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Dispatches

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Today's News
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PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS - FIVE CENTS

LEGISLATURE WILL OPEN 28TH BIENNIAL SESSION ON MONDAY

Usual Hustle and Bustle Precedes First Meeting of Law Makers

TEMPORARY ORGANIZATION FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Joint Session Will Canvass Vote and Announce Governor's Election

All is hustle and bustle at the state house upon the eve of the legislative session which convenes at 9 o'clock Monday morning and will remain in session for 40 days. The house of representatives and senate chambers, with the desk and other equipment, have been put in perfect order by Building Superintendent George Dunford and his corps of extra assistants, and everything will be in readiness to start the law-making machinery in motion when Chief Clerk John W. Cochran, of the last session, and Chief Clerk Fred Dringer, of the last house of representatives, sound their gongs calling the separate bodies to order.

The first order of business will be to form temporary organization, by naming temporary officers of the respective bodies, and then will come the regular organization by electing permanent officers, naming of committees, etc. It is not expected that any time will be lost in the organization of either branch of the assembly, unless a close contest should develop in the fight over the speakership, and the general plans are for the convening of the vote for governor and the inauguration of Governor-elect Withycombe and the reading of his message, to take place on Tuesday morning. Governor West has previously stated that his message will not be read, but the members will be furnished with printed copies, unless he changes his mind and then decides to read his rousing message.

For the first time in 10 years the inauguration of a republican governor will take place, and elaborate plans have been made by the special committee of the Salem Republican club, composed of President Seymour Jones, an chairman, Carl Abrams, Ben F. West, Max Gohlhar and Mark McCallister, for an informal reception and inaugural exercises to be held at the state house beginning at 8 o'clock in the evening.

The reception to the governor and other state officers, including the secretary of state, treasurer, justices of the supreme court, superintendent of public instruction and state engineer and their wives will take place in the governor's suite when the ladies' committee on decoration and reception will have charge. This committee is composed of Mrs. C. P. Bishop, Mrs. J. D. Sutherland, Mrs. P. H. Raymond, Mrs. F. A. Elliott, Mrs. R. Cartwright and Mrs. Seymour Jones.

There is expected to be a special train bearing scores of people from Corvallis to be in attendance at the evening's reception, and the O. A. C. orchestra, composed of 10 pieces, will be on hand to render the musical part of the evening's program in the house of representatives, the principal feature of which will be a song by Mrs. W. Carlton Smith, Salem's popular songbird. It is also probable that some short talks will be made by state officials and others during the evening. The whole affair is open to the public and will be absolutely informal.

ALLIES GAINS CONTINUE IN SOISSONS DISTRICT

Paris, Jan. 9.—Fresh gains by the allies in the Soissons district were reported here today. It was said the fighting in Alsace was increasing steadily in violence, with the advantage alternating between the French and Germans.

FERGUSON'S REPORT SHORTEST ON RECORD

Work Done By Department Is Summed Up In Three Paragraphs

"Sir: I have the honor to report that the receipts of the insurance department for the biennial period 1911-1912 were \$295,396.51, and for the biennial period 1913-1914, \$232,369.97, an increase of \$63,026.54. The expenses for the biennial period 1911-1912 were \$27,873.36, and for the biennial period 1913-1914, \$25,205.08, a decrease of \$2,668.28. The net revenue to the state from the insurance department for the biennial period of 1911-1912 was \$177,523.15, and for the biennial period 1913-1914, \$201,164.89, a net gain of \$23,641.74. Yours very respectfully,"

The above is the sum total and the substance of the biennial report of State Insurance Commissioner J. W. Ferguson to Governor West, made yesterday afternoon. If it is not actually the shortest report of a departmental head to the chief executive on record, it is shorter, by about 50 words, than his previous report for the biennium of 1911-1912.

Although brief, short of all superfluous verbiage and immobility, it is strictly business and to the point, of the methods of conducting the affairs of the department, but, when analyzed, it speaks volumes. In short, it shows that during the two years just closed the receipts of his department have increased \$63,026.54 over those of the previous two years, the expenses of conducting the department have decreased \$2,668.28, and the net gain in the amount turned into the general fund for the payment of the expenses of state government, over and above the cost of maintaining the department, was \$23,641.74.

When it is understood that the insurance department receives no appropriation whatever, not a single cent, from the legislature for maintenance and the department is limited to \$15,000 per year to pay all expenses of administration, of \$30,000 for the biennium, to be retained out of the fees, licenses, etc., collected through the department, and that an actual saving of \$7,741.92 has been made in the amount allowed the department for the two-year period and this sum is turned into the general fund of the treasury, some idea may be gained as to the true import of the above statement and the businesslike method that applies to the administration of the department.

Some idea of the great volume of business that is transacted by this department, which is easily the greatest revenue-producing department of the state's group when it is considered that no state funds are required to conduct its affairs, may be gained by the showing made in the above brief statement, which shows that of the \$232,369.97 collected for fees, licenses, etc., during the two years all but \$25,205.08, deducted for defraying the expenses of the department, or \$207,164.89, was turned into the general fund and contributed to the support of the other state institutions, departments, commissions, etc.

Another very satisfactory feature of this masterpiece of departmental reports, which, aside from the expense saved in the printing and publication of an extended report, might appeal to the taxpayer as well as to the student of political economy, is that while the receipts of the department have increased \$63,026.54 over the previous two years, indicating a proportionate increase in the amount of work necessary to handle the business of the department, the expenses of conducting the department, instead of increasing with the volume of business transacted, have shown a decrease of \$2,668.28 as compared to the cost of administering the work of the department for the previous two years.

"That's all," quietly said Mr. Ferguson, when asked for the balance of his report, which, in the vernacular of the streets, was equivalent to "Nuff said."

VON WIEGAND GIVEN PERMIT TO REMAIN AT FRONT

Berlin, via The Hague, Jan. 9.—An order authorizing Correspondent Karl H. Von Wiegand to remain with the troops at the front throughout the rest of the war was issued today by the German general staff. A special pass and credentials from the kaiser's headquarters were granted him, with permission to visit the scenes of fighting, east and west, at will. This was the first department from the rule prohibiting foreign correspondents from visiting the front except by prearranged plan in the case of each individual visit.

ENGLISH NOT IN THE WAR FOR WHAT THEY WILL GET OUT OF IT

Were Forced Into Conflict According to Common British Belief

EXPECT GERMANS TO BE BADLY DEFEATED IN END

England Planning to Acquire Much Territory When Peace Is Declared

London, Dec. 24.—(By mail to New York.)—No Englishman will admit that Great Britain engaged in the present European war for what there was to be made out of it. Nor, for that matter, did it do so. Whatever may be the actual merits of the case—and it is not for a neutral to judge them—the British unquestionably consider that the war was forced on them.

But it is also a fact that they do expect to profit by it. They are confident that the allies will win. Here and there may be found one who will discuss the possibility, though he will not consider the likelihood of a draw. The idea of German victory is scouted on all hands.

If, as a matter of fact, Germany should be successful, it is hard to tell what might or might not happen. Assuredly it would be a bad thing for Great Britain, but it is doubtful if the Germans themselves could for an out and out victory. A draw, or more properly a stalemate, is probably the best they could expect. And it is true that this would be in a certain sense a victory for them.

That is because they, too, hold that the war was forced on them. They contend that the British wish to destroy them. If the allies fail actually to beat them, then they may say that they failed in their destructive intent, but the Germans defended themselves successfully and that they are there for the victors.

And to the neutral onlooker here a stalemate does seem the likeliest outcome. Assuming that such is the outcome, (Continued on Page Five.)

BAN TO BE PLACED ON ALL "JUNKETING TRIPS"

Olcott Would Have Governor Issue Permit For All Special Tips

In order to eliminate or to prevent as much as possible the taking of so-called "junketing trips" outside of the state, by state officials or persons serving in semi-official capacities, at state expense, Secretary of State Olcott is contemplating the adoption of a rule under which, unless the submission of a claim for traveling expenses outside the state is accompanied by the written consent of the governor, authorizing the expense and limiting the maximum amount to be paid by the state, he will not audit the claim.

In his report to the legislative assembly Secretary of State Olcott will request that some legislation be enacted which will make it the specific duty of anyone contemplating a trip outside the state to first secure the written consent of the governor to incur such expense and such permit should set forth the maximum amount for which the state shall be held liable.

At present there is no specific law governing the liability of the state in the case of traveling expenses of state officials and employes when transacting official business outside of the state. Secretary Olcott states that "the present law generally authorizes the payment of the necessary expenses of the several departments, and this is viewed to include traveling expenses outside the state, this business has grown to such proportions that it would seem expedient to regulate it in some manner different from that which now obtains.

Bitter Fight to Follow Indictment of Labor Leaders

Chicago, Jan. 9.—One of the bitterest fights in the history of the organized labor was predicted today, following indictments returned here against Charles W. Fry, business agent for the local machinists' union, and two others. The three men were charged with preventing the delivery of ice machinery from York, Pa., to the Knickerbocker ice company of Chicago. The maximum penalty for conspiring to interfere with interstate delivery is a fine of \$10,000 and five years' imprisonment.

Preparity has its thorns, and adversity likewise has its roses.

Allies Have at Last Discovered Secret of Forty-Two Centimeter Gun

By J. W. T. Mason (Former London correspondent for the United Press.)
New York, Jan. 9.—The most closely guarded secret of the European war is a secret no longer. The allies have discovered the principle of the German 42 centimeter gun, and Lord Haldane, lord chancellor of England, announces that English experts are now engaged in making mortars as good as the Germans'. To be sure, the only present use any of the allies can make of the monster weapon is at the Russian siege of Przemyel. For field operations small pieces are more serviceable. The "42's" supreme value is for fortresses bombardment. Just now no fortress is being attacked, with the exception of Przemyel, and at this place the Austrians' stubborn resistance has been possibly only because the Russians have not yet revolutionized their mortars, as have the Germans.

GERMAN AIRMEN ARE DOING GREAT DAMAGE

Scouting in Alsace Responsible For Victory of the Kaiser's Forces

Berlin, by wireless to London, Jan. 9.—German aviators are becoming increasingly active at the western fighting front, according to stories told by war office officials here today. Among the aerial exploits mentioned was an attack by six of the kaiser's aeroplanes on the allies' military depots at Strazelle and Haezbroek, where the birdmen's bombs started fires in both magazines. British biplanes, armed with rapid-fire guns, attempted to meet the Germans but at latest accounts received here the outcome of the engagement was not known.

A German aerial bomb had also set fire to the railroad station at Armentieres and it was reported that many soldiers were killed at the same time. Three more aviators tossed bombs into Fort Bosshart, one of the Verdun defenses, but the result of this attempt could not be learned.

In Alsace, it was stated that German aviators' observations had enabled the kaiser's forces to defeat all French attacks.

BELIEVE THAT LONG SOUGHT WEAK SPOT HAS BEEN LOCATED

Retreat of the Germans at Soissons Rouses Hopes of Allies

ANTICIPATE OPPORTUNITY TO DIVIDE GERMAN LINE

German War Office Denies All French Victories As Usual

The allies have long been looking for a weak spot in Germany's western front. They were sure there must be one at the point where the kaiser had withdrawn the most men to fight the Russians. Today they thought they had found it at Soissons.

They said they had gained there and hoped to drive a wedge into the German line. French gains were claimed also in the Argonne. The Germans denied the whole story, saying the enemy had been repulsed instead.

Even the allies admitted German successes in the Woerw district. The weather was better so there was better fighting along the whole line. It was better also in Poland, and west of Warsaw and to the northward fierce engagements raged on the frozen swamps.

The Russian had gained almost complete control of Bukovina province, Austria, and their vanguard was entering Hungary, which the Austrians were concentrating to defend. The Turks, now commanded, it was said, by German Field Marshal Von Der Goltz, were again giving battle to the Russians in Transcaucasia.

Big Bakers Say 8 Cent Bread Is a Possibility

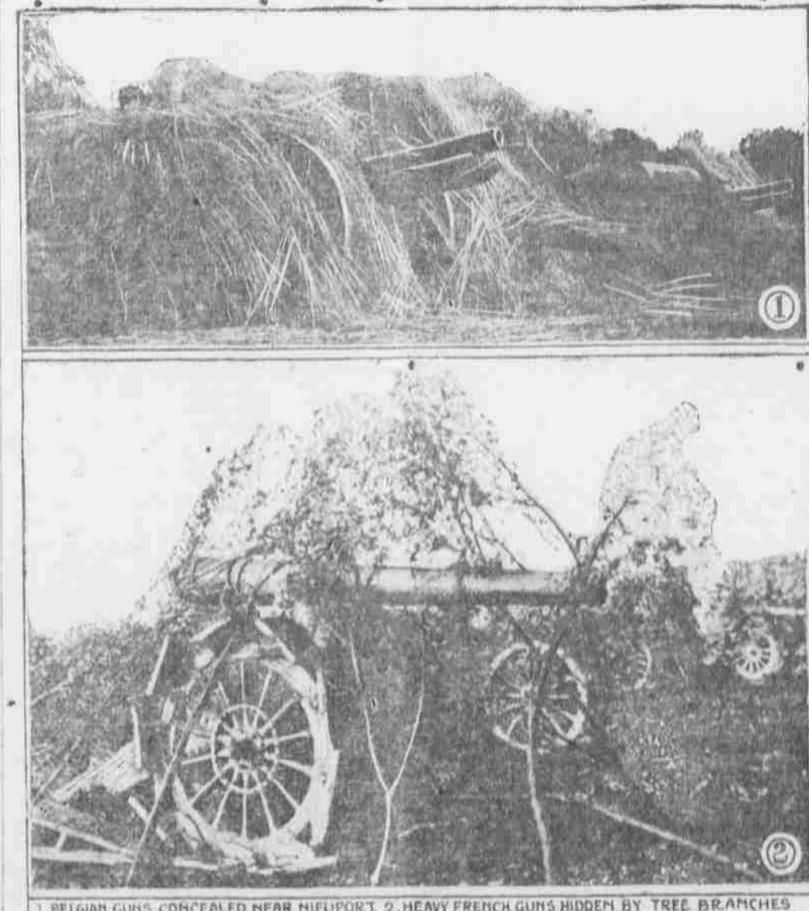
New York, Jan. 9.—Big bakers here declared today that 8-cent bread was a possible development of the Chicago wheat stampede. The present situation, they said, was unprecedented.

ELEY IS THREE-CUSHION CHAMP

San Francisco, Jan. 9.—The title of Pacific coast three cushion billiard champion belongs today to Frank Eley, following his defeat here last night of Joe Carver, former title holder, by a score of 50 to 37.

SAY WILSON INTENDS TO BE 1916 CANDIDATE

Washington, Jan. 9.—Democrats and republicans here alibi today generally regarding President Wilson's speech in Indianapolis yesterday as an announcement of his candidacy for reelection. The democrats said the single-term plank in the Baltimore platform would be brushed aside to clear the track. Representative Mondell, republican, of Wyoming, said: "The democrats have had a lot of ideas lately, all of which have been bad for the country when put into effect. In the midst of the disasters and difficulties his party has brought upon us, the president still appears optimistic. He said the republican party was a refuge for those who are afraid. If he had said it was a refuge for those who are afraid to trust the country further to disaster and ruin, he would have been more accurate."



1. BELGIAN GUNS CONCEALED NEAR NIEUPOORT. 2. HEAVY FRENCH GUNS HIDDEN BY TREE BRANCHES

The main thing in artillery warfare is to keep the batteries so concealed that the enemy cannot locate them until too late. The moment a battery is located and the range obtained its position becomes untenable. These pictures show how cleverly Belgian and French cannon are concealed with straw or branches of trees.

FIGHTING ALONG THE VISTULA IS RESUMED

Germans Continue On Defensive and Lose Heavily In Night Attack

Petrograd, Jan. 9.—Following a lull due to unfavorable weather, fighting along the Vistula had been resumed today on an extensive scale. The Germans were on the offensive. They were sacrificing thousands of men in efforts to take the Russian's outer positions. The most desperate encounters were between Saska and Mangleb. Along this line the Germans delivered a brilliant night attack, which was several positions for them, but later they were dislodged.

It had turned cold and the swamps were frozen, which enabled both sides to use all their forces. The Germans had been heavily reinforced with troops drawn from France and Belgium. Russian military experts expressed the opinion that the present offensive was the kaiser's final attempt to take Warsaw. Reports from the front indicated that the Germans had been checked at least, and it was predicted that if they suffered an out and out defeat they would have to withdraw beyond their own frontier.

Fighting in northern Poland, as well as directly west of Warsaw, was of a desperate character. In Galicia there had been practically no change in the situation. Virtually all of Bukovina was under the Russian control. The Slavs were advancing toward the Hungarian frontier.

The official statement was made that 10,000 Austrians, with quantities of military supplies, had been captured. In Transcaucasia fighting with the Turks had been renewed. It was reported that Field Marshal Von Der Goltz, the German officer who organized the allies' present army and who was commanding an expedition to Ottoman campaign against Russia, had assumed the supreme command at the front.

ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 9.—Neighbors hearing a shot in the home of Mrs. May Burke, 27, hurried into the house today and found Mrs. Burke unconscious with a bullet hole in her head and a revolver by her side. Physicians say she has a chance to recover.

The Weather

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BAR
Oregon: Twilight and Sunday rain; southerly winds.