the beginning of the building has been due to the fact that since the original appropriation was made it was decided that more money would be required. The last Territorial Legislature memorialized Congress to appropriate \$500,000 additional. Gov. J. F. A. Strong and Gov. Walter E. Clark had asked for more money. On the 17th of last March Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo in a letter to Delegate James Wickersham called his attention to the memorial of the Alaska Legislature, and stated that his Department had decided that \$450,000 additional money—making \$275,500 all told—would be sufficient to erect a building large enough to accommodate the business of the Federal government at Juneau, and suggesting that he introduce a bill making the appropriation. Delegate Wickersham promptly complied with the request, introducing the bill March 24th last. The appropriations committee, in carrying out its program of economy, appropriated only \$75,000 for the purpose of "continuing" the construction of the building, recalling that the next Congress could appropriate the additional money needed when required.

George F. Forrest, discussing the need to get the Department busy with the construction work, has suggested that the Juneau municipal government, the Commercial Club, and such other instruments and influences as are available, should be set in motion to get the actual construction work started as soon as possible so that the building will be available before the third session of the Alaska Legislature shall convene in 1917. Others have agreed with Mr. Forrest's suggestion.

The government has a slightly, conveniently located and especially available building site between Main and Seward and Fourth and Fifth streets for the building.

THE WEATHER TODAY.
Maximum—34.
Minimum—23.
Precipitation—13 inch.
Cloudy—Snow.

CANNERIES CAN MINE FUEL AT GREAT SAVING

Forty salmon canneries operating in Southeastern Alaska can save several thousands of dollars on their coal bills this summer if they examine carefully the provisions of the new Alaska coal land leasing act and act accordingly.

In an interview accorded The Empire yesterday, Andrew Christenson, chief of the field division of the general land office pointed out that deposits of good lignite coal are plentiful in Southeastern Alaska, that the government gives any person or corporation permission to mine all the coal they want within a 10-acre tract, and that not once cent is charged by the government.

"We will go even further," Mr. Christenson said. "Our geological department shows the applicant where the coal is, and the government does not even charge a filing fee." Mr. Christenson added, as an after thought, that pen, ink and paper also will be furnished, if desired.

It will be remembered that for many years the clamor from Alaska has been: "If you won't let us mine the coal in the reserved areas, let us have coal for our own use." And so the reserved tracts have been opened, with almost no restrictions at all to tamper or discourage the applicant.

Chief Christenson called attention to the deposits of coal on Admiralty Island, a few miles from Juneau. Any one of the deposits indicated on the maps of the geological survey could produce enough bituminous fuel to operate a group of canneries through a season. At the present time the canneries pay about \$9 a ton, delivered to their plants, for the Canadian article. Mr. Christenson estimated that the canneries could mine and haul the coal which the government is willing to give them, for about \$2 a ton.

EUROPEAN WAR ISSUE IN AMERICAN ELECTION

PATERSON, N. J., Feb. 18.—At the coming election of commissioners in Passaic, N. J., the issue between pro-Germans and those who take the opposite view of the war situation will be joined. The German-Americans will put candidates in the field.

TO GERMANY RESTORED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The 5-cent postal rate applies once more to German mail due to the war, according to an announcement by Postmaster General A. S. Burleson.

LEGISLATORS ARE COMING TO JUNEAU

A week from Monday the second session of the Alaska Legislature will assemble here for a sixty-day session. The legislature will be housed on the Third floor of the Goldstein Block.

The legislators will begin to arrive tonight on the Mariposa, and it is expected that every member will be on hand by the time the session opens. The special election will be held at Nome a week from Saturday, caused by the death of Elwood Bruner.

Senator J. M. Tanner will arrive from Skagway next week. Senator Charles A. Sulzer is on his way back North from an Eastern trip, and Senator Frank Aldrich is here. Senators B. F. Millard and O. P. Hubbard from the Third division and Senator O. P. Ganstad of Fairbanks are expected to arrive on an early boat from the Westward, possibly tonight. Senator Dan Sutherland will come North from Seattle.

A. G. Shoup, member of the House, is expected to arrive from Sitka Saturday morning on the S. S. Georgia, and will make an active campaign for the Speakership, it is understood.

Assemblymen J. E. Daly, Nate Coombs, W. W. Getchell and Martin Moran, of the Second division, are in the States. Representative Dan Driscoll of Fairbanks is in Portland. Representative C. K. Snow of Ruby is expected here soon, as are E. B. Collins and W. T. Burns, also of the Fourth division. The members of the Third division delegation, T. B. Tansy, John Noon, Thomas Holland and Charles A. Day, are reported to be on the way. It is reported that Rep. J. R. Heckman, of the First division, is leaving San Francisco this week.

SEATTLEITES AFTER R. R. CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Falcon Joslin and Clyde L. Morris, formerly of Alaska but now residents of Seattle, are here seeking to secure construction contracts on the government railroad in Alaska.

Falcon Joslin built the Tanana railroad, and C. L. Morris is president of the C. L. Morris Construction company which built most of the railroad mileage in the Seward peninsula country.

In behalf of them it is being urged that the government will get better results if the construction work is done by contract.

CABLE REPAIR SHIP BURNSIDE IS COMING

SEATTLE, Feb. 18.—The cable ship Burnsides will sail for Alaska today to repair the United States cable near Sitka.

The steamer Spokane will sail for Alaska tonight.

G. A. R. COMMANDER IS AT SEATTLE

SEATTLE, Feb. 18.—Commander in Chief Palmer, of the Grand Army of the Republic, arrived here today for the purpose of addressing the Union Civil War veterans of the Department of Washington and Alaska.

MEXICAN RAILWAY TO CLOSE AMERICAN OFFICES

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—National railways of Mexico officials learn from Mexico City that at the end of this present month traffic and soliciting agencies of the road in New York, Chicago and San Francisco are to be closed. Branches at San Antonio, New Orleans and St. Louis are already shut up. The company will cease to have any agencies of this character in the United States.

SENATE WILL INVESTIGATE SEVERAL SENATE CONTESTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Charges involving corruption in the election of Senator Jacob H. Gallinger, of New Hampshire; Frank B. Brandegee, of Connecticut; Boies Penrose, of Pennsylvania, and L. V. Sherman, Ill. nois, and Senators-Elect Warren G. Harding, of Ohio; J. C. W. Beckham, of Kentucky, and Oscar W. Underwood, of Alabama, have resulted in the appointment of a Senate committee to investigate the charges.

DANCE TO CROWN "MASONIC WEEK"

Tomorrow night will mark the conclusion of the Masonic observance which has been in progress under the direction of Ernest B. Hensley, of Seattle, all week. Nearly forty candidates have been going through the degrees up to the thirty-second. A banquet tomorrow night will be given, in honor of the class.

Saturday night the Shrine hall will be given in the rink and the indications are that it will be one of the most brilliant parties ever given in Alaska.

The committees are as follows: Glad Hand—Gov. J. F. A. Strong, Royal Arch—Gunnison, B. M. Behrens, John Rustard, Z. R. Cheney, James Christie, J. W. Martin, James Hogan, H. T. Tripp, J. C. McBride, Isa. Goldstein, John G. Held, Chas. Osterberg, Jr., W. H. Case, E. Webster, John T. Reed, J. W. Bell, Lloyd V. Winter, Paul Bloedhorn, Chas. Goldstein, C. S. Lindsey, Joe Woodford.

Hall and Decorations—Fred Smith, Wm. Fyfe, D. M. Bohwell, V. N. Dupuy, Walter DeLong, Alock Prussing, M. H. Baker, W. W. Casey, Merle Thomas and V. J. Kubin.

Refreshments—L. S. Ferris, H. C. Daniels, Ben Leaming, Wm. Fells and Howard Ewing.

Music—R. H. Stevens, D. J. Kinzie, Chas. Ostrom, Chas. Osterberg, and Archie Lewis.

Invitation—H. H. Post, R. J. Walzen, V. A. Paine, C. G. McKinnon, P. B. Hyder.

Dance—J. L. Bush, Semmer Smith and C. H. Pasella.

NATIVES RETURN; AUK VILLAGE CELEBRATING

Reporting a battle with a terrific storm on the Taku Saturday morning, the little launch Flora, thought to have sunk with eight native Indians, four of them women, called into port at 9:30 o'clock this morning, just as three more rescue parties were setting out to look for them.

That the eight members of the two hunting parties which yesterday were reported to have lost their lives passed through the worst experience in their memories was accentuated by the stories they told of the storm, and of their miraculous escape.

Charles Garside, who headed the party, says the launch was tossed about like a cork after the line which had been made fast to Kan-Koo's rail boat and canoe had parted, and it was only after the little craft's nose had been kept pointed into the teeth of the gale for many hours that the wind died down sufficiently to enable the Flora to reach Point Bishop.

Every member of the party was soaked to the skin by the water that poured into the boat during the storm.

After the small boats had cut adrift from the Flora they drifted up Lynn Canal to the northwesterly point of Douglas Island, where they were found by an Indian camp. The picking up of the small boat was reported here yesterday morning. The Indians at Auk village entertained grave fears for the safety of the hunting parties.

Today a celebration is being held in the village, to mark the return of the wanderers.

The delay of the hunters in returning is accredited by them to the fact that for two days they have been hunting for the small boats which they feared had been lost.

U. S. STEEL INCREASES CAPACITY 25 PER CENT.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The New York American financial column says: "The number of men employed by the United States Steel Corporation has been increased 25 per cent. since December. The volume of business has increased a similar percentage during the same period."

Eric Increases Orders

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The Eric railroad has ordered 23,000 tons of rails or 9,000 tons more than was previously expected.

Big Foreign Steel Orders

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The United States Steel Products Company has taken orders for 7,500 tons of rails for Russia and 10,000 tons for Chile.

LEGISLATURE MAY ELECT NON-MEMBER AS SPEAKER

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 18.—Failure of the House to elect a speaker is causing speculation over the possibility of electing someone from outside its membership. There is no express provision either in the Constitution or statutes that a speaker shall be a member of the House. Some of the lawyers of the House are of the opinion that the election of an outsider would be legal.

In line with this theory Representative Holiday has started a boom for former Lieutenant Governor John G. Ogleby for speaker. Other members have suggested the possibility of retaining Secretary of State Lewis G. Stevenson as the permanent speaker.

The House of Representatives has been six weeks trying to perfect a temporary organization. In the meantime Secretary of State Stevenson has been presiding.

GERMANY CONTINUES TO SIEZE GRAIN

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 18.—The German War Grain Company, an organization to acquire all available grain in Germany and store it until next May, has seized more than 3,000,000 tons of grain.

FRANCE TO CAPTURE GREAT POTASH DEPOSITS

PARIS, Feb. 18.—More than \$12,000,000 worth of potash deposits are within the grasp of the French army in Alsace and will pass into the possession of France when Mulhouse is retaken. This acquisition alone will largely compensate France for its immense war expenditures. The deposits are known as the Nonnenbruche mines. They are situated on a strategic road from Thann to Mulhouse.

KAISER TO DIRECT THE BLOCKADE

HAMBURG, Feb. 18.—It is understood here that Emperor William is on his way to Heligoland from where he will personally direct the German submarine blockade of British and French waters and ports.

Cause Scarcely a Ripple.
LONDON, Feb. 18.—Beyond the suspension of the service of some of the Dutch and Scandinavian lines across the North Sea to British and French ports, there has nothing occurred to indicate that the German submarine blockade of the war zone has been inaugurated. It has caused scarcely a visible ripple.

The British admiralty is patrolling the waters of the English channel and the North and Irish seas with torpedo boat destroyers, torpedo boats, submarines and small cruisers, seeking German submarines for the purpose of destroying them.

Other plans to free the coast of submarines are not disclosed by the admiralty.

RAINSTORM MARKS FIRST DAY OF GERMAN BLOCKADE

LONDON, Feb. 18.—A driving rain-storm is sweeping the coast and harbors of Great Britain during the first day of the German blockade.

The British people have great confidence in their navy, and regard it as able to care for the German blockade.

Advises received by the British admiralty are that 100 German submarines are ready for blockading purposes.

ROME PAPERS SAY BLOCKADE IS BLUFF

ROME, Feb. 18.—Newspapers of this city declare that the entire German war zone blockade is a gigantic bluff.

LITTLE CHANGE EITHER IN EAST OR WEST

LONDON, Feb. 18.—The interest in London is chiefly centered in the starvation war that is being inaugurated by the British and German navies.

Advises from Petrograd and other news centers indicate that there has been little change in the situation in either the eastern or western theatres of war.

GERMANS WOULD LET AMERICANS HANDLE FOOD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Count Bernstorff, German ambassador, has suggested that the cargo of foodstuffs aboard the Wilhelmina, destined for the use of German civilians, be handled by American consular officials so as to guarantee that none of the cargo will be put to military uses.

FLEET TO MOBILIZE.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Feb. 12.—Preparations for the Pacific fleet of the United States to welcome the Atlantic fleet when the great international armada comes through the Panama Canal in March, are going rapidly forward. The west coast fleet, made up of the flagship San Diego, under Rear Admiral Thomas B. Howard, the cruisers Colorado and South Dakota, nine torpedo boat destroyers and four submarines, will mobilize at this port to greet the war vessels from the Atlantic seaboard. At present, the destroyers and the submarines are already stationed here, while the cruisers are on patrol duty on the Mexican coast.

Composing the great fleet which will come through the Panama Canal, will be the famous battleship Oregon, the cruiser Olympia, which won fame at Manila, twenty-one super-dreadnaughts and battleships and a flotilla of destroyers from the American Atlantic fleet, two armored cruisers from Argentina, two battleships from Brazil and four cruisers from other South American countries.

The armada will steam up the west coast to this port, where the first stop will be made. Including auxiliaries, there will be more than sixty warships at anchor in the bay here next March, when the ships from the Atlantic arrive. This will be the greatest fleet of war vessels ever assembled in the Pacific ocean.

TODAY LAST OF PEACE CENTURY ANNIVERSARIES

Today is the centennial anniversary of the proclaiming by President James Madison and Secretary of State James Monroe (later President and proclaimer of the Monroe Doctrine) of the treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain. It completes the centenary dates in connection with the close of the War of 1812. The other centenary dates commemorated the signing of the treaty of peace at Ghent, December 24, 1814; the last fighting of importance, at New Orleans, January 8, 1815, and the ratification of the peace treaty by the United States Senate February 17, 1815.

All of these dates have been observed in a more or less marked manner wherever American citizens and British subjects have been able to foregather.

Dawson Sends Greetings Through The Empire.

Yesterday evening The Empire received the following telegram of greetings from the Dawson News: "Dawson Y. T. Feb. 17, 1915. 'The Empire, Juneau, Alaska.

'Greetings from Northland's greatest placer-camp to greatest quartz camp over centenary peace America and Britain. May peace and prosperity never cease.

'(Signed) 'DAWSON NEWS.' Dawson News to Gov. Strong. At the same time Gov. J. F. A. Strong received the following telegram from the Dawson News: "GOV. STRONG:—Greetings and congratulations on the anniversary of a hundred years peace between America and Great Britain. May it be permanent and the northern neighbors continue to prosper under the two flags.

"DAWSON NEWS."

The Empire Acknowledges.
The Empire sent the following acknowledgment of the Dawson News' greetings this morning: "Juneau, Alaska, Feb. 18, 1915. 'Dawson News.

'Dawson, Yukon Territory: "In fitting that the two leading communities of the region where the relationship is closest between the citizens of the two most intimately associated branches of the people concerned should exchange felicitations on the completion of a century of Anglo-Saxon peace.

"On this centennial anniversary day of the proclaiming of the Ghent peace treaty by President Madison and Secretary of State Monroe, The Empire acknowledges your greetings written on the anniversary of the ratification of that treaty by the American Senate.

"Let Alaska-Yukon influence be exerted constantly toward the end that the five-thousand-mile-American-Canadian boundary shall remain unfortified as a monument to enlightened Anglo-Saxon civilization, and the good sense of the American branches of that race.

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"THE EMPIRE."

BELGIANS CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR VICTORY

BRUSSELS, (via London), Feb. 18.—"The Belgians," said General Von Bismarck, the new governing general of Belgium, "are politically undisciplined children. They believe their liberation from Germany may come at any moment, and they are strengthened in this belief by the French newspapers, as well as by some neutral newspapers which continually are smuggled in.

"When, as frequently happens, a favorable wind brings the sound of cannon to the city, the Belgians believe the long-looked-for day has come. On several occasions the very date for the return of King Albert has been set and no number of disappointments seem to crush the hopes of the people.

AMERICAN SHIPPING CONTINUES TO GROW

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Foreign vessels to the number of 123, aggregating 455,021 tons, have been admitted to American registry under recent legislation.

SENATE INCREASES RIVERS AND HARBORS APPROPRIATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The United States Senate committee on rivers and harbors increased the appropriations carried in the bill by \$4,900,000 over the amount specified in the bill as it passed the house.

GERMANY TO BANISH 5,000,000

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 18.—Owing to the necessity of conserving the food-stuffs of Germany, it has been decided to restrict its consumption. To make this more effective, Germany will order that 5,000,000 of people, who possess independent incomes and are ineligible for military service, leave the country immediately for neutral countries.

The exodus of German for the Scandinavian countries, Holland, Switzerland and the United States will begin immediately.

KAISER AND KING STANDING PAT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The British reply to the American note denies that the naval acts of Great Britain will hurt American trade.

The reply says that Great Britain will not allow food to be shipped to Germany on account of the German organization which makes all food-stuffs subject to government control and available for military purposes. No embargo on arms.

President Woodrow Wilson told a committee that called upon him today that to place an embargo on the shipment of arms would be a most un-neutral act.

GERMAN NOTE FRIENDLY BUT THAT IS ALL

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The German note to the United States is couched in the most friendly terms. It says that Germany is clearly within her rights in establishing a submarine blockade of British ports because England has refused to raise the food blockade.

AUSTRIANS THREATEN ITALIAN BORDER
GENEVA, Feb. 18.—Austrians are concentrating a large force of troops on the Italian border.

PEACE TALK AMONG BANKERS OF WORLD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—There is known to be a more or less organized movement among international financiers towards peace, it is said, which has for its purpose, the ending of the European conflict about May 1st. The proposal is being discussed among the bankers of the belligerent powers as well as by American bankers.

Berlin Note of Despair
AMSTERDAM, Feb. 18.—The Berliner Freiheit in its leading article Tuesday said: "Contrary to official predictions it is uncertain as to whether Germany's hopes will be fulfilled and she will be victorious. We know the Allies' strength at present, but not their strength in the future."

German Press Wants Peace.
LONDON, Feb. 18.—A Copenhagen correspondent of the Telegraph Exchange Company, of London writes that lengthy discussions of peace terms are appearing in the German press, the attitude of which indicates a desire to end the war.

Kaiser Not Ambitious.
BERLIN, Feb. 18.—The official press bureau gave out the following: "The emperor, in conversation with the German author Ganghofer, said recently that the allegations that he intended to lay the foundations of a German-world-wide empire were ridiculous nonsense."

SPAIN LOOKS FOR PEACE BUT NOT SO SOON

MADRID, Feb. 18.—Senator Reverter, who is in close touch with the Spanish foreign office, declared his belief in a speech in the Senate that a treaty of peace terminating the European war will be signed during the present year.

The Empire circulation leads. Try advertising in it.