

La Grande Evening Observer

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STEINBACH HAS FALLEN

HOUSE TO HOUSE COMBAT RAGES FOR HOURS BEFORE VICTORY COMES.

GERMAN MACHINE GUNS MOW DOWN INVADERS

Close-handed Fighting Takes Place in City of Steinbach, Upper Alsace. When French Dig Their Way Over Bloody Streets to Victory— Gives French Clear Route to Mulhausen.

Paris, Dec. 31.—Capture of Steinbach, in upper Alsace, by the French is officially announced by the war office. The statement said the town was wrested from the Germans after a desperate battle during which both sides lost heavily.

The troops fought literally from house to house, the Germans resisting fiercely, and the French mowing them down with machine guns. The French gained a foothold. The French tried bayonet charges again and again, but the Germans beat them back. Finally persisting courage and heavy sacrifices were rewarded and the streets were entered. From then on progress was slow but steady.

French machine gun squads forced their way through the thoroughfare, dislodging the enemy. The victory was declared to be highly important as it opened the roads to Altkirch and Mulhausen.

End Holiday Visit.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Wilkerson, who have been spending the Christmas vacation with friends in Union were in the city this morning on their way to their home at Meacham, where they have charge of the schools.

WHEEL SCHOOL WILL BE HERE

The O. A. C. itinerant school which has been doing such effective work in the Willamette valley for the past three months will visit Union county some time in February, according to present plans which will probably be completed and a definite date decided upon within the next week.

This school which is not in the form of a demonstration train as is supposed by some, consists of six instructors of the O. A. C. extension work staff who take the work of the school right to the door of the farmer in a week of instruction along the lines of greatest interest and importance to the community in which the school is operating. While the program is not yet out for Union county is probable that it will include instruction and lectures on dairying, economy, animal husbandry, poultry raising, horticulture and home economics, two ladies of the school being assigned to this department of the school.

The schedule of the work is as follows: Monday, Jan. 5, 8 o'clock, Elgin, Imbler, Cove and two schools being operated at the same time with three in charge of each. Night school will be held at each of which the lectures will be given by lantern slides. The school is for this effort in the school.

JAPS A MENACE TO AMERICANS

Washington, Dec. 31.—Serious interference with American commerce in the Pacific is charged against Japan. Prominent members of the Pacific Coast Congressional delegation were authority for the statement that Japan is holding up American ships in the Pacific in a manner similar to that employed by England in the Atlantic. President Schwerin of the Pacific Mail Steamship company was the complainant and has filed preliminary statements of his case with congress. He claims the steamship Manchuria was held up and detained 49 hours, and he declares practically every other line in the Pacific Mail service has been interfered with.

Unique Social Planned.

In honor of the members of the society who are home from school on their mid-winter vacation the Epworth League of the Methodist church have planned a unique program for tomorrow night when an indoor track meet will be staged in the basement of the church. Four Oregon colleges will be entered in the athletic events of the evening which will include, running races, jumping, hammer throwing, shot putting and other forms of athletic effort which promises a barrel of fun for the leaguers and their friends.

HIGHWAYMAN ACTION TRIAL

JOHN WILLIAMS IS TRIED AS A SUSPECT.

Watson Yesterday, Found Guilty of Stealing Two Calves.

John Williams, charged with holding up and robbing Harvey Leonard at the Pierce ranch several weeks ago is on trial in the circuit court today. Williams is alleged to have held up Leonard at the point of a gun and taken from him some \$60 in cash and a check for \$30. He was arrested in this city and bound over to the grand jury by Justice Williams, where a true bill was found against him as charged.

The trial of Alexander Stevens for the larceny of a suit case which had been set for today has been postponed until Monday because of the failure of an important witness to arrive in time for the hearing today. Stevens who is alleged to have taken a suit case from an Oregon Central train at Union Junction, claims to be a British subject and entitled to the protection of the British consul to whom he appealed in vain before his trial was set for hearing.

S. W. Watson was yesterday evening found guilty of stealing two calves. He will be sentenced Saturday.

Mrs. Weeks in Cove.

Cove, Dec. 30.—(Special.)—Mrs. F. M. Weeks widow of the late Frank Weeks who died in Rexburg recently, is in Cove. She will spend the winter with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz.

ATUO LAWS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

A meeting of all automobile and motorcycle owners is to be held at the City Hall Thursday evening, Jan. 7, at 8 o'clock. The meeting will be for the purpose of discussing the proposed new automobile law which has been drafted according to the directions of the directors of the Automobile club. F. L. Meyers, Pres., of the Automobile club will preside and the new bill discussed from all angles and changes recommended according to the wishes of the auto owners. Every owner of an auto or motorcycle is urged to be present whether or not they are members of the Motor club.

LODZ A CITY OF MISERY AND WANT; SUFFERS WORSE THAN BELGIUM EVER HAS

PRETTY GIRLS SELL THEIR SOULS TO KEEP FROM STARVING

RUSSIANS LEFT CITY IN DEPLORABLE CONDITION

Mobs Fight for Small Pittance of Bread Doled Out to Hungry

BY KARL VON WIEGAND.

With the German Army at Lodz, Dec. 21.—(Via The Hague and London.)—Lodz, the great manufacturing center of Poland, is a city of want and misery. Beautiful girls are offering to sell themselves into white slavery in the hope of gaining food and shelter, not only for themselves but for their family. I found conditions here which prevail in no other section of the war-swept zones.

Lodz has a population of 300,000. Its factories are closed. One hundred and fifty thousand men and women are idle, and there is no food to feed them. Even if there was a market for the products of the factories, they couldn't operate for lack of fuel. The food shortage has brought about an appalling condition here. Bread is selling for 30 cents a loaf and only the very rich can afford to buy. Great crowds stand for hours in front of the bakeries waiting for a chance to buy what little is offered.

They fight for the food that is doled out to them.

Russians Retreat Disastrous.

The people here say that when the Russians retreated from the city before the Germans advanced, they stripped it of supplies. Suffering is relatively greater than any where in Belgium, or any other section in the war zone.

L. D. S. Members to Make Merry.

The members of the La Grande ward L. D. S. will enjoy a reunion of all of the members at the tabernacle tomorrow afternoon and night. The program which will include talks by prominent members of the ward and other forms of entertainment will begin at 2:00 o'clock and will wind up with a dance at night in the amusement hall. A big dinner will also be a feature of the reunion.

AMBASSADOR PAGE ON WAY TO BRITISH WAR OFFICE—ON HIM HANGS A HEAVY BURDEN RIGHT NOW.



This is a photograph of Ambassador Page just leaving the American embassy, No. 4 Grosvenor Place, London, on his way to the British war office. The ambassador has

been very active in London, and his work in behalf of stranded Americans and those in trouble has brought him very prominently before the public in London. The protest note to England, adds to his troubles.

STEAMSHIP HIT IN NORTH SEA

London, Dec. 31.—A large unidentified steamship was hit by a mine and sunk in the North Sea today. Lifeboats are searching for survivors off Flamborough Head, where bodies are washing ashore. Many soldier helmets are coming in, indicating it is another wreck off Port Cawl, Wales.

Wholesale Firm Moves.

The Eastern Oregon Produce company will occupy new quarters in the Gardiner building after today, the move from the present location in the Foley building being made tonight, according to present plans. The change will be made in order to secure more rooms for their wares and to enable the commission firm to concentrate their wares in one building whereas now they occupy store rooms in various parts of the city.

Literacy Test Likes.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The senate voted today to retain the literacy test in the Dillingham immigration bill. Senator Hartine had moved to eliminate it. The vote indicated the bill containing the literacy test will be put squarely up to the present, president, who openly opposed that provision.

PAWNBROKERS' BOOKS ORDERED

PUBLIC LIST OF ALL LOANS PROVIDED FOR.

Commission Holds Last Weekly Meeting of the Current Year.

La Grande's present commission held its last regular meeting last evening. Saturday evening it meets again to hold its annual meeting at which time Mac Wood, president, will step down and Vincent Palmer, commissioner-elect, will take office and a new president will be elected. The meeting last evening was generally routine, except that an ordinance compelling all who deal in second-hand goods or do a pawn-broker business must keep a register on which is kept all records of second-hand goods purchased, and of all articles pawned, was read the second time. The commission took further steps to forcibly sell such property on North Fir as is delinquent in the payment of improvement assessments. The total sum is about \$2,000. Various resolutions, closing up improvement funds and transferring funds to others, were passed last evening.

The pawn-brokers' ordinance was the chief item in connection with legislation. It will probably be passed next Saturday night before the present commission closes its identity.

Pawnshops Regulated.

The ordinance effects every person, persons, company or corporations who shall keep, conduct, carry on or manage a second-hand store, pawn shop or junk shop. He shall keep a register in which shall be kept a fairly legible description in ink, of all goods or articles or things pawned or pledged by any person whatsoever, the amount of money loaned thereon or advanced, the date of pawning, or purchasing such goods or articles, the name and the residence of the person pawning or selling the goods, and no entry shall be erased or defaced. This register shall be open for inspection at any time by the chief of police or any member of the police department.

The fine for violation of any clause of the ordinance is placed at \$5 as the minimum and \$100 as the maximum. The ordinance sets out that for the purposes of the ordinance, any person, persons, firm or corporation doing a pawning business, buying second hand goods or junk, shall be considered a pawnbroker, second-hand dealer or keeper of a junk shop (aimed at by this ordinance) notwithstanding that such persons or corporation may also sell, deal in or carry other lines of business as well. The ordinance becomes effective 30 days after its passage.

WILSON LOOKS FOR A PARTIAL ANSWER EARLY

FINAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL REQUIRE MONTHS TO REACH CONCLUSIONS.

AMBASSADOR PAGE SETS OUT INTENT TO GREY

President Wilson anticipates England Will Shortly Agree to Cease Arresting American Ships Unless Grave Suspicion Exists—Washington Continues to Discuss the Note.

Washington, Dec. 30.—America's protest to England, continued to absorb official Washington today. It is officially stated it will be weeks, and probably months, before the negotiations are ended. President Wilson has intimated he doesn't expect immediately more than a partial concession by Great Britain. He is confident the earliest result will be that England will agree to cease arresting American ships unless good grounds for grave suspicion exists.

Page Discussed Note.

London, Dec. 31.—Ambassador Page had a long conference with Foreign Minister Grey today concerning the Washington protest against England's treatment of American commerce on high seas. It is understood Page explained the American position and emphasized the note intended only friendly negotiations in the hope of improving conditions which might easily enough develop into serious matters if ignored. No statement was made except to say that the negotiations already commenced would probably continue for some time.

Birth Record.

A baby girl arrived to brighten the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Tate, at their farm home near Alicel, Wednesday morning.

NOISY HELLO FOR NEW YEAR

While La Grande is not given over to Bacchanalian revelry, on the approach of a new year, it is nevertheless expected that the baby year of 1915 will be greeted with vari-colored celebrations tonight. Throughout the church-contingent, watch-night services are planned, many parties are arranged for this evening, and the restaurants and grills will no doubt see capacity houses when the midnight hour arrives. The tooting of whistles and ringing of bells are always part of the New Year greeting. Tomorrow will be a general holiday in La Grande. The postoffice will send out no deliveries of any kind and the general window will be open on holiday schedule. The courthouse, land office, banks and other public offices will remain closed. Grocers will not open tomorrow at all but the meat dealers will be open until nine with no deliveries. Drygoods stores and other lines of business will be closed.

Prof. Potter Likes Station.

Prof. E. L. Potter of the department of animal husbandry of O. A. C. was in the city yesterday on his way home after a visit to the county experiment station at Union. He is very enthusiastic over the manner in which the work in this county is being handled and highly commended both Robert Withycombe manager of the experiment station and Claude C. Cate, county agriculturist, on the results that are being obtained by their efforts here.