

La Grande Evening Observer

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HORSES SOLD BY SCORES AT GOOD FIGURES

FRENCH OFFICERS CONTROL DEGREE OF PERFECTION THAT IS REQUIRED.

NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED
VALLEY HORSES SEEN

At Rate of Purchases This Morning, 100 Will be Sold by Night—Expected Total Sales Will Reach Near 300 at a Figure Ranging Close to One Hundred for Each Horse.

French money to an extent that will reach probably \$30,000 at the most conservative estimate, is being spent in Union county today through the horse inspection being conducted at the fair grounds. Nearly 400 horses are offered for inspection, and at the rate the purchases were being closed up this forenoon, fully 100 will be sold before night. The accumulation of horses is one of the greatest ever gathered in La Grande. L. W. Russell, J. W. Bullock, Charles Campbell, W. F. Neil and G. F. Vincent of Walla Walla look after the business arrangements and Messieurs Cheivegn and Robin of France, officials of the army assigned to horse-buying duty, make up the delegation conducting the sales.

Frequently horses are turned down by those who pass judgment upon them but sales are being made right and left, and if the sale reaches the proportion expected, at least 300 horses will be sold. The general average for the horses runs close to \$100, a few bringing more than that, and some less than \$80.

Mr. Russell, who is the general contractor for the allied armies covering the Northwest country in their search for army horses, is backed by almost unlimited means—with \$1,250,000,000 on deposit in the Lincoln Trust company's vaults in New York City, placed there by the allied armies for the purchase of army horses in the United States. He is accompanied by two Frenchmen, officers of the French army whose duty it is to inspect the animals offered for sale and pass upon their fitness for duty in the war zone. Their approval or disapproval is final. If approved, the animals are bought and paid for on the spot at a figure agreed upon between the owner of the horse and Mr. Russell, there being no stipulated price for which the animals must be purchased, the amounts paid ranging all the way from \$60 up to \$150.

"We want all of the horses we can get," said Mr. Russell yesterday evening in commenting on the demand for horse flesh from the war zone. "Those are our orders and they are backed up with the funds necessary to carry out the instructions if the owners of horses in this country are willing to deal. My territory is in the American Northwest, including the states of Washington, Idaho, California, and Nevada. We have been buying horses ever since September 3 and have picked up several thousand head of good animals in that time."

"The biggest shipment of horses that ever went out of the Northwest at any one time was sent out of Walla Walla by myself last week, the shipment containing 812 head of horses, making up a train of 34 cars in all bound for the East for shipment across the waters. There are no hampering conditions mixed up in our buying. If the owners of the horses want to sell their stuff and the animals meet with the approval of the representatives of the French army who accompany myself we buy them and there pay for the animals. We want big horses principally, animals suitable for artillery use, and for use in the cavalry of the allied armies. It is not my fault that I am not leaving more money at each place than I do. My business is to buy but if the farmers and horse owners do not want to sell, of course we can not do business."

"I am now working my way south, and expect to buy horses all the way down into Southern California and then if the war continues after that I shall go over the route again. I would like to ship out 100,000 head of horses from the Northwest if the war lasts a year."

Mr. Russell and party came in yesterday evening from Walla Walla county where they had been buying horses, picking up 144 head or six car loads. Mr. Russell took occasion to compliment the ranchers of the Walla Walla country upon the excellent quality of the stock raised in that section, which, he said, was equalled in but few places in which he had been buying, and excelled in none.

Three Applicants Apply for Land.
Three applications have been filed in the local land office for homestead entries in this district. The applicants are Fred Wonder, Sr., of Baker; Fred V. Spence, of Haines and Alexander J. Brown, of Imnaha.

GERMAN GUN FIRING FROM BEHIND TREES TO HIDE IT



This is the first photograph of a German howitzer firing from hiding. Much has been written about the inability of the soldiers to see each other during the fighting in France. In the battles before Brussels British marines remained in the trenches for days under fire of the great German guns without being able to see one of them. It has become the practice now in the war to hide the guns in a clump of trees so the enemy's artillery cannot exactly locate them for the return fire.

FARMER EARNS ONLY HIS WAGE

GOVERNMENT GIVES OUT DATA ABOUT EARNINGS.

Extensive Investigation Discloses Farm Life Statistics.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 2.—Extensive investigations into the profits of farming have indicated that the amount of money which the average farmer receives for his year's work is little more than that which he would be paid if he hired himself out as a farm and to one of his neighbors. In other words, though the farmer is in business for himself, the average farmer gets little or no money reward for the intelligence and skill with which he has managed his affairs or the risk and responsibility he has assumed. But he must get something in return or no one would trouble to farm for himself. A recent study conducted by experts in the United States Department of Agriculture shows that in many cases this reward may best be found in the products with which his farm furnishes him directly. When a farm is nearly, if not quite, self-sustaining, say agricultural experts, when it supplies the family that lives upon it with most of the necessities of life, a large money income is not necessary to prosperity. A greater sum derived from a farm which yields nothing for home consumption may leave the occupants much worse off.

Under the title of Farmers' Bulletin 635, "What the Farm Contributes Directly to the Farmer's Living," the Department of Agriculture is about to publish the results of a survey of conditions on a large number of farms in the ten states of North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont. The farms selected for study, though possibly a little more prosperous than the average, were fairly representative of their sections which, it will be noted, included three corn and cotton areas, two states in the corn and wheat belt, two regions where general farming was carried on, and three different dairy districts. The average value of the chief necessities of life—food, fuel, oil, and shelter—used each year by the farm family the investigators found to be \$595.08. Of these necessities, estimated in money, the portion contributed directly by the farm was \$421.17, leaving \$173.91 to be purchased with the cash obtained from the sale of products. In considering these figures it must be remembered that if the farmer had been compelled to pay city prices for his home grown necessities, this \$421.17 would have represented much less comfort.

Of the food consumed 63 per cent was furnished by the farm. This proportion varied greatly in the different sections but was greatest in the locality studied in North Carolina, where the farms supplied 82.3 per cent of the food consumed while the average in the New York locality was only 50.4. In view of the present economic crisis in the South this fact is regarded as of particular significance since it demonstrates the extent to which with a proper system of agriculture Southern farms can be made self-sustaining. Concentration upon one cash crop, cotton, has proved disastrous and agricultural authorities are now trying in every way to induce

the people to adopt a system which will lead to conditions similar to those now prevailing in this particular area of North Carolina.

In this connection the investigation revealed some interesting facts in regard to the four items of groceries, animal products, fruits, and vegetables in the average farm family's food bill. Of the value of the food consumed groceries constituted practically one-quarter, animal products more than one-half, vegetables 11.6 per cent and fruit only 6.3. Practically all of the groceries were bought; on the other hand the quantity of fruits and vegetables used was in direct proportion to the quantity raised on the farm and where this quantity was great the grocery bill was correspondingly low. This was also found to be true of animal products, including of course not only butcher's meat, but poultry, eggs, milk, cheese, etc. Where these were abundant on the farm fewer groceries were purchased. Since the grocery bill was found to be ordinarily two-thirds of the entire amount expended in cash for food, one very obvious and effective way of economizing appears to be to raise more vegetables, more fruit, more milk and eggs. In many cases, experts say, this can be done with no appreciable increase in trouble or expense.

Next to food, shelter is probably the most important necessity of life. In considering the farmer's income, however, a common error in the past has been to ignore the question of housing. The value of the house has usually been included in the value of the land and the whole considered as capital invested on which interest must be paid before the farmer can be regarded as receiving any pay at all. This method, however, assumes that the farm family is to have shelter for nothing—an assumption which the city worker with whom it is not unusual to pay out from one-third to one-quarter of his entire wages for rent alone would regard as most astonishing.

According to the recent investigation, if the average farmer has to pay rent, his home would cost him \$125 a year. This figure represents ten per cent of the value of the average house. Including interest, depreciation and repairs, this is regarded as a fair rental charge for the class of houses usually found on the farm.

TORPEDO IS BLAMED FOR FATE OF FORMIDABLE; OFFICERS DIE

London, Jan. 2.—That the Formidable sunk in the channel Friday, was torpedoed is considered certain. This wasn't the official opinion but is the judgment of competent naval authorities. The admiralty withheld details of the disaster but at the last accounts there were 151 of the crew saved.

Hopes Still Run High.
It is hoped that fishermen rescued a few more, but rumors are not assuring. Assuming the total survivors number 151, the deathlist must have totaled at least 559.

The Formidable, it is learned, sank 10 minutes after the explosion. The admiralty issued the list of the Formidable's 35 officers, headed by Cap-

FOES MINING OTHER'S LINE

COUNTERMINING AND EXPLOSION IN TRENCHES.

Second Period in Western Campaign Has Been Commenced.

Paris, Jan. 2.—Extensive mining and countermining marked the progress of the conflict between the Allies and the Germans in the western zone of the war during the past 36 hours. The German sappers accomplished a most important success by demolishing the French caissons between Beaumetz and Achicourt. The French retaliated by undermining and blowing up the German trenches at Parvillers and in the Selle forest. The war office admitted that the Germans had fiercely attacked the Allied lines at many points Thursday but declared that the "Teutons had been repulsed everywhere."

Allies Weigh Own Strength.
Paris, Jan. 2.—With the opening of the new year experts here were of the opinion that the "second period" in the pending campaign in the Western war zone had begun. They believed the point had been reached where the general office considered the Allies strong enough to hold the Germans at bay in the extreme north and that the offensive developing in the Argennes and Vegas region was designed to force the invaders from France. The activities of the French in the region of Alsace are plainly alarming the Germans. They have been strongly reinforced and were delivering heavy drives against the French in Moselle and Meuse regions and strong counter attacks in Argennes.

Sanding the Streets.
The street department has been busy today putting sand on the pavements to prevent accidents from slipping. The alternate thaw and freeze of the past few days has made travel on the streets rather risky business without this protection.

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tain Loxley with the comment that it is believed all have perished.

BANK FUNDS LOST.

Missouri Banker Confronts Bandit When Setting Out Cash.

Neeleyville, Mo., Jan. 2.—A masked bandit surprised W. A. Welkers, cashier of the Bank of Neeleyville, today, locking him up in the bank vault and making his escape with \$4,000 of the bank's money. Welkers had just opened the vault to place the money in the cashier's cage when he was faced by the bandit with a revolver.

One License to Wed.
A license to wed has been issued to Elmer E. Wertman and Miss Sarah Frieswold, both of this county.

TAFT WANTS AMERICA TO GOVERN ISLANDS LONGER

IMPORTANT CASES
HEARD IN COURT

DIVORCE CASE OCCUPIES ATTENTION OF COURT BEGINNING NEW YEAR.

F. W. WATSON SENTENCED
AND IS THEN PAROLED

Albert Wines Pleads Guilty, is Sentenced and Then Paroled.

Circuit court has been the center of numerous important cases the past few years and the first day upon which court was in session in the new year saw a divorce trial come to issue.

Press Lewis, for many years in the wholesale business in this city as manager of the Grande Ronde Cash company, was yesterday released on bonds of \$1,000 as the result of an indictment charging larceny by bailee. It is charged that he sold grain stored in his warehouse, by other people. It is rumored that other indictments were found, but only one has been made public.

Pleading guilty to a charge of extortion recently, Albert Wines, was this morning sentenced to serve a year in the county jail and was then paroled by Judge Knowles on condition that he hereafter conduct himself as a law abiding citizen and abstain from all use of intoxicating drinks. Herbert Klins charged with the same offense was sentenced to serve a term in the state training school at Salem, when his case was up before Juvenile Judge Henry a couple of weeks ago, and was then paroled upon conditions similar to those imposed upon Wines.

F. W. Watson, who was found guilty of the larceny of two calves was also sentenced to a year in the county jail and later paroled. Watson is a married man with a family of eight children and Judge Knowles granted the parole with instructions that Watson devote his efforts to supporting his family.

Today the court has been busy hearing the evidence in a suit for divorce brought by Bonnie Hess against Clarence Hess. The principals in the case are prominent people of the North Powder neighborhood and a number of North Powder people are in the city in attendance on the case.

ARMY NEARS CAPITOL.

Battle is Likely to Ensnare at Mexico City When Army Reaches There

Washington, Jan. 2.—Wireless dispatches received here by Mexican constitutionalist agency said that a large force of Carranzanists were marching on Mexico City had reached Apam, 60 miles from the capital. The dispatches added that a large number of Villistas were resisting Obregon.

Body Horribly Mutilated.

New York, Jan. 2.—Chopped into small pieces and wrapped in woman's clothing which in turn was wrapped in burlap, part of the body of a man was found early this morning in the frozen marshes near Coney Island. Two packages were found, one containing most of the torso, with the head and arms missing, the other containing the upper part of one leg. The police think that the victim was a young man, weighing probably 160 pounds.

Russian Energy Divided

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—Russian interest in the war just now is divided between the fighting in Galicia and Transcaucasia. In the former field the Slavs have captured four Carpathian mountain passes and the Austrian forces are said to be retreating into Hungary. It is admitted that the Russians have beaten the invading Teutons at the expense of heavy losses. Nevertheless they are pressing their advantage. The war office said that it planned a supreme effort to crush the main Austrian defense of the Carpathians finally and definitely. In Western Galicia and Southern Poland operations are being pushed with all possible energy.

Florist in New Quarters.

A. B. Cherry, the florist, now occupies new quarters in the Gardner building, formerly occupied by the Anderson Dry Goods company, sharing the commodious room with the Eastern Oregon Produce company. This gives more room and a better chance to display the flowers than was had in the former quarters.

FINDS NO USE TO AMERICANS IN PHILIPPINES

INTERESTS OF NATIVES ALONE PROMPT FORMER PRESIDENT TO GIVE PROTECTION.

JAPAN DOES NOT DESIRE THE POSSESSION

Japan and Japan Only of Nations New at War Could Possibly be Benefited and Has All It Can Handle in Formosa He Says—Senate Committee Hears Opinions from Jurist.

Washington, Jan. 2.—"One or two generations, should pass before the natives of the Philippines are given their independence," Wm. H. Taft, former president and governor of the islands, told the senate committee of Philippine affairs today.

"I don't care for American power in the Philippines," Taft said. "I would like to see the United States get out of the islands as far as the Americans alone are concerned, but I am thinking of the poor Filipinos. They are not fit for self government. They don't like me because I told them so, but I told them the truth. However, if the Philippine islands were strongly fortified I think that any one of the European nations now at war would regard it as an element of strength, rather than a weakness. Japan, the only power to which the islands are generally considered desirable, does not care for the islands at all, I think, and the Japanese authorities, as I found them when in Japan twice, had quite enough of that sort of trouble in Formosa."

WOULD CHANGE BOUNDARY

Pat McArthur Favors Change in Walla Walla County Lines.

Enterprise, Jan. 2.—The somewhat familiar proposal to change the Oregon-Washington state boundary line, making it follow the Grande Ronde river to the Snake was brought up this week by C. N. ("Pat") McArthur, newly elected representative from Oregon, who was in the county with W. A. Jones. Mr. McArthur said he would make an effort to have congress authorize the change.

The boundary line now follows the 46th parallel of longitude east from Snake river, near Walla Walla, to the same river where it forms the Idaho boundary. This cuts the Grouse and Paradise settlements placing part in Washington and part in Walla Walla county. It throws into Washington a wedge like strip south of the Grande Ronde, that has everything in common with Walla Walla county and is separated from Washington by the canyon of the river.

The enactment of new laws to describe in better terms the boundary lines of Walla Walla county on the northwest and south also was discussed by Mr. McArthur and Mr. Jones, who were at the court house looking over maps with Judge Buley. The descriptions at present do not correspond with the topography of the country. There are places where no one can tell where the lines run, and which county governs the territory.

Badly Beaten Up.

G. N. Ames was at the county seat from Promise on Tuesday to lay before District Attorney O. M. Corkins a case of assault, in which he was badly beaten and cut recently, says the Enterprise paper. He was attacked as he was leaving the Promise postoffice, one shoulder bone was broken and his face was cut and he was otherwise bruised. Mr. Corkins and Mr. Ames went to Walla Walla yesterday to hold a preliminary hearing, to hold the assailant to the grand jury. Mr. Ames was attacked as a result of differences over a special tax to construct a new road near Promise, which he was not in favor of.

WEST SALE OPENS TODAY.

An error in the N. K. West ad yesterday indicated the sale started Jan. 20. The sale began this morning, running throughout the month. Attention to the corrected date is called to all shoppers.
