

La Grande Evening Observer

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DRASTIC STEPS TO CHOKELIFE OUT OF KAISER

SHIP BLOCKADE OF GERMAN
COAST CONSTRUED TO BE
NEXT POLICY.

ENGLAND LABOR ELEMENT
WOULD MAKE PEACE PACT

Earl Grey Responds to the Effect that
Germany is Evidently Not in a
Mood to Accept any Tentative
Scheme for Peace—Kaiser's "Dra-
stic and Flagrant Breach" Quoted.

London, Feb. 11.—Premier Asquith
has announced in the House of Com-
mons that the British government is
considering drastic measures to par-
alyze German commerce, saying the
recent "flagrant breach" of rules of
international warfare made such ac-
tion necessary. While the premier
didn't disclose any contemplated ac-
tion, it is generally understood the
German submarine blockade of the
English coast will be followed by an
actual blockade of the German coast
by the English fleet.

No Peace in Sight
England and her allies see no likeli-
hood of an opening which may lead
to early peace with Germany and Aus-
tria. Foreign Minister Grey made
this plain in the House of Commons
this morning. Responding to a ques-
tion by a labor member as to what
the allies were willing to
Germany and Austria, at present,
Grey said:

Labor Suggests Peace Offer.
"Recent public utterances by Ger-
many haven't given us reason to sup-
pose the object of the questioners will
be promoted by adopting the course
suggested or by outlining tentative
terms of peace."

A small group of labor members of
the House are advocating a proposi-
tion of sounding Germany on the
question of peace. Grey's statement
is construed to indicate Germany has
no desire to consider a peace proposal
at this time.

Berlin, Feb. 11.—Further gains in
the Aargonne district and satisfac-
tory progress in the east in claimed
by the war office. Six officers and
300 men were captured in that vicinity
by Germans in the course of the
day's fighting.

Russians Reported Retreating.
Vienna, Feb. 11.—Russians are in
full retreat from Bukovina. The
Austro-German force has driven
them beyond Zucow and the Slavs
are retreating along the whole line,
although offering stubborn resist-
ance. These claims are made by the
Austrian war office. It is declared
a series of victories has been achieved
by the Germans. Battles in the Car-
pathian passes continue and the san-
guinary character has scarcely less-
ened.

WOLFF IS PAROLED.
Circumstances Pertaining to His Pre-
dicament Cloud Motive.

Acting upon the recommendation of
the jury which found Harry Wolff
guilty on a charge of concealing stolen
property, Circuit Judge Knowles this
morning paroled Wolff after sentenc-
ing him to serve a year in the county
jail.

The circumstances surrounding the
incident in which young Wolff be-
came entangled in the meshes of the
law are such that there was some
question as to any criminal intent on
his part, although the evidence tend-
ed to show that he had received the
stolen property, a bride from par-
ties bearing a doubtful reputation,
and that he had hidden the property,
although he later promptly produced
the bride upon demand of the offi-
cials.

The parole was granted upon the
promise of Wolff that he would lead
an upright, manly life and abstain
from all use of intoxicating liquors.

Two Divorces Granted.

Two divorce cases were brought to
the attention of Circuit Judge
Knowles yesterday. In one Jim Nel-
son sought a divorce from Ella Nel-
son charging cruel and inhuman
treatment. There was no effort made
to oppose the decree and a formal
appearance in court was made by R.
J. Kitchen of Union. Both the parties
have children by former mar-
riages. Lawrence Woods and Elva
Woods of Baker county were likewise
represented in court, he alleging de-
sertion and she making no protest to
the charge. She is a resident of La
Grande at present, it is said.

McCARTY HELPED BUILD CONTI-
NENTAL TELEPHONE.



When the telephone officials talked
to each other between San Francisco
and New York the other day it was
one of the events of the world's his-
tory. John J. McCarty, chief engi-
neer of the American Telephone Com-
pany, saw one of his cherished notions
come to fruition. He has been in-
terested in telephone all his life and
has risen to one of the highest posi-
tions in the country. For years he
had invented telephone appliances and
worked toward perfection of the long
distance phone. When he talked to
officials of his company in San Fran-
cisco he felt that he had accomplished
part of his life work.

DISTRICT PLAN IS STILL ALIVE

FOES OF EASTERN OREGON
MEET DEFEAT.

Railroad Commission Bill Stands as
it Did at First.

Salem, Feb. 11.—The House has
adopted a minority report of the
ways and means committee on the
read bill introduced by Brown of
Marion, and it passed to the third
reading and final passage.
The Senate, by refusing to adopt
the majority report in favor of killing
the bill providing hereafter the
members of the Railroad Commis-
sion must be elected from each of
the three congressional districts, went
on record as giving Eastern Oregon
a representation on the state Rail-
road Commission. The bill is now
up for third reading and passage.

City Commissioner Home.

Vincent Palmer, one of the city
commissioners, returned this morn-
ing from Salem where he had been
before the legislature in company
with other lumbermen from over the
state in the interest of some proposed
changes in the present workmen's
compensation act. The lumbermen
are of the opinion that the act as a
whole is a good one and should be
given a thorough test in practice
but favor some changes that expe-
rience under the operation of the act
has shown to be advisable.

Postmaster Returns.

Postmaster E. E. Bragg returned
this morning from a three day's ab-
sence from the city, attending a meet-
ing of the board of regents of the
state normal school at Monmouth
Monday and spending Tuesday and
Wednesday with friends in Portland.

Millionaire Says He Stole Melons.
Pasadena, Cal., Feb. 11.—Nathan
Straus, New York millionaire, who is
spending the winter here, says he

COLT SHOW DRAWS
INTEREST.

Imbler, Feb. 11.—(Special).
The colt show staged for Sat-
urday is attracting attention in
all parts of the valley. Few
towns of Imbler's size attempt
anything along this line and
certain enterprising citizens de-
serve much credit for their
public interest. The program
fits in nicely with the last day
of our farm school lectures, as
they take up horse judging for
Saturday.

RAILROADS WIN VITAL POINT IN THE LONG AND SHORT HAUL RATE ISSUE

Competition of Panama Canal Recognized by
Commission

SEABOARD TERMINAL RATE LESS THAN INLAND POINTS

Washington, Feb. 11.—Vital relief for
Western and middlewestern shippers
is embodied in a decision of the inter-
state commerce commission in the in-
termountain rate case. The railroads
are permitted, by the ruling, to estab-
lish rates from Missouri river terri-
tory to Pacific coast points which are
lower than to points intermediate.
The decision is the result of a revolu-
tionary effect of the opening of the
Panama canal on rates to the Pacific

coast territory. Terminals to which
the new rates apply are the points at
which the Atlantic to Pacific steam-
ships can deliver freight.

The effect of the rule will be that
Portland shipments will have a lower
rate from Missouri points than La
Grande. In other words the roads
being permitted to charge more for
a short haul than a long one over the
same road in the same direction.

WAR BULLETINS

Berlin, Feb. 11.—The sinking of an American steamship, the Wash-
ington, in the Black sea by Russian warships, is reported in unofficial reports
from Constantinople. The report declared that the Washington was sunk
while flying the American flag. No mention is made of the fate of the
crew.

stole melons when he was a boy in
Georgia.

An old dealer named Collings-
worth, said Straus, "used to sell
watermelons. He'd drive up to the
school and we'd all gather 'round and
thump the melons. Finally we'd pick
out the best one, and some boy 'ud
hand him a dime with a rubber tied
to it, and it would slip out of Collings-
worth's fingers."
"For a little bit he'd look around,
thinking it had dropped into the
wagon. Then he'd say: 'All right.

I'll find it when I get home. Just
take the melon along."

New York 'Movies' to Frisco.

New York, Feb. 11.—Moving pic-
tures of New York City and New York
state which are to be shown at the
Panama-Pacific exposition, were to be
started on their long journey across
the continent today. The pictures
show, among other things, subway
crowd jams and other evidences that
New York is the busiest place on
earth.

CALIFORNIA BOY WINS \$500,000 ESTATE BY AN EAR



Teddy Slingsby, who was born in
San Francisco four years ago, has
won a \$500,000 baronial estate in En-
gland by an ear. His father is Charles
Raymond Slingsby, former lieutenant
in the British navy. His mother was
the former Miss Dorothy Cutler Mor-
gan of San Francisco.

When he asked the British courts
to confirm the succession of his son to
his title and fortune, a younger
brother protested and went to court
with the claim that the boy was not
Mrs. Slingsby's at all. There was
testimony that her baby had died and
that she had substituted one for him.
But the probate judge in London
found the boy had a peculiar ear,
one that matched his mother's pecu-
liar ear, and therefore decided in
his favor. This is what he had to
say on the point.
"I called in a personal friend, a well

JURY GIVES NOTED AUTO TO JOHNSON

TOOK 36 MINUTES TO REACH
A VERDICT.

In Addition to Returning the Car,
\$500 Damages are Awarded to
Plaintiff in Romantic Case.

Tom Johnson, Joseph sheep herder
is a happy man again today. The
jury decided that he should have his
automobile back and in addition
awarded to him \$500 as damages for
wrongful detention of the machine.
In possession once more of his be-
loved car he can now see himself
back to his flock in the hills of the
Wallowa country and gambol over the
green while he tends the frisky lambs
kins that scamper to and fro, safe
again in the lap of Dame nature and
away from the wiles of women whose
smiles ensnare and the next time that
he decides to present his automobile
to some prospective bride he will, no
doubt, make sure first that his
"promised" is not already possessed.
The youngest jurymen who helped
give the love-encased car back to Mr.
Johnson has lived in the county one
and a half years and the average
residence of the jurors was 36 years
and it took just 36 minutes for the
jury to reach a verdict.

Many File for Land.

Joseph Honan, Walla Walla, Wash.,
Richard Hammon, of Baker, and Bert
L. Oliver, of Flora, Wallowa county,
filed applications for homestead en-
tries in the local land office this
morning. Ralph Sullivan of Starkey,
filed application for an isolated tract.

Fractional plat of survey, town-
ship 6 N., range 30 E., was filed in
the land office today. This township
is practically all covered by settlers.

CORRESPONDENT WRITES IN CELL

PICTURES HORROR OF AERO-
PLANE RAIDS.

Children Killed but Even that Won't
Keep Citizens in Cellars.

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD,
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

Dunkirk, France, January 28.—By
mail to New York.—Dunkirk is for-
bidden ground and I am under arrest
in a hotel, as I write this.

My jailer has orders to take me
down to the train at noon and start
me off to Calais. His name is Theo-
dore Hoorens, and Seattle is his home,
though he came over here for the war
and was assigned to the secret ser-
vice of the French army. At this
blessed moment his wife is in Dead-
wood, South Dakota, and Hoorens
wants her to have a copy of this
story addressed to her, in care of
general delivery. He's glad to be a
jailer for an American. In fact, I
think I should have spent last night
in jail where two English newspaper-
men are languishing, had not Hoorens
told the chief of the secret service
that he would vouch for my not run-
ning away. But friendly as he is,
Hoorens has to escort me to the train
and put me on it.

Hoorens has his own troubles too.
"I'm worried about my father," said
Hoorens. "He lives in Armentieres
and he's 83 years old. The roof of
the old house was blown off by a Ger-
man shell and he had to get out. He
went to live with neighbors and their
house was unroofed and so dad moved
from there, to a cellar in the house of
another friend, but I can't get him to
move from the town. He says he's
lived there all his life and that no
Germans can drive him out."

Last evening before the secret ser-
vice men got me I had a chance to
look over this much be-bombed town.
In the last three weeks three sets of
funerals have passed through its
streets, Dunkirk burying its dead vic-
tims of German aeroplanes. Only this
morning seven caskets, bearing the
corpses of children who were killed
when a flock of twenty-four German
flying machines passed over Dunkirk,
were carried through the streets in
hearses. Count von Lichterfelde of
the Belgian war office, who saw the
funeral, told me it was the saddest
thing he had seen in all the war.

Dunkirk goes about its business as
usual, until nightfall. Then it closes
its shutters and stays indoors and at
9 o'clock, out goes every light in
every house and hotel.

"My citizens," reads a public letter
which the mayor has posted through-
out the town, "you are brave, I know,
but nevertheless, sensible. It is folly
to remain in the streets when the Ger-
man aeroplanes fly over our city, and
I beg you to go to your cellars at the
first sound of the warning signal from
the tocsin. It is brave to risk one's
life when some benefit is to be gained,
but it is folly and not bravery to put
one's life in jeopardy out of sheer
(Continued on Page 8.)

O-W BUSINESS LEADS FATNESS TO PAY CHECKS

PRESENT CREWS WILL DRAW
BIGGER SALARIES FEB. 16
THAN FOR SOME TIME.

MORE CREWS NEEDED
IF BUSINESS GROWS

Crews and Officials Hope That In-
creased business of Past Few Weeks
Will Continue—Future Will Tell Its
Own Story, But at Present Optim-
ism Has Grippped Railroad Circles.

Railroading on the La Grande divi-
sion the past few weeks has been
such as to indicate business is holding
its own and many see in the signs a
return of something like normal con-
ditions this spring. The train crews
at present number 12, and though actu-
ally no new crews have yet been put
on, it is stated on good authority that
such crews as have been regularly
employed, will draw fatter checks on
February 16 than they have for sev-
eral months past. The limited crews
are working regularly, in contrast to
the past few months in which they
have been called only from time to
time as needed.

Various rumors have been circulated
in connection with the railroad situ-
ation, it being reported that several
new crews were to be put on at once.
The fact is that the business of late
has been such that it has kept the
present train crews busy all the time,
and railroad officials, it is reported are
outlining a plan to put back during
the next 30 days, some of the 40 men
pulled out of service last fall.

In any event, although railroad of-
ficials are not in position to say what
the future will bring forth or how
long it will continue, business has
picked up to such an extent that the
next pay day will bring to such limited
crews as have been working this
winter, paychecks comparing favor-
ably with the good days of railroading
prosperity. Whether the business will
continue to increase to such an ex-
tent that several other crews will be
permanently needed is for the future
to say.

In a time when business is dull and
railroad paychecks dropped to the low-
tide, any indication that the bottom
of depression has been reached and
an increased, or even level, volume of
business is a fact, is greeted with a
considerable degree of satisfaction in
La Grande, being, as it is, largely de-
pendant upon the railroads' pay-
checks.

PORTLANDER DRINKS POISON
Hundreds of Pedestrians See Man
Drink Poison to Kill Self.

Portland, Feb. 11.—In the presence
of his wife and hundreds of pedes-
trians, Theodore C. Sewall, aged 47,
drank two ounces of carbolic acid on
the street today. He was removed to
a hospital in a dying condition.
The act is attributed to domestic
troubles.

FIGHTING TO CONTINUE.

Washington Executive Continues to
Stand for Ship Bill.

Washington, Feb. 11.—After a con-
ference with Senators Fletcher and
Simmons and Representative Kitchen,
President Wilson has decided to con-
sent to no compromise in the ship
purchase bill. It is stated on high
authority. The filibuster was ended
last night.

HOLIDAY TOMORROW

Postoffice and Banks to Close but
Court Will Continue.

Tomorrow is Lincoln anniversary
day, and the banks of the city, the
postoffice and other public offices will
be closed. However, circuit court will
continue to grind. The postoffice
will have open its windows from 9 to
10 a. m.

Smoker Looked Forward To.
Tomorrow night is to be an im-
portant one socially for members of
the Eagles' lodge. A smoker is to be
held on that occasion and a program
of entertainment for Eagles and their
friends is on the boards. All Eagles
are urged to remember the date.

Water Troubles Delay.
The noon train from Portland was
delayed an hour or more today by
water troubles in the vicinity of The
Dalles.

Sodality Dance Friday.
Friday evening the Sodality girls
give their pre-Lenten dancing party at
Rex Hall. This will be one of the
last dancing parties prior to the day
of social fasting.