

La Grande Evening Observer

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TURKS BUTCHER CIVILIAN POPULATION OF ARMENIAN CITY AS SLAVS APPROACH

HELPLESS CHRISTIAN MEN, WOMEN AND
CHILDREN ARE KILLED

RUSSIANS HOURLY EXPECT NEWS OF GREAT VICTORY

TERRIFIC BATTLE HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE GERMAN
AND FRENCH ARTILLERY

Petrograd, Dec. 28.—That the Turkish military commander at Bushkara, Armenia, ordered a massacre of the town's civilian population when Russians approached it, is charged by fugitives from the scene of the alleged slaughter. Even aged men, women, and children were butchered, it is asserted.

It is said that the homes of Christians were invaded every where and looted, and occupants thrown through windows into the streets. According to the news received here only 30 men escaped.

Big Victory Expected.

Petrograd, Dec. 28.—News of another crushing defeat of Germans in Poland is hourly expected. The Kaiser's main attack on Warsaw is reported to be checked. Along the Bzura and Rova rivers, the Germans are reported to be confining their efforts mainly to heavy artillery fire, after having suffered heavily. The war office admitted the situation in Northern Poland has become threatening. Russians admit officially the invaders have recaptured Miawa.

Germans Holding Their Own.
Berlin, Dec. 28.—Hot fighting in which Germans held their own is described in a war office report on the situation in the Western zone. "The enemy," said the statement, "unsuccessfully renewed its attacks on our lines from Nieupoort. The attack by the Allies on Saint George failed."

NEW LICENSES GRANTED.

Earnst Thorsen Locates at North Powder—Quarantine Lifted.

The city council met in regular session Monday evening with all members present except councilmen Leubart, says the North Powder News. The applications of Ledbetter and Pearce, and Earnst Thorsen for liquor license and Parker and Williams for a pool hall license were favorably acted upon and license ordered issued commencing January 1st. The proposition of the business men in which they subscribe a certain amount of money toward the payment of the present marshal as night watchman and requesting the city to increase his salary to a like amount was brought to the attention of the council and on motion the matter was left for the consideration of the new council but in the meantime allowing the marshal to act as night watchman if he so desired but without additional pay from the city. Dr. Irvine reported that there were no new cases of diphtheria and that the present case was progressing satisfactorily and that quarantine of the Tally family could be lifted Thursday the 24th. In accordance with the report, Councilmen Dalton and McGrath under the supervision of Dr. Irvine were instructed to employ a suitable party to thoroughly disinfect and fumigate the entire premises. One of the main features of business that was discussed was the ordinance providing for the invoking of the Initiative and Referendum. After a strenuous argument on the various provisions of the ordinance at the suggestion of Attorney Mitchell the passage of the ordinance was laid on the table until the qualification of the councilmen and mayor elect. During the meantime the matters discussed can be considered.

SEAT SALE STARTS.

Seats for the Glee Club Concert Now Selling at Red Cross.

The seats for the University of Oregon Glee club concert, to be held at Sterry's theater, are now selling at the Red Cross drug store. The seats are moving fast as the theater-going public anticipates a banner concert and are getting good seats early. The local University boys, are doing all they can to fill the house to give the boys a good send off and show them that La Grande appreciates their coming here every year with their delightful concert of songs and stunts.

South of Ypres we captured a trench and took dozens of prisoners. Violent assaults in Northwest Arras was likewise repelled."

Paris, Dec. 28.—A terrific battle between the French and Germans has been raging for two days along the Vosges front, it is admitted by military headquarters. Just before the engagement a French aviator made a flight and informed himself accurately concerning the position occupied by the Kaiser's troops, and signalled the range to the Gallic gunners, who it is declared, commenced dropping shells among the enemy with deadly effect.

A Berne dispatch says the cannonading has been heard in Switzerland since Friday.

"Allies are Advancing."

"The Allies are advancing in Belgium" says a war office bulletin tonight, "as far north as the sand dunes along the North sea coast. The Germans have established a new line South of the Ypres. Near Holleboke we lost a section of our trenches. In Lens the French captured 500 yards of trenches from the Germans. In the Aisne and Champagne districts there has been a terrific artillery fire. About Rheims and Pertles our troops made little progress along the entire line. The Germans are bombarding Sint Dieu."

GUTIERRIZ QUITS SEAT

PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT REPORTED RESIGNED

Villa's Troops at Torreon Reported to Have Revolted

Washington, Dec. 28.—Reports that Provisional President Gutierrez, placed in office with the sanction of Villa, has resigned and enlisted in Carranza's constitutionalist army have been received by constitutionalists agencies here. The agency officials admitted the reports were unofficial and unconfirmed.

Villa Leaves Capital

San Antonio, Dec. 28.—A Vera Cruz dispatch to the Mexican Constitutionalist consulate asserted that Villa and a part of his forces have evacuated Mexico City to save Torreon where it is said the Villista garrison has revolted.

GUTTERS KEPT OPEN.

Snowplows Keep Way Clear When Surface Flood Starts.

Fearing surface floods if the moderated weather "continues to moderate," Street Superintendent Hendricks has a force of men today working one-horse snowplows along the gutters to keep the surface sewer system open.

The snow is melting rapidly and the streets must have cleared gutters in order to handle the flood that would ensue in case of a more sudden thaw. Cross walks in the residence section are also being cleaned of snow and slush by the street department.

ENRAGED MAN MURDERS WIFE.

Spokane, Dec. 28.—Enraged because his wife sued for a divorce, Martin M. Loth a butcher, beat her to death with a blunt instrument while she lay in bed this morning, then went into his backyard and blew his own brains out with a revolver.

BELGIAN CHILDREN, TO WHOM AMERICAN AID IS GOING.



These are of the type of Belgian children to whom aid from the United States has been sent during the past month. The pair with their dog were driven from their home in the north of Belgium on

the entry of the Germans, and, packing up the few belongings they could carry, started out on the road with their faithful dog. They had no new home in prospect, but were wholly dependent on the charity of those

they found along the road. Hundreds of thousands of them moved into Holland, where they were cared for. Others went toward the north and were sent to England. There thousands of them are being cared for now.

CANADIAN SOLDIERS KILL AMERICAN DUCK HUNTERS

Buffalo, Dec. 28.—Fired on by Canadian soldiers, as several boats containing duckhunters were approaching the Canadian shore, Walter Smith was shot and killed and Charles Dorsch was fatally wounded. Both are residents of Buffalo.

Details of the shooting are lacking but the recent order prohibiting transportation of firearms to Canada, is believed to be the cause.

The soldiers opened fire, it is said, without asking any questions.

Phi Delmas Hold Big Convention.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 28.—It looked like a university turned loose on the city today. Fully 2,000 "frat" men-members of Phi Delta Theta—from all parts of the country gathered for the opening of their four days' convention. While considerable serious business comes before the convention, the college men are not neglecting the social side, and a number of big entertainments have been planned in their honor.

Kansas Farmers in Annual Meeting.

Manhattan, Kan., Dec. 28.—Hundreds of Kansas farmers and their sons arrived today for the annual State Farmers' institute at the Agricultural college. In addition to courses of lectures and demonstrations by authorities the following associations of the state will meet in annual session: Hog Breeders' association; Crop Improvement association; Poultry Federation; Dairy Producers association; Horse Breeders' Horticulturists and Sheep Breeders, prizes offered by the various organizations will be awarded during the week.

SIXTEEN ADDITIONAL HOMES ADDED TO FROZEN-UP LIST

Sixteen additional homes went into the frozen-up list last night, and despite the efficiency of the electric device which was kept going all day Sunday by water Supt. Hoyt and Fire Chief Benham, the freeze-ups are being reported into the water department office faster than they can be thawed out. Originally there were about 200 families without water but as soon as the weather moderated last week plumbers, individuals and the city officials worked this list down to about 75.

It appears that since the snowfall, and the rise in temperature, the frost in the ground has sunk to such depth that it is catching the service pipes in the yards. Where the frozen ground touches the service pipe in the

yard it is useless to resort to the stop and waste plan. Often times the pipes freeze up soon after they have been thawed out because the pipes are surrounded by frozen ground.

In the blanket of snow now prevailing, officials see relief. It is thought the snow will have a tendency of halting the downward trend of the frost in the ground and save further freezing of pipes. The trouble that usually arises from frozen pipes is in the buildings—this week it has become a matter of combating frost in the ground over which the stop and waste has no control. So far as known more water pipes have been frozen up in La Grande the past two weeks than in any winter in a decade yet the mercury has not been below five above at any one time.

OLDEST MASON PASSES AWAY

ARTHUR WARNICK SAW MA
SONIC ORDER INSTITUTED IN
CITY OF LA GRANDE

LIVED IN SAME HOUSE
IN OLD TOWN 40 YEARS

Citizen of La Grande Since 1867
Passed Away Last Evening.

Death last night ended the career of one of Union county's earliest settlers when Arthur Warnick, aged 78, succumbed to a protracted illness. Mr. Warnick was not only one of the first settlers of the county, having come here in 1863, but he enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest member of the Masonic lodge in this city. He was made a Mason in 1867, before the charter was granted to this city, and he lacked, therefore, but a few years in having served a half century in the one order.

Mr. Warnick died in the home in which he has lived for nearly a half century. Lee Warnick, city recorder, and Miss Mary Warnick, both of this city, survive the deceased, and a brother and a sister in New York also survive. His wife died about 12 years ago after a prolonged illness.

The funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home, with the Masonic lodge in charge.

Arthur Warnick was born in Port Jackson, N. Y., Aug. 1st, 1836. He spent his boyhood days in Amsterdam, N. Y., and started west crossing the Isthmus in 1863. He spent the rest of his life in this city. In 1870 he married Mattie McDowell, and two children were born to them.

Many years ago Mr. Warnick owned a valuable trotting horse and was well versed in well-bred horses. His occupation was bookkeeping, at which he was an expert.

CLOSING HOURS FIXED.

New Year's Day to be Holiday Throughout the City.

Grocers and meat dealers have agreed upon a closing schedule for New Year's day. The grocers will keep open the evening before and be closed all day Friday. The butcher shops will be open until 9 o'clock Friday morning but there will be no deliveries on New Year's day. Other merchants of the city have not announced their plans but will probably be closed all day.

WHEAT AT \$1.30.

Portland, Dec. 28.—Bids for Club wheat in the Pacific Northwest had reached \$1.30 a high record. A holder of 40,000 bushels in Walla Walla, was offered this price. Experts estimate that but 2,000,000 bushels of wheat remain in the growers' hands throughout the Northwest.

YULETIDE NOT MARKED WITH RETRENCHING

EXCEPT FOR COSTLY LUXURIES
BUYING WAS UP TO THE
NORMAL.

MERCHANTS REPORT THE
HOLIDAY TRADE BRISK

Grocers, Nuts, Candies and Toys
Show Good Buying Results—Clothing Sold Freely—General Trend Was Towards Necessaries and Cheaper Grades, but General Outcome Good.

With the Christmas shopping rush over the merchants of the city today have been taking stock of the business of the past few weeks and most of them have had occasion to congratulate themselves upon the situation as presented by the holiday trade.

While conservative buying seems to have been the prevailing rule in the holiday shopping business was "better than expected" in nearly every line, considering the financial depression (psychological only President Wilson says), that is supposed to be gripping the country. The buying generally seemed to be directed toward useful gifts, with economy as the watchword at every turn, and in the line of toys the smaller and less expensive article had a decided preference. Clothing merchants report a splendid trade for the holiday season, but in the lines carrying more expensive articles there does not seem to have been such an optimistic tone.

The grocymen all report a splendid business, and candy, nuts and the like were in as great demand as ever before, one firm in the city disposing of over 3,000 pounds of candy alone, shipping some a distance of over 100 miles on mail orders. Altogether the Christmas spirit brought out a general unloosening of the tightened purse strings, and business was very little, if any, lighter than in a normal year.

NORTH POWDER DILIGENT

Citizens Look to Welfare of the Poor During Christmas

That North Powder citizens with larders full did not overlook those less fortunate, is pointed out by the North Powder News, as follows:

"A committee was appointed by the M. E. church last Sunday to see that every needy family in this city should have a happy Christmas. The committee found there were several cases where a little aid would bring Christmas cheer to their homes and they were supplied with food, clothing and candy, nuts, etc. for the little ones.

"Our business men and citizens were called upon to aid in this matter and so well did they respond that there is no home here but realizes that there is something in Christmas charity. And in behalf of that committee the News wishes them all the prosperity and good things for the New Year that is possible for mortal to receive."

Railroads to Abandon City Offices.

Walla Walla, Dec. 28.—Effective February 1, the Northern Pacific Railroad company will discontinue its city tick office near the corner of Second and Main streets, and all ticket sales will be made at the Northern Pacific station on North Second street.

When the new passenger station was opened about a month ago, it was found necessary to add to the office force there, and the addition, as subsequent events proved, was for a ticket agent, rather than for a telegraph operator as originally had been planned. The sale of tickets at the city office has fallen off slightly since the new depot was opened and hereafter all sales will be made in the new location.

It is understood on good authority that the O. W. R. & N. company is contemplating a similar move and that in the near future there will be no officials declined yesterday to make a statement in this regard, but it is known that all railroad companies are cutting down their expenses wherever possible, and it is said much of the business of the city office of the Union Pacific lines could be handled without inconvenience at the passenger station on West Main street.

General Agent S. B. Calderhead, of the Northern Pacific, will maintain an office in the city, and it is probable that Robert Burns of the O. W. R. & N. company will do likewise after the city office is abandoned.