

La Grande Evening Observer

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER -- PRINTS THE NEWS THE DAY IT HAPPENS

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UNITED STATES REBUKED BY VOLLMER FOR SENDING WAR MUNITIONS TO EUROPEANS

IOWA LAWMAKER CLASSIFIES AMERICANS ARE ARCH HYPOCRITES

ENGLISH MINISTRY DELIBERATES WITH GREAT CARE

No Answer Expected at Washington to Wilson's Note Within Several Weeks

Washington, Dec. 30.—Representative Vollmer, of Iowa, has urged the house foreign affairs committee to report favorably on the Vollmer-Bartholdt-Loebeck resolution, which prohibits exportation of munitions of war for European belligerents. He called the United States a partner in "the greatest crime against civilization in all history." Referring to the prayers for peace offered Sunday in various churches, Vollmer said:

"Are we so anxious to achieve the reputation of being the world's arch hypocrite that we go to the Lord's sanctuary and offer prayers for peace when we have blood money in our pockets?"

"If the United States stopped furnishing munitions of war to belligerents, the war would end in 90 days."

London, Dec. 30.—It is doubtful if a single incident in the war has aroused such a storm of protest as the answer to America's protest against the commerce treatment by the English fleet. Due to the seriousness of the protest, delay in the answer is admitted. They declared that the situation in the American viewpoint is neither critical nor urgent.

Foreign Minister Grey carefully reviewed the American communication before he joined the other members of the ministry. To the meeting he carried the message itself, together with reports his assistants had prepared covering the various points made in the protest.

The American statement, having been based on interpretation of international law by Washington legal experts, it wasn't thought today that it is likely the issues raised could be easily disposed of, and prolonged negotiations will probably be necessary to determine the outcome. English experts on international law will go over the points raised by Uncle Sam.

No Early Reply Expected.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Government

PASSENGER TRAIN ROBBED

Two Hold Up and Relieve Passengers in Two Sleeping Cars.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 30.—Two masked men early today held up and robbed passengers in two sleeping cars on train No. 9, Southern Pacific, at Cline. They forced the porter to arouse the passengers one at a time. One man covered the porter and the other robbed the passengers.

They escaped as the train neared Spofford. The amount of the loot is unknown, but it is believed to be considerable.

QUARREL LEADS TO MURDER

Because One is Discharged, He Attacks Other With Sledge.

Aberdeen, Wash., Dec. 30.—Alvin Preston aged 55, was shot and killed by Bert Moxley today. Preston had been employed at the Hoquiam pumping station and Moxley laid him off. Preston went to the station this morning and a quarrel ensued, resulting in the killing.

Moxley alleged Preston attacked him with a sledge hammer. Both have families.

Penn Teachers to Hear Many Speak.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 30.—Addresses by William M. Davidson, superintendent of schools in Pittsburg; Dr. Edward H. Griggs, of New York, and Dr. W. E. Halbrook, of Choctaw, Ark., featured the opening session of the second day's meeting of the State Educational Association here. Dr. O. T. Corson, of Columbus, O., was to speak this evening.

RIVER WATER HAS NO TRACE OF BAD GERMS

STATE BOARD PASSES JUDGMENT ON WATER NOW IN CITY MAINS.

NO TRACE OF TYPHOID GERMS SHOWN BY TEST

Alarm Felt During the Time Water and Snow Famine Raged, Groundless as Samples Analyzed Show no Trace of Dangerous Bacteria — The Famine is Now Breaking.

That La Grande citizens have been subjected to no risks while drinking Grande Ronde river water this winter during the snow and water famine — just now beginning to lessen its grip — is the assurance sent to La Grande officials by bacteriologists.

Dr. A. L. Richardson, city health officer, today received official reply to samples of the river water sent to the state board of health at the time that it was found necessary to pump from the river. The analysis was made by Prof. J. S. Sauerman, director of the state bacteriological laboratory, and that there are no traces of typhoid germs, is his assertion.

The news relieves the alarm felt while river water was pumped into the main. Physicians and such others as inspected the surroundings felt certain at the time that the condition of the river in the winter months was such as to be safe for domestic use, but took the extra precaution of having expert analysis made.

BARRETT PROPOSES NEW TAX LAW

C. A. Barrett, joint senator from Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties has drafted the tax bill which he will introduce in the senate. It changes the penalty plan somewhat and puts the tax payments into two equal installments, much as before the present law became effective. Mr. Barrett sets out in his announcement of the bill, the following points contained in the new draft:

"I have prepared a tax bill which I will introduce in the senate, where the legislature meets. This bill makes the tax due in two halves, the first half May 1st, the second half November 1st. If the first half is not paid on or before May 1st, interest will be charged at the rate of 8 per cent up to November 1st.—on November 2nd, all unpaid taxes will become delinquent and subject to an interest penalty of 1 per cent per month. The bill provides that the tax on personal property becomes a lien on the real estate (if party owns real estate.) at the time the first half is due; it provides for the treasurer as tax collector to be the collector of delinquent tax also, it provides that delinquent certificates may issue after the tax is delinquent 60 days.

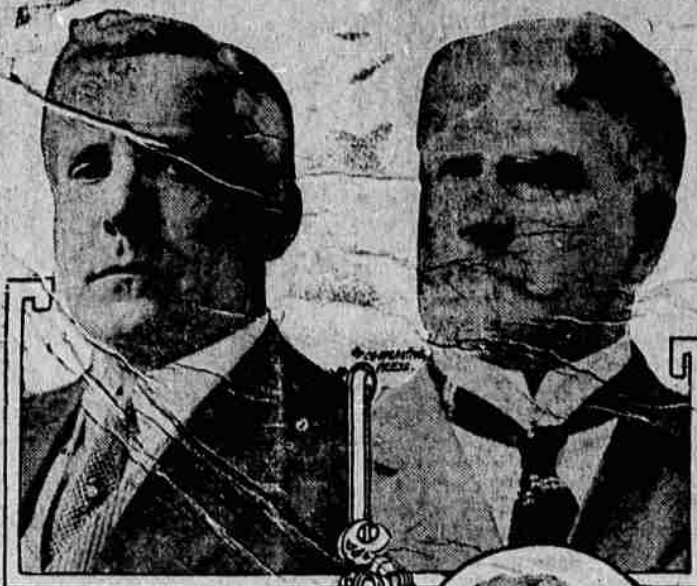
"No penalty other than the interest is attached to non-payment of the first half of the tax, and provides that the tax becomes delinquent in the fall when there is ready money in the country from the harvest of our crops.

"This meets the demands of the people of Eastern Oregon and I think applies with equal force to other parts of the state. The county holds a first lien on all the taxpayer's property for the tax and there are no just grounds why the county should not deal justly with the taxpayer. I am opposed to the heavy penalty attached to delinquent tax as heretofore."

Iroquois Theatre Fire is Recalled.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—In accordance with annual custom, memorial services were held today for victims of the Iroquois theatre fire which claimed 600 lives eleven years ago today.

THREE SENATORS WHO ARE FIGHTING PRESIDENT.



SENATOR JAMES A. REED.

GOLDEN WEDDING SET FOR JAN. 1

MR. AND MRS. O. S. ALLEN HAVE BEEN MARRIED 50 YEARS NEXT FRIDAY.

UNION COUNTY THEIR HOME PAST 12 YEARS

Of the Same Age, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Enjoy Fine Health.

Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Allen of 304 Alder street, expect to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage on Jan. 1, 1915. Mr. Allen was born near Woodstock, Ill., in September 1841 and Mrs. Allen was born near Clyde, N. D., in November of the same year. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Western Iowa. In 1881 they moved to Central South Dakota, and in 1902 they moved to Union County, Oregon where they have since resided. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have raised three sons and two daughters, all of whom are married and have families. Their progeny consists of 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Both Mr. and Mrs. Allen are enjoying good health and hope to for some time to come.

CORN WINS PRIZES.

That Union county is adapted to corn raising, although the industry is almost entirely nil, is shown by the announcements from the corn show at Walla Walla. Master Carl Zaugg of Mt. Glen received first prize on his exhibit of pop corn in the Tri-state contest at Walla Walla, and Fred Zaugg his father, won honorable mention on his display of yellow varieties field corn. Mr. Zaugg's exhibit, it is said would do honor to the eastern corn belt.

CITY NEEDS SOLUTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED ISSUE SAYS JUDGE

"The problem of the unemployed is provided where the man who honestly wants to earn a living can find employment sufficient to feed himself and get a place to sleep. That plan might not be practical here, but something should be done, and the time is coming when the needs of the unemployed will demand recognition."

This expression was made while affixing sentence to two prisoners before him in circuit court. The two sentenced were Ed Dore, given from one to seven years for stealing an overcoat from the Geibel store, and Murray, indicted under the name of Cunningham for bad check work got one to five years.

Trial Jury Called.

To dispose of the state charges against S. W. Watson, accused of stealing two calves, a trial jury was selected this morning and the case is now at issue.

BERLIN WAR OFFICE SAYS ALLIES LIED

TUESDAY'S SUCCESSES ARE MYTHICAL AVERS OFFICIAL GERMAN REPORT.

FRENCH ANSWER IT BY REITERATING THE CLAIM

Germans seem to ignore winter in Northern France and make strenuous efforts to seize territory which French say they have lost—Russians called Annanias Crowd.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—Claims of French gains by Allies in the Western war zone Tuesday, and Russian stories of progress in the Eastern theatre, as well as Slav accounts of success against Turks in Trans-Caucasia, are denied energetically by the war office. Germans, it is asserted, are gaining in points southeast of Ypres and the vicinity of Neuport. It is declared the French attack Northwest of Saint Meneshauld, and the effort to retake certain German trenches, were repulsed, and several hundred prisoners taken.

Artillery Firing Severe.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Terrific artillery fighting is in progress at many points at the battle front in the west and northwest of Paris. The German batteries are engaged in violent action in the vicinity of Aspern. Despite fearful weather in the extreme North the Germans renewed their efforts to recapture Saint George, near Neuport, where the Allies had advanced nearly two miles Tuesday.

London, Dec. 30.—An inquest into the manner of death of the sailors on the battleship Bulwark which exploded in the mouth of the Thames, ended with a verdict of "Accidental death." Authorities are satisfied that the vessel was destroyed by spontaneous combustion in smokeless powder magazines.

CLUB TOUR BEGINS.

Oregon Glee Club on No. 6 This Morning Enroute to Baker.

Train No. 6 carried a happy bunch of young fellows who are representing the University of Oregon to Baker this morning where they give their concert tonight. They report good crowds at both The Dalles and Pendleton where they have already put on the concert. Henry Heidenreich, President of the club said: "The boys seem to sing better than ever before and the crowds at both places where we have shown are very enthusiastic about the club, they want us to be sure and come again next year. La Grande has always been the best town for us on the whole trip and I would like to see a big crowd out to hear the boys for they always judge a town by the people that see the show, and they all have a fine opinion of La Grande."

The seats are selling fast at the Red Cross Drug store. The curtain will rise promptly at 8:30 p. m.

Schoolmasters Discuss Peace.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 30.—"International Democracy" is the title of an address by Prof. Jay W. Hudson, of the Department of Philosophy of the University of Missouri, which he will deliver at the annual meeting of the Associated Academic Principals tonight. Prof. Hudson is making a tour of the country under the auspices of the Massachusetts Peace Society lecturing upon various phases of the peace movement in its relation to internationalism and war.

"Municipal Economist" is New Job.

Fort Smith, Ark., Dec. 30.—An office to be known as the Municipal Economist has been created by the city board of commissioners of Fort Smith.

BRISK DEALING IN HORSEFLESH

SHIPMENT OF 500 HEAD GOES EASTWARD.

Two Carloads Going to Portland — Seventy Bought at Elgin.

Horsebuyers are swarming to Eastern Oregon. Next Friday contract horses will be bought at the fair grounds; yesterday 70 head were purchased at Elgin and today contract horse buyers are in Walla Walla county. Last night a shipment of 500 horses gathered up in Eastern Washington passed through the city enroute to the Atlantic coast where they will be shipped to the European war zone.

Next Saturday, C. W. Todd, well known horse buyer, will ship out a carload of horses, and C. K. Howett, a Portland buyer has a carload ready to go.

It is expected that the sale next Friday at the fair grounds will bring out a big offering. The contract horse that passes inspection is in the vicinity of 15 1-2 or 16 hands high and weighs around 1000 or 1200 pounds. Middle aged animals, if reasonably sound have been passing inspection usually.

THIEVES GET CLOCK.

Thieves broke into the O. M. Heacock offices in the Foley building a night or two ago and stole a shelf clock from the waiting room. There was little else in the room but furniture. The clock is one of those big arrangements suitable for a wall, and Mr. Heacock is wondering what the thieves propose to do with it. They took nothing else.