

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XIV.

LA GRANDE, OREGON.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1915.

NUMBER 219

TRAVEL BETWEEN ENGLAND AND CONTINENT STOPPED

GERMAN BLOCKADE FELT BY NORWEGIAN AND FRENCH VESSELS

REAL BLOWS AT SHIPPING STRUCK WITH SUCCESS

Washington, Feb. 19.—The state department is advised that travel between England and the continent has been suspended on an order by the British admiralty until further notice. The order is taken to mean that Great Britain regards the German blockade seriously and does not propose to risk lives of passengers in the danger zone.

London, Feb. 19.—The Norwegian tank steamer Beldridge, enroute to Amsterdam from New Orleans with a cargo of oil either struck a mine or was torpedoed in the Straits of Dover. Eighteen members of the crew and the admiral pilot are missing. It is feared they perished.

The Beldridge, sinking, was towed to Walmer and beached. This with the attempted destruction of the French steamer Dinorah, was the first move in the German effort to carry on a blockade against England. The German submarine U-16 torpedoed the Dinorah off Dieppe while she was enroute to Havre from Dunkirk. The submarine's torpedo didn't strike the Dinorah full force. One of the vessel's plates was sprung and the boat was safely towed in by a tug. The Beldridge was steaming mid-channel when a violent explosion stove her plates below the water line. The pilot and the 18 members of the crew left the craft in small boats and have not been heard from since. Several volunteers remained with the captain of the tanker until the Dover tug arrived and towed in to Walmer.

London, Feb. 19.—With the German blockade of the British coast in existence for 36 hours, Lloyds had no record this noon of any British steamers being over due at their destinations. The admiralty declared no reports had been received of attempts to attack any merchant vessels and none of the coast guard ships had been engaged.

Press Again Muzzled.

There is no way of ascertaining whether or not the presence of hostile submarines in British waters had been reported. The government has forbidden public reports regarding submarines except on official statements through the admiralty.

French Boat Struck.

London, Feb. 19.—A German submarine torpedoed the French merchant steamer, Dinorah, off Dieppe, according to a Paris dispatch. The Dinorah was badly damaged but the crew kept the pumps going and succeeded in taking the vessel to Dieppe.

STATE BANKERS CONFERENCE

Expected Union County Will Be Represented at Frisco in May.

It is expected that several Union county bankers will attend the annual state convention of Oregon bankers which is to be held in San Francisco May 25-27 inclusive. At a meeting of the State Bankers' association executive committee held at Portland last Tuesday and attended by F. L. Meyers of this city who is a member of that board, it was stated that a canvass of the entire state disclosed 90 percent were in favor of accepting the invitation from the Panama exposition to hold the meeting there. Consequently the Oregon money counters will hie to San Francisco to hold their annual convention. Mr. Meyers did not have time to attend all the sessions of the State Bankers' convention but brings back the report that a great deal of interesting discussion took place.

WILLIAMS FOUND GUILTY

Holdup Near Pierce Ranch Results in Verdict of Guilty by Jury.

John Williams charged with assault and robbery of Harvey Stansfield at the Pierce ranch in December was found guilty by the jury in circuit court yesterday evening. Sentence will be passed by Judge Knowles tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. Williams was charged with using a revolver in persuading Stansfield to part with his money and a substantial check, the crime being committed in a bunk house on the Pierce ranch. Williams was arrested in a room at the Ronde Valley house in this city.

NEW DISTRICT NEAR REALITY

NOW UP TO HOUSE TO DECIDE

WALLOWA JUDGESHIP.

Senate Passes Bill Creating New Wallowa District Judge.

Salem telegrams to La Grande people this afternoon predict that the new district judge bill which has passed the senate, will find favor in the lower house.

Circuit Judge Knowles received telegraphic information last night to the effect that the bill providing for two circuit judges in this district had passed the senate and was now up for action by the house. The bill provides for another judge to be a resident of Wallowa county and will relieve Judge Knowles of all of the work in that county, the work in the two counties having attained such a volume as to make it almost impossible for one judge to care for it properly.

However it is the purpose of the bill that either Union or Wallowa county judges may interchange when occasion demands it.

UNUSUAL PROCEDURE TAKEN.

Disabled Entrywoman Appears Before Land Office in Sister State.

Mrs. Isabella Kleese, who is now about 60 years of age, in 1098 filed on a homestead in the vicinity of Rock Creek. After enduring many of the hardships incident to pioneer life in a sparsely settled district, in coming from her claim to La Grande, a year ago, she was thrown from a wagon and disabled. She then was compelled to remove to Tacoma, Washington, where she has a son residing, for medical treatment. Mrs. Kleese recently gave notice, by publication, of her intention to submit final proof on her homestead entry on February 18, 1915. By a letter addressed to the local land department officials, Mrs. Kleese notified the office that, on account of her disability, she would be unable to appear on the date set for the submission of final proof, and requested to be allowed to appear before the register and receiver, or county clerk, at Tacoma, Wash., and give her testimony as claimant. Thereupon, all necessary papers were prepared by the local office and forwarded to Mrs. Kleese. Her proof witnesses, H. L. Courtney and W. A. Zweifel, both of La Grande, appeared at the local office and submitted their testimony in support of the entry in question, on the date named in the notice. It is presumed that Mrs. Kleese appeared before the register and receiver, or before the county clerk, at Tacoma, Wash., concurrently, for the purpose of completing her final proof of compliance with the homestead law.

This procedure is an unusual one in the submission of final proofs on government lands, and the prescribed method of procedure is for the claimant to appear and offer testimony at the same time and place as the two requisite proof witnesses, at some point within the land district or county within which the land in question lies. The advanced years of the entrywoman in this case, coupled with the circumstances of her accident and consequent disability, should have a tendency toward influencing favorable consideration of her proof by the general land office.

PLACING BOMB ON A RUSSIAN RAILWAY TO BLOW UP SOLDIERS.



This photograph, taken in eastern Prussia, illustrates the gentle art of placing bombs under a railway track so a few hundred soldiers may be blown up. It is a case taken from the Russian invasion of eastern Prussia.

SEARS AND ROEBUCK PUT IN CITY JAIL

POLICE DOCKET RESEMBLES MAIL ORDER HOUSE.

Sears, for Larceny, Roebuck for Disorderly Conduct, Have Names Incribed on Chief's Blotter.

With the arrest last night of Christopher Sears charged with larceny from a dwelling, and the arrest last week of George Roebuck for disorderly conduct, the docket at the police station begins to sound suspiciously like a mail order catalogue, although neither of these two patrons of the city lodging house lay any claim to relationship with the Chicago magnates.

Sears is alleged to have taken a pair of high top shoes from the residence of George Gilbert yesterday. He had been engaged to split some wood at the Gilbert home and after wielding the ax until he considered that his job was finished he is said to have attached himself to a pair of good shoes that tempted him and quit the scene. Roebuck was assessed \$10 last week for disorderly conduct, and while Sears has not yet been arraigned it is altogether probable that before he is through with this experience both Sears and Roebuck will have become converted to the "patronize home industry" slogan.

TODAY'S ODDDEST STORY.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 19.—"Taking the fire to the firemen" is the title of the newest pyrotechnical performance in Cincinnati.

Roy Silver accidentally upset an oil stove in his covered wagon. It ignited a bundle of straw. Silver immediately put on high speed ahead and landed promptly at Engine Co. 39. Firemen nonchalantly turned on the nozzle, the blaze succumbed. Silver proceeded, and there was mutual thanks.

PANAMA EXPOSITION TO OPEN

WITH FIFE AND DRUM MUSIC

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—Early tomorrow, fife and drum corps will traverse all sections of the city playing martial airs and arousing the people from sleep.

The population will immediately march up Van Ness avenue and through the gates of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and the great San Francisco fair will be on.

This is the principal ceremony that will mark the opening of the exposition. The idea was adopted by the directors of the fair in order to "do something different."

The exposition officials confidently

predict that three hundred thousand men, women and children will respond to the call and participate in the "1915 Grand March," as the parade will be known. There will be no grand marshal, no regular formation to the procession. It will be a parade of "joyful disorder," as President C. C. Moore of the Exposition company expressed it. The only city official who will be in the parade in his official capacity will be Mayor James Rolph. At the request of the business men of the city, a legal holiday has been declared in this city.

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Salem, Feb. 19.—Working through the noon hour the senate disposed of practically all of the senate bills and this afternoon is grinding away at house bills. Without opposition the bill consolidating the office of state highway engineer with state engineers, passed. There was no opposition to the passage of the bill consolidating the desert land board with the state land board.

The house passed eight measures, but none of them were important. The big appropriation bills remain untouched. Consolidation measures are in conference and the situation is tense. The deadlock which started yesterday is in full force and unbroken. Although today is the last day of the legislature, some believe a longer session will be necessary on account of the fight between the senate and the house.

MERCHANTS PRAISE CONVENTION

La Grande delegates to the State Merchants association convention in Portland are commencing to return. J. G. Snodgrass, chairman of the resolutions committee and re-elected director, T. J. Scroggin, cashier of the United States National and Clyde Kiddie, Island City merchant, arrived today noon. They bring a story of a successful meeting from every viewpoint, despite the keen fight in the convention against Secretary Merrick by some Portland merchants. The speakers were of an unusually distinguished type, the entertainment was of the best, and the convention on the whole was very satisfactory. The re-election of Merrick probably means another trade paper in the state, but this is a minor affair, interesting principally the grocers of Portland, say the La Grande delegates, and the state association is prone to accomplish much good.

There is nothing to complain of from any standpoint, and even the selection of Astoria as the next meeting place of the convention meets with

approval in Eastern Oregon," said Mr. Snodgrass on his return today.

Mr. Polack is reported to be due home tonight and the other delegates from here will be drifting in on every train between now and Sunday or Monday morning.

POPULAR FARCE TONIGHT

Students to Put on Screaming Parody on Shakespeare's Play.

The farce "Merchant of Venice Up to Date" which is to be given by the members of the Latin department of the high school tonight, is proving to be the most popular attraction of the week. The students will be out in a body and a large sale of tickets outside of the school circles shows that the interest taken in this play is great. The performance will start promptly at 8 o'clock and those who wish their choice of seats must come early.

AERIAL FLEET DEFLECTED.

French and English Aircraft Attack Ostend in Force.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Official advices received tonight from Rotterdam say a great aerial fleet of British and French aeroplanes and seaplanes which attempted to destroy Ostend and Middlekerke, were repulsed by German batteries.

ALLEGED DYNAMITER IS HELD.

Participation in Times Blowup is Charged to Man at Tacoma.

Port Orchard, Wn., Feb. 19.—David Caplan, arrested here last night on a charge of participation in dynamiting the Los Angeles Times building, was lodged in jail here and today admits his identity but denies his guilt. He says he never has been in Los Angeles except to pass through there. He will return to California without extradition.

Hancock Funeral Postponed.

The funeral services over the remains of the late Miss Hancock who died of appendicitis at Corvallis, has been postponed until 10 o'clock Saturday. It will be held at Cove.

AUSTRIANS VICTORIOUS

WAR OFFICE CLAIMS GREATEST VICTORY OF THE WAR THUS FAR.

CAPITAL OF BUKOVINA RECAPTURED FROM SLAVS

Russians Said to Have Been Put to Rout—English Statement Claims Fighting in France is About on an Equality—Berlin Tells of Decisive Victories in French District.

Vienna, Feb. 19.—The greatest victory of the war is claimed by the Austrian war office. Czernowitz, capital of Bukovina, has been recaptured and the Russians driven entirely out of the province with staggering losses, it is claimed.

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Repulse of French troops at all points where they have assumed the offensive, is claimed by the war office. "On the road to Lille and Arras," said the statement, "French were driven from a section of German trenches the former carried February 16. Renewed French assaults were attempted at Champagne but broke down before the German fire."

London, Feb. 19.—Another report from Field Marshal French has been made public. It admits severe fighting in the entire front of Northern France and Flanders, with advantage about even. "The enemy displayed considerable activity south of Ypres during the last few days," the report says, "and fighting has been severe. At certain points Germans occupied some of our trenches, but were driven out by a determined counter attack. At one point 60 dead were left on the ground, while we took a number of prisoners and blew up one of the enemy's trenches."

SEED IN DEMAND.

Farmers Urged to Grow Clover and Alfalfa Seed This Year.

The demand for seed of every variety by the farmers of the Grande Ronde valley is becoming so great that the growing seed is being urged by County Agricultural Cate as the only means by which the demand can be cared for. Heretofore the experiment station at the Oregon Agricultural college has been looked to for the necessary seed supply but with the branching out into more varied farming that has been experienced in the past few years this demand upon the school has become too great to supply and Mr. Cate believes that there is a good field for some of the ranchers of the valley to take up the growing of grains for seed purposes.

"More alfalfa, clover and field peas will be grown in this county this fall than ever before," said Mr. Cate. "due to the need for building up the soils. The planting of legumes provides not only a financially profitable crop but gives back to the soil the life that is taken from it by constant growing of other crops."

BUSHNELL BUYS FARM.

Purchases Tract from O. W. Moon Near La Grande.

E. N. Bushnell has purchased the O. W. Moon 160 acre farm four miles from La Grande. This gives Mr. Bushnell 480 acres. He is building up quite a stock business and this increased acreage will give further room for expansion. The deal was perfected through the Geo. H. Currey Real Estate agency.

NO REWARDS FOR FIRE ALARMS.

"No, the city doesn't pay \$5.00 reward for anybody turning in a fire alarm."

This was the information Chief Benham had to impart yesterday in connection with a call for help from the extreme east end of Y avenue late in the afternoon. The W. H. McKetrick home at 1804 Y had a chimney fire that was threatening to ignite the residence, and a neighbor turned in the alarm by telephone but stopped to ask about the reward. "This is a new one on me," said the chief as he climbed aboard the car and headed for the fire. Chemists did the work.

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