

La Grande Evening Observer

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

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NUMBER 220

BLOCKADE IS NOW IN FORCE

GERMAN SUBMARINES KNOWN TO INFEST WATERS OF ENGLISH CHANNEL.

NORWEGIAN STEAMER IS VICTIM OF GERMAN MINE

Expected Strong Representations Be Made by Scandinavian Nations As Result of Sinking Coal Ship—British Owned Steamer First Submarine Blockade Victim.

London, Feb. 20.—It is known here that the English channel is being patrolled by a number of German submarines, but owing to the censorship which prevails the number and exact whereabouts of the submarines are withheld.

Norwegians May Object
Strong representations are expected to be made by Norway as a result of the torpedoing of the steamer Belridge. Indications are that the Scandinavian nations will act in concert and it is expected that they will seek the co-operation of the United States. No attempt has been made by British officials to disguise the situation from the standpoint of the neutral nations.

Paris, Feb. 20.—Germany's claim of successes in the North and in the Champagne and Argonne district are contradicted by the war office in a statement issued today. The statement which reviewed the operations of the past 10 days declared that all developments had been favorable to the Allies. It charged the German claims of successes were made in the expectation of influencing the Italian parliament to continue its policy of neutrality. Despite the bad weather the statement says that the Allies have made notable gains during the week.

British Steamer Torpedoed.
London, Feb. 20.—The Cardiff steamer Cambank was torpedoed by a German submarine and sunk off Holyhead today. The Cambank was a British owned steamer of 2,000 tons.

Copenhagen, Feb. 20.—The Norwegian steamer Bjorke struck a mine today in the North sea and sank. The Bjorke was laden with coal enroute to Leth. There is no doubt but that the Germans planted the mine. A trawler rescued the crew.

UNITED STATES STANDS FIRM.
Not to Be Swerved in Attitude Toward England and Germany.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The United States government intends to stand firm in its determination that Germany shall not harm American lives and commerce in the war zone. Official information to this effect has been given to the United Press. Charges and counter charges in the English-German hunger war should not swerve the United States from its present firm stand, one of the highest government officials declared.

British Reply Shocks Officials.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The state department is in receipt of the official text of Germany's reply to the protest of the United States regarding the extension of the war zone. The reply of Great Britain to the notes regarding the use of neutral flags and the placing of the Wilhelmshafen before a prize court have also been received. The British reply regarding the use of the American flag shocked administration officials who had confidently believed that Great Britain would attempt to minimize the use of the stars and stripes or abandon the practice. Instead the foreign office said in effect that while they would not order commanders of merchantships to use the flag, neither would they stop the practice entirely. England justified the placing of the Wilhelmshafen before a prize court because Germany has decided to seize the food supplies of the empire.

More Good News.
Floyd McKennon and A. T. Hill, who are actively engaged in farming on a large scale in the valley, are in the city today negotiating for supplies preparatory to start the spring work. When asked how things were looking they both expressed themselves in the strongest language that everything is looking fine for a good crop. The late moisture has been welcome on the Hill-Coolidge-McKennon ranch and machinery is now being overhauled to be ready to start the caterpillar on a 24-hour shift in a very short time.

PRIME MINISTER BURIAN SUCCESSFUL IN AUSTRIA.



This is the first real photograph of Prime Minister Burian, who succeeded Count Berchtold at the head of the government in Austria. He is shown here on his way to a conference with Emperor Franz Josef.

BUILDING HAS GOOD OUTLOOK

FEBRUARY PERMITS INDICATE A GOOD SPRING.

Business-Block and Apartment Houses Being Considered.

There is substantial indication that general business conditions in La Grande and vicinity are improving and that by early spring the sound of the hammer and the saw will again be heard with its customary activity.

The month of January showed a total \$6,360 divided as follows: Mary U. Darland, two apartment houses on Fourth street, \$2500 each; Sommer building, office, Adams avenue \$100; Charles Ethell, porch, R street, \$50; Bird Lewis, stairway Depot street, \$10; um. Smeal, dwelling Y avenue, \$1200.

February permits to the present date: La Grande National bank, repairs, Adams, \$100; J. L. Smith, small building, Division street, \$150; T. H. Moore, Adams, avenue \$1000; S. D. Crowe, frame residence and basement, Oak street, \$4500.

Added to this are many prospects for homes to be built as soon as there is a certainty of settled weather. At least one big business building is being discussed, but the backers are not ready to let go of the information, and one other man is talking seriously of a big apartment house. With such building operation on the calendar at this early date in the Spring, carpenters, contractors, plasterers, painters, sawmills, draymen, cement men, excavators and the other departments of building have occasion to "look up."

The W. A. Kivette residence is well along and will be ready for occupancy in a short time. This is one of the elegantly finished houses in the city, the quality of lumber and workmanship being reported as first class.

A feature of the new Crowe residence is that it is one of the several new first-class houses that have gone up on the Western fringe of the city, where only a few years ago the small boy pastured his cow, but to where the recent development of the city has pushed handsome residences several blocks westward.

Mr. Ellis Still Lives.

Pittsburg dispatches recently telling of the finding of a dead body thought to have been that of John A. Ellis, for several months a resident of La Grande, until two years ago, were in the wrong conclusion for Ellis has only recently written to La Grande friends. Chas. Harding, one of those to hear from the old gentleman is much pleased to learn that the conclusions at Pittsburg were wrong. Mr. Ellis made many friends while in the city. He was interested in Grande Ronde orchards.

Mr. Ellis is now at New Rochelle, N. Y.

Funeral Delays Arrival.

Mrs. L. L. Snodgrass will be the only Western relative, likely, to be present at the funeral of the late John Snodgrass who died in Kansas City this week. Deceased was a brother of the late W. J. Snodgrass of this city and Mrs. L. L. Snodgrass happened to be in Kansas City on her way home at the time of the demise. She will arrive in La Grande about Thursday.

ALLIES PLOW WAY THROUGH DARDANELLES

FIRST STEP TO CAPTURE CONSTANTINOPLE SUCCESSFUL TO ALLIES.

ASIATIC FORTS PUT OUT OF COMMISSION

Strategic Move in Dardanelles Shows Conclusively That Allies Seek to Capture Constantinople — Intense Excitement Prevails in That Region — Bombardment is Effective.

London, Feb. 20.—A serious attempt to force the Dardanelles and prepare the way for the capture of Constantinople is in progress. This fact was made evident when dispatches from Athens declared that the forts on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles had been silenced by the bombardment of the Anglo-French fleet. Most of the forts have been practically destroyed. Great activity evidenced by the admiralty seems to confirm the belief that the present movement is of great importance to the Allies. Excitement is said to be intense in the city of Constantinople.

London, Feb. 20.—The Anglo-French fleets are again trying to force a passage through the Dardanelles. A statement issued today by the British admiralty said: "The combined fleet yesterday bombarded the fortifications on the Dardanelles. The forts on the European side were silenced. The action was continued today."

An Athens dispatch says that a powder magazine on the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles was blown up as a result of the bombardment. One of the forts is reported to have been destroyed and many members of the garrison were killed.

Celebrate Washington Birth

Philadelphia, Feb. 20.—Practically every patriotic and fraternal society here participated in the monster parade and celebration today commemorating the birthday of George Washington. The parade terminated at Independence Square where exercises were held in which local school children sang patriotic songs and addresses were made by prominent citizens.

The celebration was held today instead of Monday in order that members of the various societies would be able to turn out in full force.

Compete at Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor, Mich., Feb. 20.—Princeton athletes were here today to compete tonight in a two mile relay race with the Michigan squad.

AGED PRISONER PLEADS FOR THE CHANCE TO DIE IN PENITENTIARY

Christopher Sears, 67 years of age, with the white of the passing years showing prominently on his hoary head, is ready to quit the struggle entailed by the battle of life and wants to go to jail to put in the remainder of his days or as many of them as the judgment of the court may see fit to impose upon him.

Sears was arrested Thursday night on a larceny charge and yesterday afternoon, when arraigned in Justice Williams court, was bound over to the grand jury. When placed in the county jail to await the action of the jury he asked Sheriff Hug if it would be possible to forgo the usual formalities of court procedure and pass sentence upon him at once so that he can begin serving a term in the penitentiary.

He has served one term in the state institution, being sent up from Pendleton for stealing a horse for which he served a year. He is apparently alone in the world and has been making his living by such day labor as a man of his advanced age could pick up. He will have to await the action of the grand jury and the regular procedure of the circuit court.

"Ten years to life" was the sentence imposed upon John Williams, convicted in circuit court on a charge involving assault and robbery while armed with a deadly weapon. In passing sentence Judge Knowles told the prisoner that the effect of the sentence was that he would have to serve

President Wilson Telephones Mandate From Capitol to San Francisco That Opens Fair

San Francisco, Feb. 20.—Without a hitch, greater than the most sanguine had hoped for, the gates of the Panama exposition swung open today. It was a great day in San Francisco's history.

Informality ruled, yet at times there was a stated schedule to follow as will be seen from the following list of opening day events:

Official Opening Day Program.
9 a. m.—President Moore and all executive officers of the exposition, the board of directors, state exposition commission, the woman's board, national exposition commission and directors of divisions assembled at the California building.

9:15 a. m.—Procession consisting of exposition officials proceeded from the California building to grandstand at the Tower of Jewels, and took their respective places in the grand stand.

9:45 a. m.—Governor Johnson, Mayor Rolph and other officials passed through the exposition gates at the head of a citizens' procession. Guards, United States marines, stood at attention at either side of the roadway from the entrance to the grandstand, forming a lane through which the governor, mayor and other officials then

CATE ELECTED BOARD CHIEFTAIN

SECRETARY TO BE NAMED AT LATE HOUR.

Agriculture and Education Chief Pur-LATER DATE

Agriculture and education will form the basis for the plans of the Union county fair association next fall. This was the decision arrived at by the fair board at their first meeting yesterday afternoon and will form the nucleus of more extensive plans to be formulated at another meeting to be held in the near future.

At yesterday's meeting which was called primarily for the purpose of organizing the newly elected board, Claude C. Cate was unanimously elected to head the association with Albert Hunter, of Island City, as vice-president. The selection of a secretary was left open until the next meeting, for reasons not yet divulged by members of the board.

While no definite plans were made for the operation of the next fair it is generally conceded that many of the expensive attractions will be abolished and that more extensive co-operation on the part of the producer in the matter of displays will be sought by the new board.

The members present at the meeting of the board yesterday were M. L. Carter, of Alciel; W. R. Ledbetter, Imbler; Albert Hunter, Island City; H. H. Weatherspoon, Elgin; Mrs. A. E. Ivanhoe, La Grande; and Claude C. Cate, La Grande.

marched to the Tower of Jewels grand stand.

100 a. m.—The ceremonies in the grandstand began. They consisted of the following:

(a)—"Star Spangled Banner," chorus of 800 accompanied by band, and thousands of others joined in the singing.

(b)—Invocation, Rt. Rev. Edward J. Hanna, D. D.

(c)—Reading of Psalm, Rabbi Martin Meyer.

(d)—Address, Charles C. Moore, president of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition.

(e)—Address, Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane.

(f)—Address, Governor Hiram W. Johnson of California.

(g)—Address, Mayor James Rolph, Jr., of San Francisco.

(h)—Benediction, Right Rev. William Ford Nichols, D. D.

12 noon—President Wilson pressed button officially opening the exposition by wireless. This opened the main door of Machinery Palace, started the machinery running in Machinery Palace and in Transformation Palace, and

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ROOM MADE FOR LADIES AT BANQUET

"HOME PRODUCTS" DINNER SET FOR FRIDAY NIGHT.

Plans to Eat Only Union County Products Will Be Adhered to Closely—Speaker Provided For.

Next Friday night is the date set for the "Home Products" banquet plans for which have been under consideration by the commercial club directors for the past month. A meeting of the directors was held last night to further consider the coming event and to act upon some new ideas that were gathered by President J. G. Snodgrass of the club and other members of the board who attended the merchant's convention in Portland the first of the week.

The original plans contemplated a "stag" affair, but at the meeting last night it was pointed out that unless the ladies, who do the buying for the home, were present at the banquet the affair would be shorn of all of its advertising value, as the object of the banquet is to further the interest of the "patronize home industry" campaign.

One of the features of the entertainment following the banquet will be Charles Paull, member of the Royal commission of Australia who is in the United States making a study of social and economic conditions and incidentally telling the people about things as they are done in his country. Mr. Paull, whose lectures cover a wide variety of subjects will talk at the banquet on "The Building Up of a Country Town," contrasting the benefits to be derived from the development of the smaller communities against the cities. Mr. Paull is a writer and lecturer of recognized ability and the commercial club are congratulating themselves upon the opportunity presented by the ability to secure him for this occasion.

That the banquet will be one of the big events in commercial club life is assured by the offers of cooperation that have been tendered by manufacturers and producers of all lines of "made in La Grande" products. The meeting of the board last night brought out promises to bring forth some ideas new and unique in the line of banquets. A meeting will be held again Monday night to complete arrangements.

Judge Knowles will devote his time during the next few days to hearing equity cases.

Today's Oddest Story

Cleveland, Feb. 20.—The tango is a menace to business. "If you don't believe it read the following," "ad" appearing in a local newspaper: Stenographer, 25 to 30 years old, who really wants to work—no butterfly or tango friends need to apply—beauty not a consideration—what is necessary is brains.

War Oddities Many.

Amsterdam, Feb. 20.—Count George Nicholas Meuhrenberg, a kinsman of the Czar, is fighting in a Prussian regiment against the Russians in Poland.

Amsterdam, Feb. 20.—Commenting on the co-operation of the Turks with Germany, the Handel Sblad observes: "The worst of it all is that every Turkish soldier who is killed will leave so many widows."

DEADLOCK NEARS END

RELIEVED POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT OVER SCHUBEL BILL DURING DAY.

MISS HOBBS OFFERS TO QUIT TO OBTAIN PEACE

During the Deadlock the House Passes More Appropriation Bills Which Include Help for Bureau of Mines and Geology—Leaders Look for Adjournment This Evening Sometime.

Salem, Feb. 20.—At two o'clock a compromise had apparently been reached in the Schubel and Girls' school bills. This will be true, if leaders for the compromise are given their expected support in the two houses.

Salem, Feb. 20.—All efforts to break the legislative deadlock over amendments to Schubel's workmen's compensation bill and appropriations for the girl's industrial school, had failed up to noon.

It is alleged by some that underlying the efforts of the senate to amend the Schubel bill, is the aim to get the scalp of Fern Hobbs, a member of the Industrial Accident commission who holds her well-paid position because of Governor West's appointment. Miss Hobbs has notified members of both houses that she is willing to resign if that will save the Schubel bill in the form it passed the house. Leaders this noon expressed the belief that the legislature will be able to adjourn tonight.

The house has passed additional appropriation bills of \$914,590, which includes \$35,000 for the bureau of mines and geology.

POISON AND GUN ARE USED

Portland Mother Kills Son and Attempts Own Life.

Portland, Feb. 20.—Distracted as a result of nervousness, Mrs. Rosa Byers, aged 43, took carbolic acid, forced her six-year old son to take some of the poison, then shot herself and the child with a revolver at her home early this morning. The tragedy was discovered by Oscar L. Byers, aged 21, a student at the Agricultural college at Corvallis, who had come home to spend Sunday and was awakened by the shots. The child died this morning at a hospital to which place both were rushed. The mother is in a serious condition but may live.

KNIGHTS ON TRIP.

Special Left La Grande This Afternoon at 3:30 O'clock.

This afternoon at 3:30 members of the Knights of Pythias order left on a special train for Enterprise where the district convention will be held tonight. Abroad the train when it left here, were some 35 members of the La Grande lodge, several from Union and the members of the chief officials of the grand lodge officers. At Elgin a group of 80 will be picked up and they are loaded for bear with stunts that will keep the train noisy. The Elgin band is going to be part of the celebration. About 50 will go from Wallawa.

After the convention this evening, the train will return to La Grande arriving sometime during the early morning hours.

A considerable group of prominent Knights are in the city today. They were at Baker last night and spent the day here, waiting for the train's departure. They include: A. E. Wrightman, grand chancellor, of Silverton, L. R. Stinson, G. K. R. and S. of Salem, J. B. E. Bourne, head of insurance department of Oregon and editor of The Senator at Rainier, and M. F. Davis, supreme representative of Union.

The Union members who will join La Grande delegation arrived this morning on Number 17. They are: W. B. Gassett, James Webb, M. F. Davis, C. W. Wright, W. G. Smith, Tom Johnson, J. M. Gassett and George Seibird.

"Farmer" Snook is Happy.

Ira Snook, who for a long time served the county as recorder and in other capacities and later was one of the foremost stockholders of the Blue Mountain Creamery, came in from his ranch today "just to spend Saturday with town folk" as he puts it. Mr. Snook said to an Observer reporter that he never was quite so happy as at present. He took Jim Hill's advice and went back to the soil and has not a single regret.