

La Grande Evening Observer

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AMMUNITION BASES BURNED BY AIR FIRE

BOMBS DROPPED ON SUBURBS OF DUNKIRK, AND MUCH DAMAGE DONE.

GERMANS WRECK BASES OF SUPPLY AND INJURE MANY

Conflicting Statements Come from Berlin and Paris, One Denying That French Have Gained Victories in Alsace, and the Other Claiming it—Burning City Lights Battle.

Berlin, Jan. 5.—German aviators bombarded the British ammunition bases at Coudekerque and Rosendale, suburbs of the French port of Dunkirk, the war office has announced. It is asserted that large quantities of ammunition were destroyed and that Coudekerque was fired and partly burned. A hundred persons were wounded it is said.

Alsace Fighting Hot. Paris, Jan. 5.—Fighting is increasing in violence in Alsace. Germans are retiring in many places and their counter attacks have failed. The encounter took place at several points Monday night. At Sennheim the burning houses furnished illumination for the conflict. Between Aspach and Sennheim the temporary hospital was bombarded and fired. Weather conditions have improved somewhat and fresh fighting is developing in Northern France and Belgium. It is evident the slaughter will be resumed as soon as conditions are favorable.

Karlsruhe Again Active. London, Jan. 5.—The German cruiser Karlsruhe has sunk four more British and French merchantmen, according to a dispatch from Las Palmas, Canary Island. The crews were set ashore it is believed.

Berlin Denies Claims. Berlin, Jan. 5.—Denial of the Allies' claims of success in the Western war zone were received from the front today. Instead it is asserted the Germans captured 200 meters of trenches in a point north of Arras, taking many prisoners. The French attacks between Steinbach and Auholz have been repulsed say the same reports.

"On to the Rhine" is Slogan. Paris, Jan. 5.—"On to the Rhine" is the cry that has arisen with the issuance of a war office statement telling of French victories in the extreme North and to the Southwest on German soil in Alsace. The report described a surprise attack on the Germans at Nieuport, St. George district, resulting in silencing batteries, and the allied gains of from 300 to 500 yards. Allies are blowing up burrows with mortars, injuring the invaders severely it is pointed out.

Mill Activities Renewed.

Perry, Jan. 5.—(Special)—After about two weeks of close down, the planing mill and box factory resumed operations this morning with a full crew, and from every indication a prosperous season is at hand.

PETIT LARCENY CHARGED

Alex Stevens Escapes Penitentiary—Sentenced Soon.

A technical flaw in the indictment as returned by the grand jury was probably all that saved Alexander Stevens from a term in the state penitentiary. As it was he was yesterday convicted on a petit larceny charge which will mean a fine, or jail sentence, to be imposed by Judge Knowles this evening or tomorrow. Stevens was charged with the larceny of a suit case and contents from an Oregon Central train at Union. Attorney Jas. D. Slater who defended Stevens objected to the indictment on the grounds that the contents were not specifically noted as is required by the law governing indictments. The objection was sustained by Judge Knowles, thus reducing the charge in the indictment from grand larceny to petit larceny, on which Stevens was found guilty. Grand larceny would mean a trip to Salem.

With the returning of the verdict in the Stevens case yesterday evening the jury finished up the work assigned to the court by the grand jury and were dismissed for the term. There will be no more jury cases in Circuit court until February.

Tomorrow Judge Knowles will pass sentence upon Stevens and will also hear the concluding arguments in the Hess divorce case from North Powder.

Licensed to Wed. Toney D. Smith, of the firm of Smith & Caldwell, hardware men of Union, and Mrs. Margaret Slocum operator of the Home Independent Telephone company of that city, were granted a license to wed yesterday.

UNCLE SAM OFFERS ALL AMERICANS A CHANCE TO HELP FEED THE BELGIANS



HOMELESS BELGIAN WOMEN ON THE WAY TO THE BREAD LINE.

(BY WILL IRVIN.)

FOR the first time in its history the postoffice department has been enlisted in a charitable undertaking. From this time forth any American who wishes to give food to the starving people of Belgium has only to stamp his parcel in the regular way and send it through the parcel post. It will go as straight and fast as rail and water will carry it to the doors of the starving Belgians, and the money he has paid for stamps will be refunded to the donor by the American Commission For Relief in Belgium, the executive offices of which are at 71 Broadway, New York city. Seven million people, mostly women, children and old men, are still shut up in Belgium. Industry stopped when the Germans came; the money gave out through the payment of fines and indemnities; the crops were mainly ruined. With the coasts cut off, Belgium, which imports three-quarters of her food supply in normal times, could import no more. Work is gone; money is gone; most important of all, food is gone. The German conquerors, who need all their own supplies to guard against the proposed "siege of Germany" by the allies, cannot and will not feed them. The allies, fearing that the Germans will seize any food coming from a hostile source, cannot or will not feed them. America must feed them or they will starve. There is no other way. Seven million people, until last year the most industrious, peaceable and prosperous nation in Europe, will go to their graves this winter unless America gives us never nation gave before.

While Belgium needs everything, she needs most of all just food—non-perishable food which will stand the test of ocean transportation, such as flour of any kind, peas, beans and preserved meats. The donor has only to put up his gift in packages of not less than twenty-five pounds nor more than fifty pounds, stamp it in the usual way and mail it at the nearest postoffice. If the donor adds his own name and address, TOGETHER WITH THE LETTER "R," the money he has paid for stamps will be refunded to him by the commission.

Packages mailed from OREGON should be addressed to MUNICIPAL DOCK, INC., PORTLAND, who are collecting agents for this district.

WHEAT SELLING AT \$1.41 TODAY

FEBRUARY DELIVERY SETS A NEW MARK.

Chicago Feels Effect of Shortage in the War Zone.

Portland, Jan. 5.—With the actual sale of 50,000 bushels of wheat on the Merchants' Exchange, wheat prices have gone up sensationally and set a high record mark. One sale of 5,000 bushels, February delivery of Blue Stem, brought \$1.41 a bushel. Five thousand bushels of March delivery club sold at \$1.40.

Chicago, Jan. 5.—Due to the famished condition of foreign trade, wheat

advanced from one and three quarters to two and five-eighths cents on the bushel today. May closed \$1.37 1-8 and July \$1.23 3-4.

Used Shoe as Weapon.

Pendleton, Jan. 5.—Wearing mourning about one optic and bearing the imprint of a sharp heel on his nose, Martin Anderson, local saloonman, man, appeared at police headquarters Saturday to swear out a warrant against one May Miller for assault and battery. The woman was arrested but when she told her story to the court this morning, Judge Fitz Gerald suspended sentence upon her. According to her story, she has been keeping house for Anderson in his rooms back of his saloon and on Friday night was sitting in there talking with another man when Anderson walked in and reviled her. Her retort, she said, was to throw a shoe at him. Anderson in court did not deny the story. The Miller woman has been in trouble before, having been "vagged" recently for 20 days because of her conduct.

CROWDS IN EDMONTON, ALBERTA, ENTHUSIASTIC OVER THE WAR.



This is a scene at Edmonton, in Alberta, where the British enthusiasm for the war is as great if not greater than in London. Thousands gathered when the premier called on the people of Alberta to enlist. Alberta is

furnishing its quota for fighting in Europe, and the men will be among the finest soldiers in the world. Most of them are cattlemen or farmers, who have grown hardy in the open air and the trials of war in Europe will

DEPRESSION IS REAL; RAILROAD LINES ARE HIT

GENERAL MANAGER O'BRIEN POINTS TO IDLE LOCOMOTIVES HERE.

O. W. HAS PAID OUT NO DIVIDENDS IN 6 YEARS

Head of O. W. Points to the Fact That President's Appeal to Let Corporations Rest Has Had Good Effect, And Cites Instances Where Commercial Clubs Ask for Peace.

"Depression in railroad business is not imaginary" avers J. P. O'Brien, vice-president and general manager of the O. W. R. & N. A day or two he was in La Grande on an official visit and expressed his opinions on legislation, the present business situation and related subjects. He said: "Depression in the railroad business is not imaginary, it is the real thing. Take a look at the La Grande yard. You will observe between 25 and 30 idle locomotives. Under normal conditions the average pay check on the division, of which La Grande is a part, is \$100 per month; today it is \$65.00. Wages have not been cut, the men are simply not working full time. Normally there are 2,000 men employed on this division but this number has been reduced one half. Lack of traffic has been responsible for this to a large extent, but in addition, the railroad has had to economize in every possible way. Thus far we have been able to meet our business obligations but my company has not paid a dividend in over six years. Betterments and improvements are at a stand still; extensions far in the future. Naturally such a condition would have an effect on communities like La Grande. The

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OREGON'S BLUE SKY LAW IS HELD TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL

Salem, Jan. 5.—The state supreme court has upheld the constitutionality of the Blue Sky law, deciding in favor of the defendants in a suit brought by W. V. McKinney, a Portland taxpayer, to enjoin the secretary of state from auditing, or for paying, for any claims incurred by the commissioner of corporations, Watson.

Supreme Court Decides. Washington, Jan. 5.—The Supreme court of the United States has sustained a ruling in the United States Circuit court requiring the United States to anti-trust law, providing a treble damage for anyone damaged as the result of a conspiracy to restrain trade.

The Ohio Law Valid. The Supreme court has also upheld the constitutionality of the Ohio Workman's compensation act when it sustained the Ohio Supreme court's decision in favor of Harry Bragg against the Jeffry Manufacturing company. Bragg was injured in the employ of the company.

CANNING EXPERT IS COMING TO CITY

WASHINGTON OFFICIAL MAY STOP HERE TO GIVE DEMONSTRATION.

MOVABLE SCHOOL WILL COME HERE FEB. 8-13

Orchardists and Housewives Have Treat in Store for Them.

There is a treat in store for the farmers and orchardists of this valley, as well as for every housewife, if plans now under way for securing the services of O. H. Benson, of Washington, D. C., canning expert, can be carried out. Mr. Benson, who is recognized as one of the most reliable authorities on canning processes in the world, will attend the farmers short course at the O. A. C., Corvallis, the first week in February. He will go through La Grande the latter part of January and has promised to stop off here for a lecture and canning demonstration January 29.

Claude C. Cate, county agriculturist, who is backing the attempt to secure Mr. Benson's visit, is very enthusiastic over the prospects facing the people of this valley if only they can be made to realize the benefits to be derived from a practical and scientific method of handling the products of the valley, not only for home consumption but for shipment to the outside markets. In order to stimulate interest in the canning of the products of the Grande Ronde valley Mr. Cate has arranged for a complete canning outfit which he will use in conducting demonstrations and instructing classes in the work during the coming year. The outfit to be used by Mr. Cate is a small one that can be used in any farm home, yet is large enough to take care of approximately 400 quarts of fruit a day under a process of steam pressure canning. He expects to conduct a number of classes in the work in this county and many have already applied for admission, indicating a

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OUTPOST DUTY TESTS THE EYE AND THE NERVE

GERMAN PICTURES HISSING OF SHELLS AND SHRAPNEL DURING NIGHT.

ALTHOUGH FATIGUED, THE MEN CAN'T SLEEP NIGHTS

Letter to La Grande Woman Tells of Horrors of Outpost Duty—Brother of La Grande Pastor is Prisoner at Creffield—Imprisoned for Four Months Without Word from Home.

A graphic portrayal of life in the trenches at the front, was recently received by Mrs. J. H. Blumenstein of this city from her sister in Germany. It is a translation of a letter written by a brother of Mrs. Blumenstein, to his folks at home; one of several that have been received from him. The scene of action so vividly described was located in Northern France.

The letter says: My dear ones—It is a cold, stormy and dark night. I have just been relieved from outpost duty. My eyes are smarting from continued peering into unpenetrable darkness. I have retired to my hard bunk in the recesses of the trenches in order to get some much needed sleep. But about the danger of an attack and the nearness of the enemy (800 to 400 meters) drive away all sleep and chilled and weary I drop into a deep reverie. My mind dwells on the past, pleasant pictures appear before my eyes; childhood, youth and manhood, mother, brothers, sisters, my wife and child appear before my mind's eye. The knowledge that all of you are praying with heavy hearts for the safety of those who are battling for all time in death no longer gives me a feeling of safety and peace. The howling wind now and then tears rifts into the fantastic clouds and the twinkling stars appear for brief moments. Then suddenly hissing and lighting up the country round about, the rockets go hurtling through the air. Dark forms become visible along the horizon—the alarm is given and we rush to arms! Volley after volley rolls across the battlefield, the enemy's bullets whistle past our ears, the deep roar of the cannon and the bursting shrapnel add to the hellish din and prove that the enemy has the range. Horrible dreams have come true, but soon, owing to mutual weariness and exhaustion, the ardor dies down and darkness once more envelopes the scene of strife. But—we are not yet done, nine of our comrades must be gathered up in ghostlike silence from near the outposts of the enemy and carried to the field hospital. After the dreadful task is over the day begins to break and fresh troops come to relieve us. We fall back into one of the many peculiar sandstone quarries. They are much like a cave and afford very good protection for us. Now there is hardly any room left on my sheet of paper and I almost forgot to congratulate you, my dear sister, on the occasion of your birthday celebration, which no doubt has taken place since I wrote before. I herewith heartily congratulate you and do hope that I may soon have the pleasure of seeing you again. We received the parcels you sent us as previously acknowledged. We have comparative quiet here between times but day or night we are never safe from minor engagements like the one I have just described. I have not yet heard anything from Franz, (another brother who is also a soldier at the front.) With love to all,

WILHELM.

The Rev. Upton H. Gibbs has received word that his brother who was badly wounded at the battle of Mons and subsequently captured by the Germans, has recovered sufficiently to be removed to Creffield in Germany. He is now more comfortably situated but still very weak, and is allowed to hear occasionally from his family. He was four months without hearing a word from them, which added to his distress. The prisoners are not allowed to see any newspapers and knew nothing of what is going on except what the German authorities may choose to inform them. A nephew of Mr. Gibbs, who has been on the super dreadnaught H. M. S. Neptune, was recently appointed to the command of H. M. S. Lark, class L, one of the new and largest torpedoboats. He is greatly elated over his good fortune, as he said he felt like a rat in a trap on a big ship.

Cate Will Talk Crop Rotation.

County Agriculturist Cate will address a meeting at Mt. Glenn Thursday night at 7:30 illustrating his lecture with stereoscopic views. Mr. Cate will talk to the farmers of the Mt. Glenn neighborhood on crop rotation.