

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIV.

LA GRANDE, OREGON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1915

NUMBER 216

ENGLAND CALM ON EVE OF GERMAN SUBMARINE WAR ON HER MERCHANT SHIPS

JOHN BULL CONSIDERS MOVE THE LAST RESORT TACTICS

GERMANS DO NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE RESULTS

BY ED KEEN.
London, Feb. 16.—England awaits "The day" with supreme confidence, the British officialdom generally accepting the enforcement of the submarine blockade beginning Thursday as indicating "The beginning of the end." They believe it to be Germany's last blow.

Expelling, according to the English view, haven't been up to expectations and German submarines are the last available weapons. It is believed in London that Germany will mark her own doom as soon as she torpedoes merchantmen carrying passengers. The British authorities insist that the civilized world won't view with equanimity the sinking without warning of merchantmen with crews and passengers unable to save themselves.

In view of the speech in the House of Commons yesterday by the first lord of the admiralty, Lord Churchill, it is believed the British, French and Russian fleets will enforce the most complete blockade ever attempted when they close about the German coast. Newspapers, commenting on the German note to America say it is the last effort by German officialdom to "save its face."

Berlin, Feb. 16.—Warning was published in Germany today to the effect that the people must not be too anxious for quick results from the proposed operations of submarines against British commerce. The government's article declared rumor shouldn't be credited but that the people must await official reports which are available only after the submarines return to their base and make their report. The article admits the possibility of destruction of neutral ships but insists Germany cannot be blamed as she has given the full possible warning to neutrals of the danger.

Uncle Sam Appealed To.
Washington, Feb. 16.—Developments in the controversy between England and Germany over the use of neutral flags and the proposed German blockade of British waters, have placed the United States in the attitude of an intermediary between the belligerents. Forwarding by the American state department to England of the combined German threat and offer to compromise has apparently established this attitude. The state department requested England to release the Wilhelmshagen cargo unless she has evidence heretofore undeveloped. It is evident the authorities have considered both England and Germany are in a mood to make concessions which might result in benefit to American commerce.

Cabinet Gets Text.
Washington, Feb. 16.—All international complications with which the United States are now confronted, were considered by the president and his cabinet today. Secretary Bryan was present and he submitted to the president the text of the second reply from Great Britain regarding shipping protests of the United States. Extended negotiations over the matter are expected to continue. The cabinet gave particular attention to the note presented by Ambassador von Bernstorff in which an offer is made in behalf of Germany to abandon her plans to attack the British merchantmen if England will remove her restrictions on food shipments to Germany. It is feared here the prospect for relieving the situation resulting from this controversy is slim.

Lost Track of Time.
The popularity of Ed. Wright, county clerk, has kept him in public office so long that he has lost track of the time that he has been serving the people. Mr. Wright was called to the witness stand this morning in the case of G. H. Rush vs. the Union School District, and when asked to state the length of time he had served as county clerk, replied "ten years," then corrected himself and finally stated that he was not certain whether it was "eight or ten years." (Good natured laughter on the part of everybody, including the jurymen.)

Prince Judges Tango Contest.
New York, Feb. 16.—A prince will act as a tango judge tonight at a ball for which society women have posted bills. The affair is the suffrage ball, to be held at Grand Central Palace. Prince Troubetzkoy, husband of Amelia Rives, the novelist, will determine which of the many society tango-choreographers present is the best tangoist.

An army of young women, headed by Miss Agnes Morgenthau, niece of the Ambassador to Turkey, "papered the town last week."

ELKS SEND AGENT TO BUY FURNISHINGS

E. E. KIRTLEY GOES TO OBTAIN ELKS' ORDER.

After He Makes Selections, Local Dealers Will Handle the Order—Outsiders Turned Down.

Determined to buy the furniture and furnishings for the Elks' new home at La Grande merchants, lodge No. 433 B. P. O. E. has contracted with Ellis E. Kirtley a La Grande ladies' furnishing dealer, to make a trip to New York for the purpose of selecting the proper furniture and draperies for the magnificent new temple.

Mr. Kirtley's ability in selecting harmonious colors and blending properly the draperies is well known to lodge members and when the committee chose him for the task there was general approval of the action.

While the furnishings and draperies will be selected by Mr. Kirtley on his trip east, the lodge will buy through local furniture dealers. This conclusion has been arrived at after several weeks of consideration. And it might be added that every store of size in the cities of Seattle, Portland, Salt Lake and Denver have been after the contract to furnish the new temple. Personal representatives from many of these stores have been in La Grande talking to the lodge, but all have been turned down in order that the lodge may practice its loyalty to home institutions, according to the committee in charge.

STATE VETERINARIAN FINDS NO TRACE OF RABIES AT STARKEY

A visit of state veterinarian W. H. Lytle, accompanied by A. G. Paddock, to the Starkey, Oregon, yesterday failed to reveal any symptoms of rabies among the live stock of that country, in spite of the stories of mad coyotes that have been emanating from that region during the past few weeks.

Called to this section of the state by the reports of the depredations committed by the coyotes of Eastern Oregon, Mr. Lytle is making a thorough investigation of conditions and obtaining a first hand knowledge of the situation. A visit to the Summerville section before going to Starkey yesterday morning revealed a few head of horses that were suffering from poisoning but nothing was found in this county to substantiate the alarm that has been raised over the mad coyote reports.

The veterinarians were taken from here to the Starkey country by Ben. Shores, whose car is the first to penetrate that far up the river since winter set in. Mr. Shores reports the roads along the entire distance to be in good condition considering the season of the year.

MUCH IS AT STAKE.
Meeting of Northwest Fruitmen Has Important Bearing.
That there is a great deal of importance attached to the Tacoma meeting of Pacific Northwest fruitmen, among whom is C. I. Hornberger of Imbler, is indicated from the following Tacoma dispatch, sent out yesterday:

"The Northwest Apple Growers' Council, representing 85 per cent of the box apple industry of the world, meeting this morning at the Tacoma Commercial club, organized under W. H. Paulhus as temporary chairman and appointed a committee of one man from each district represented to formulate a plan for organization of a board of control to confer with the selling agencies and supervise the marketing of all apples now grown in the Northwest. About 100 delegates, representing Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana were present."

"W. W. Rodwell of Hood River was made secretary.
"The motion for the appointment of the committee, made by Chairman E. C. S. Brainerd of the Idaho district, was amended by John Davis of the Spokane delegation, so that the appointment of a member to the committee would not bind a delegation to approve any plan formulated.
"The committee, which will formulate plans for organizing the board and define its duties, consists of Oscar Vanderbilt, representing Hood River and adjacent shipping points; A. W. Simmons, of Freewater, representing the Walla Walla district; M. J. Higley of Payette, representing Southern Idaho; John F. Davis of Opportunity, representing the Spokane territory; C. T. Haskell of East Wenatchee; J. E. Shannon of North Yakima, representing the Yakima valley; A. W. Westerlund, of Medford, representing Western Oregon and W. A. Sackett of Hamilton, representing Montana."

Goes to Salem with Prisoners.
Police Officer Bryant left last night for Salem in charge of Harry Mann, Jack Smith and George Nelson sentenced to serve indefinite terms in the state penitentiary.

SENATE ADOPTS BILL CHECKING NEW UTILITIES

PREVENTS NEW CORPORATION FROM ENTERING OCCUPIED FIELD WITHOUT PERMIT.

PROTECTION SOUGHT IN RAILROAD CIRCLES FAILS

Senate Rejects One and Passes Another of Two Important Bills Before It—House Today Passes Fish and Game Laws as Introduced by the Majority Committee—Other Acts Finished.

Salem, Feb. 16.—The senate this afternoon passed the Anderson prohibition bill 29 to 1. Kohler casting the dissenting vote. The house had previously passed the measure. The voting occupied 30 minutes. The galleries and floor were crowded.

Salem, Feb. 16.—The senate has passed a bill requiring persons or corporations wishing to establish a public utility in a field already occupied, to obtain a certificate of authority from the railroad commission.

A bill to protect employees of railroad companies by prescribing the clearance distance that railroad companies must allow in the future in the construction of tracks, bridges and tunnels, was defeated by the senate. Both of these bills are of much importance.

The house is on record today as having passed the bill revising the game and fishing laws of the state, as introduced by the majority of the committee.

The house also today passed a law recognizing chiropractics.

DEATH CLAIMS GIRL.

Miss Violet Hancock Succumbs to Appendicitis at Corvallis.

The many friends of Miss Violet Hancock in Union county were shocked to learn of her death which occurred yesterday at Corvallis. Appendicitis was the cause.

Miss Hancock was raised in Cove and is the daughter of Mrs. William Hancock. She was one of the most popular girls ever raised in this valley. In 1908 she graduated from the Oregon Agricultural college and for the past few years has held the position of teacher in the Corvallis high school.

The remains will be brought to the Cove for burial and funeral services will be held there Thursday at 2 o'clock.

RIG SALE AT FAIR GROUNDS

Livestock and Machinery to Be Sold Feb. 27.

Auctioneer Ed Stringham will hold a big public sale at the La Grande fair grounds Saturday, February 27, at which time he will offer to the highest bidder a number of head of livestock and a large amount of farm machinery, etc. Hour of sale and terms to be announced within a few days.

LICENSE LAW SET ASIDE.

For the Present Aliens Need Not Procure Expensive Licenses.
Salem, Feb. 16.—Because of the danger of attacks by coyotes during the prevalence of rabies in Eastern and Central Oregon deputy game wardens won't, until the danger is past, enforce the provision of the law requiring a license fee of \$25 from aliens for the privilege of carrying fire arms. This is the announcement made today after a conference between the governor and Game Warden Finley.

Tax Collecting Force Busy.
The tax collecting force at the county court house is putting in some strenuous hours these days, although the collections have not yet commenced to pile up into big figures. Statements are being made out this week and sent out to the taxpayers. In order to expedite this part of the tax collecting business it has been necessary to increase the force for a few days. Mrs. Tom Williamson, Miss Ethel Beardon, Harry Frawley and Ed Stearns assisting the regular force this week.

La Grande Merchants Recognized.
According to Portland papers, La Grande merchants at the state convention of Oregon merchants are meeting with more than the usual cordial treatment and are being recognized at the convention as are few other delegations.

HEAD OF COMMITTEE SUING ROCK ISLAND DIRECTORS.



Nathan L. Amster is at the head of the committee of minority stockholders of the Rock Island Railroad, which has begun a suit against directors of the company for \$7,500,000. They declare that this sum was lost by juggling the assets in a way that brought about receivership proceedings.

RECRUITS COME TO CLUB LIST

COMMERCIAL CLUB CAMPAIGN WINNING OUT.

New Members Added Already but Bombardment Continues.

Recruiting officers of the La Grande Commercial club are having first-class success in their campaign for new members, but notwithstanding that many new names have been added, the work is not to cease until a most thorough search and fine-comb act has been made of the highways and byways of the city.

"Upon a large membership depends our success in the campaign for support of home industries this year," said D. M. Clark, secretary, and one of those who has been given a good deal of time to the task. "We find ready response to the appeal, when it is understood that the purpose is meritorious, and when once it is made clear it is the solemn duty of every merchant and progressive citizen to contribute something toward the upkeep of the Commercial club."

War Bulletins

Berlin, Feb. 16.—Directly contradicting the French statement that the British had recaptured trenches near Steloi the war office asserted today the British assaults were repulsed. The communique declared that in the Eastern theatre pursuit of the Russians was proceeding favorably.

Paris, Feb. 16.—British troops have recaptured two lines of outlying trenches near Steloi. The war office announces this engagement was only an infantry clash in Flanders and Northern France since Sunday.

NEW WIRELESS PLANT

Many Now Follow the Science in An Amateur Lust to Learn Wireless.

The erection of wireless apparatus has become such a common occurrence in La Grande that it no more excites the curiosity of the average citizen. Followers of the fad or hobby in this city now number some half dozen with many more who have recently caught the fever and a promise of further additions to the wireless corps until soon the aerials will spark and sputter in every section of the city.

The latest addition to the wireless force of the city is T. Bartholemew who Sunday completed the erection and installation of apparatus at his home just west of the Oregon hotel building. This equipment, as is also the case with that of Frank Bay and several other wireless "bugs" is limited in its carrying capacity to four or five miles and will be used only for practice work in the city until proficiency calls for enlarged territory.

O. M. Hancock whose equipment is capable of carrying over long distances reports a conversation with operators in Denver both Saturday and Sunday nights, a distance of 775 miles.

Devere vs. Flynn.
St. Joe, Mo., Feb. 16.—Bob Devere of Kansas City, who recently administered the Kayo to Sailor Grande, will meet Jim Flynn, the fireman, here tonight for a fifteen round go.

HOUSE READY TO PASS THE PURCHASE BILL

GAG RULE ADOPTED BY A VOTE THAT SHOWS HOW HOUSE IS LINED UP.

VOTE ON MEASURE TO BE TAKEN DURING DAY

New No Question but That House Will Pass the Compromise Bill Following Defeat of First Bill—No Need for Ships but Submarines Should Be Supplied Avers Naval Committeeman.

Washington, Feb. 16.—Passage by the house of the administration compromise ship purchase bill tonight, is assured. The house adopted a gag rule limiting the debate on the bill to six hours. The vote on the adoption of the rule was 186 to 139. It is expected this plurality for the administration will be maintained in the final vote tonight on the bill itself.

No Battleships Needed Say Chief.
Washington, Feb. 16.—"Not a single battleship should be built by this country this year," declared Senator Jones, of Washington, in discussing the naval appropriation bill. "I will not make any fight to prevent one or two battleships being built for several reasons. The most important is that the Naval Board seems to wish to keep up a certain program and I have no wish to interfere with that. But as to the actual value of battleships, I do not believe that the construction of one, two, three or four battleships this year would add materially to the strength of the power of resistance of the United States."

"This great war now raging in Europe, and for that matter all over the world, has demonstrated one thing very clearly, and that is that a little submarine, costing perhaps two or three hundred thousand dollars and carrying less than one hundred men, can with comparatively immunity sink a big dreadnaught of the enemy that cost \$15,000,000 and carries a crew of about 1,000 men. When struck by the torpedo from the submarine, incidentally, the big boat becomes a mere deathtrap for her large crew, including the scores of officers which the government owning the deathtrap, had spent so much money to educate and train."

"The greatest lesson which we have learned in naval warfare so far in this conflict, therefore, is the power and effectiveness of the submarine. Yet that is where the United States is weaker than in almost any other branch, always excepting aeroplanes, where it is weaker than anywhere else. This country should profit by the lesson which the countries of Europe have spent so much money to demonstrate—the enormous value of the submarine to harass and pick off the big fighting ships of the enemy. We should proceed to equip our navy with a large fleet of submarines and train a large number of men in the handling of these boats, the accurate shooting of torpedoes from them."

"There is another item which should be included in the naval appropriation bill. That is a liberal allowance for the building of more colliers and supply ships for the navy. I regarded it as a disgrace that this country had to charter ships flying a foreign flag to accompany our fleet on its trip round the world because we did not have enough supply ships and colliers in the navy, or for that matter in the American registry."

MORE INDUCEMENTS GIVEN

Social Room to Be Opened for Members This Evening.

Opening up further inducements to the members of the Y. M. C. A., the social room will be ready for use this evening with its attractions of bowling, billiards and pocket billiards. The shades for the lights have not yet arrived but this shortage is being overcome by improvised shades to be used temporarily in order that the room can be opened at this time without further delay.

The decision of the official board to bar miners from the social room will be strictly adhered to, and a small charge will be made for the use of the alleys and table by the members of the "Y."

Society Wedding at Pittsburg.

Pittsburg, Feb. 16.—Miss Henrietta Thaw, daughter of Benjamin Thaw, of New York and Pittsburg, was to become the bride of Lawrence Slade, of New York, today, the ceremony taking place at Shady-side, the Thaw home here.