

AUSTRIANS STRIKE FIRST

VENICE FEELS BLOW DEALT BY AUSTRO FLYERS

ARSENAL AND HANGARS AT VENICE DAMAGED SLIGHTLY.

ANCONA BOMBARDED BY AUSTRIAN DESTROYERS

Various Italian Cities Along the Adriatic Suffer First—Birdmen Skip Over Adriatic and Strike at Many Places—Damage Slight, However, is Report from Scenes of Action.

Rome, May 24.—The Austrian squadron which bombarded Adriatic ports early today was later engaged by the Italian fleet, commanded by Duke Abruzzi. Three small Austria boats were sunk and two were captured, according to unofficial reports. The Austrian warships were driven back north before the Italian fleet, probably intending to take refuge in Trieste, if necessary. It is believed here that a decisive naval battle will be fought within a few hours. It is contended that naval fighting will continue until the sea is swept of either one or the other fleets.

Rome, May 24.—Austria's naval and air forces struck the first blow in the war which was declared by Italy yesterday afternoon upon Austria-Hungary. Official announcements told of bombardment of Ancona and several other Adriatic coast towns by the Austrian fleet. Venice is one of the largest cities within striking distance of the Austrian fleet which sails almost wholly within the Adriatic sea; unable to get out, because of the narrow neck at the south of Italy.

Aviators Strike Too.
At the same hour Austrian aviators sped across the Adriatic from Palo and dropped bombs on the arsenal at Venice and the aeroplane hangars at Jesi, nearby. To do this the aeroplanes had to go Northwest from Pola—which lies on the southernmost point of Coastland, sticking out into the Adriatic. The distance from Pola to Venice is about 100 miles.

Destroyers Attack Ancona.
Destroyers and torpedo boats participated in the naval raid. An attempt was made to destroy the railroad at Ancona, and toward Porto Socini.

Ancona a Big Town.
Anconai is a large city, having a population of 56,000 at the last census. In spite of the size of the city only slight damage was done. The bombardment began at 4 a. m. and lasted two hours. Following the attack there, the warships moved southward, shelling other coast cities. Between Ancona, which lies on a sharp point extending into the Adriatic, and Venice on the north, there are several important towns, on or near the coast, such as Senigallia, Fano, Sessario, Rimini, Marino, Ravenna and Chioggia.

Brooks Family to Move.

F. P. Brooks, helper engineer at Telocast for the past three years, will move his family to a homestead near Crowley, Oregon. Mr. Brooks will take a 30-day vacation at this time and when he returns to his engine his family will engage in hog and cattle raising on the homestead.

TODAY'S ODDEST STORY.

Amarilla, Texas, May 24.—No dead ones need apply in the great Panhandle section of this state. Sufficient warning to this effect is served in a banner head in the Panhandle, U. P., Daily paper. It runs as follows: Potter county of which Amarilla is the seat of government, is the only county in the United States which has no cemetery—all of which goes to show that Amarilla, metropolis of the Texas Panhandle—a region much larger than a whole flock of eastern states—is no place for "dead ones."

WAR BULLETINS

Berlin, May 24.—The German foreign office has officially declared: "A state of war now exists between this country and Italy." Ambassador Von Buelow and German consuls throughout Italy have been instructed to leave Italy.

Rome, May 24.—Eighty Austrian and German vessels, valued at \$20,000,000, which were interned in Italian ports, have been seized by the government.

Vienna, May 24.—Emperor Franz Josef has issued a manifesto characterizing Italy's declaration of war against Austria-Hungary as "The greatest act of perfidy the world has ever known." He called upon his forces for victory "over the treacherous army to the south of us." The emperor declared he wanted Italy held up to the scorn of the world as a vulture which hovered over the battlefield in sheer greed.

Rome, May 24.—Volunteers are enrolling by the thousands. Crowds of youths fought for the honor of being among the first entries.

BREAKFAST TO PAGE SOCIETY

CENSORSHIP RIGIDLY SECRETES PROGRAM.

Fully 100 Club Life Leaders Will Participate Tuesday.

Tomorrow morning the La Grande Neighborhood club holds its annual breakfast, but instead of seating the guests at the Park auditorium as was the scheme last year, the breakfast will be conducted in the auditorium of the club's new home in the City Library building. Fully 100 are expected to be seated when the breakfast "bell" rings.

Just what is in store on the cuisine and literary ends has been rigidly censored, as none but the committee is familiar with the program. However, it is supposed that there will be music and after-dinner speeches. At the close of these functions, the annual election of officers will be held, and with that piece of business, the club's active year ends for the summer months.

GERMAN WHITEBOOK OUT.
Explains Destruction of Louvain was "Justified Retaliation."

Berlin, May 24.—The official Whitebook issued today, charged that during the invasion of Belgium, Belgium civilians threw boiling water upon the wounded Germans, maimed others, assassinated officers quartered in their homes during the night and in other ways reeked vengeance on the Germans. The Whitebook was published in justification of measures of expressions in Louvain and elsewhere in Belgium, as well as being a reply to the recent official report of the Belgian commission.

YOUNGSTERS TAKE RIDE

Harry Mohr and Ken Siegrist Enjoy Evening Spin in Machine.

While their parents hunted for them last evening, Harry Mohr, aged 11, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Mohr, and Ken Siegrist, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Siegrist, started out in the Mohr Ford for an evening's pleasure ride. By the time they had reached Island City and they had generously given some eight or 10 other youngsters of their age "lifts" and when their fathers had got trace of and overtaken the pleasure tourists, by that time numbering a dozen or so, the lads were entirely carefree and having a very pleasant afternoon ride. Despite heavy traffic and muddy roads the boys had no trouble in keeping the machine nosed correctly and were brought home safely.

Fraker Family Here.

After spending four years in San Diego, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fraker are home to visit former neighbors and friends. They are much taken up with California as a place to live quietly and retiredly, but assert that it is difficult to obtain employment in the southern part of the state. They expect to be in La Grande some little time.

AMERICA HOST TO WORLD'S BANKERS

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS DUE TO WAR DISCUSSED.

Most Important Session Convened in Washington.

Washington, May 24.—In the hall of the Americas of the beautiful Pan-American Union building, one of the most important gatherings ever held on this continent opened today. Delegates representing practically every nation in the Western Hemisphere met to discuss the financial relations and ways and means of assisting one another while the present European war lasts and after it has come to an end. More than half a hundred of the leading financial men—governmental and commercial—from the South and Central American countries are ready to take part in the discussion which beginning today were expected to occupy the entire week, if not to continue into next.

The United States is host. Congress in authorizing Secretary McAdoo to carry out his idea voted \$50,000 expense money and a large part of this will be used in entertainment of the foreign guests, part of the program being a trip to certain important financial centers. The guests include also a large number of representative bankers of the United States, but they will defray their own expenses for the most part.

A thorough and comprehensive discussion of existing financial conditions of all the countries represented is anticipated. Time will be taken to deliberate on all the phases of the financial and commercial needs and problems of the American republic. Suggestions probably will be adopted for the common advancement and closer relationship of the republics.

The head of the Argentine delegation is a prominent figure of the meeting. Samuel Hale Pearson is one of the best known bankers in the world. He is a grandson of Samuel B. Hale of Boston, who founded the National Bank of Argentina in 1883. The capital of the banks and business corporations with which Mr. Hale is connected aggregates \$700,000,000, it is said.

Salvador's delegation not only include that country's vice-president but a former president, as well.

One outcome of the conference is expected to be a better understanding on the part of American financiers of the methods and conditions of business in the Latin countries, particularly of the credit system in practice which differ materially from our own.

CLIMATIC DATA

Climatic data, based on readings for 24 hours ending last night at 6 o'clock:
Maximum, 60; Minimum 38.
Temperature at 12:30 today, 66.

MT. LASSEN SPOUTS AGAIN

Redding, Cal., May 24.—Mount Lassen is again in violent eruption. The latest outbreak came at 11:45 this forenoon when great clouds of smoke began to shoot heavenward between the crater rims. The eruption

ITALY TABOOS ALL MEETINGS; CENSORS MAIL

SEVERE PUNISHMENT PROVIDED FOR VIOLATIONS OF ALL WAR ORDERS.

AMBASSADOR MACCHIO ON WAY TO VIENNA EARLY

Use of Gas in Flanders Again Resorted to, is Word Received at Paris Chlorine Cloud Hides Advance of the Germans, Who Meet Setback, According to War Office.

Rome, May 24.—The government has issued drastic decrees forbidding all civil and religious public gatherings and meetings throughout the Italian kingdom. This order followed immediately after the declaration of war by Italy yesterday.

Rigid enforcement of censorship upon mails and telegraph are provided. Railroads which have been in the hands of the military for more than a week, are being pressed into service. Severe penalties have been fixed for violation of war regulations. But there is little disorder, for the cry for war came from the masses. The Austrian ambassador, Macchio, left early this morning for Vienna.

GAS AGAIN EMPLOYED

Banks of Fumes Used as Shield to Creep Up on Enemy.

Paris, May 24.—Germans in Flanders are again resorting to the use of gas bombs, but in the attack upon the British positions they were hurled back and slaughtered. The war office announced the attack was between Ypres and Streestraete. Behind a great cloud of chlorine the Germans charged, evidently expecting to find the British overcome. By the use of respirators the English were able to remain in their positions, and met the foe with a terrific fire, virtually wiping them out.

Allies Suffer Defeat.
Berlin, May 24.—The allies were defeated with heavy losses in two distinct drives against the Germans during the past 24 hours, it is officially announced. Reckless attacks between Neuve Chapelle and Givenchy on the northern slopes of Lorette Hills were the causes. The allies were repulsed with great losses.

Russian Vessel Sunk.
Berlin, May 24.—The Russian man-of-war Winteleone was sunk in the Black Sea, with 1400 lives, according to Bucharest dispatches. The latest naval lists give no record of the Winteleone, but the dispatches possibly refer to the Panclimen, of 13,000 tons with a normal complement of 700 men.

Ambassador Leaves Berlin.
Berlin, May 24.—Signor Bollati, the Italian ambassador, has left for Rome. His departure was secret, the announcement given out by the Italian embassy several hours after his departure merely stating that he had left.

RACK QUESTION Baffles.

Desirable Locations Can't Be Obtained by Merchants.

Efforts to secure hitching rack facilities close to the business district, have so far failed. One extremely desirable piece of ground was all but closed up for this use when the owner withdrew from the agreement and although protracted correspondence with the out-of-town owner has been carried on, no agreement could be reached. Another desirable tract which the Commercial club had in mind failed to materialize and the club is no nearer a solution of the hitching rack problem than they were in the first place.

Off For Fair Trip.

Chief Car Inspector N. Nelson, his wife and daughter Genevieve, leave tomorrow for San Francisco and San Diego to attend the fair at those places.

VAST SUMS LEFT BY HORSE BUYERS

BIG TRAINLOADS SHIPPED EAST WEEKLY.

Last Week Saw Six Carloads Out of the Grande Ronde Alone—Big Sale at Wallawa.

Saturday closed up a strenuous week of horsebuying in this vicinity. In fact every week has been strenuous for the past month, and trains have been assembled here every seven days for some little time past for shipment to Kansas City and other eastern points. Five or six carloads a week have gone out of the Grande Ronde valley, and the week just past was no exception.

Animals picked up west of here are brought in to La Grande and here trains of 20 and 21 cars are made up and started for the east. Prices have been exceptionally good, and an enormous sum of money has been left in Union county by horsebuyers.

Holland Brothers of Kansas City are chief among the buyers, and have been setting a stiff pace as to price. Dr. P. A. Charlton, who keeps close tabs of the horse market, says the sale is remarkably continuous and unusually brisk.

BIG HORSE SALE NEAR.

Wallawa Expects 1500 Horses in Corral This Week.

Wallawa, May 24.—(Special)—Everything is in readiness for the big horse sale which will be held May 25th and 26th. Many buyers are already in town and indications are that the sale will be larger than the former one. There will probably be from 1200 to 1500 head of horses in the corral during these two days.

MASS MEETING AT CITY HALL

JUNE'S FUNCTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED.

Uniformity in Union Exploitation One of the Motives.

Matters of importance pertaining to the three big attractions coming up in June, will be gone over at a mass meeting tonight at the city hall of boosters in the Bluerock shoot movement, the motorcycle races and the chautauqua which follows the "Motor races."

Every citizen who has the welfare of these events at heart should be present and if there isn't room enough, room will be provided. There are a great many things which the populace must acquaint itself with, among them the matter of going to Union in a body. Proper exploitation of some uniform sort is desired for all the functions which will go to make June a month of great importance to La Grande. The Motorcycle club and the Commercial club inaugurated the mass meeting stunt to familiarize the public with all details possible as to the trip, the race and publicity to the interim. It is imperative that big attendance be out. There will be no solicitation of funds.

SUGAR SEED PLENTIFUL.

Secretary-Treasurer of Sugar Company Finds Conditions Good.

That enough sugar-beet seed to keep American fields going for three years was secured from Germany and Belgian dealers before the war broke out, is the statement made by Fred G. Taylor, former La Grande resident now secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Sugar company with headquarters at Ogden, Mr. Taylor stopped off in La Grande today while on his way home from Southern Oregon, and left again at noon for Ogden.

The sugar market is in fairly good shape, Mr. Taylor affirms, and there will be no shortage of seed for three years. At the end of that time, should the war still be in progress, there will be comparatively little seed in existence, as the beet fields of Europe are largely being put into wheat to feed the non-combatants and belligerents.

MANY AT SERVICES.

Solemn Exercises Conducted at Auditorium Yesterday.

Commencement sermon services heard in the high school auditorium, yesterday, were both well attended and well executed. Appropriate music was furnished for the occasion. Rev. G. L. Clark of the Presbyterian church delivered the commencement sermon in a most impressive manner, choosing words especially suited for the occasion.

SCHOOL MEETING SET.

An important meeting of the Board of Education will be held this evening. Chairman C. T. Bacon and the board members will go over the closing-up process for the year. School ends this week and there is much to be gone over at the meeting tonight.

LONDON BATH TUB MURDERS TO BE TRIED

EVEN WAR SINKS INTO INSIGNIFICANCE COMPARED TO CRIME TRIAL.

SIX WIVES DESERTED OR KILLED BY SMITH

All Die in Bath Tub, and Smith Always Found Holding Body—Insurance Money Collected After Wills Were Made Out—Collection of Last Murder Led to the Arrest.

By WILBUR S. FORREST.

London, May 24.—There's a murder trial on in London today that will hold the attention of the world, in spite of the Great War.

George Joseph Smith is a name that carries as many shudders in England, these days, as the most gruesome stories of the battlefield. It's a name that suggests to every man and woman in England the abyssal depths to which the human mind can descend. It's a name that suggests, anew, how, here and there, among humanity, a being, who looks like a man, and goes his way among men, unnoticed, may, after all, possess so little heart and soul and so little of the things that make a man a human, that the name of human beings does not belong to him, and he stands, when discovered, an unnamed, unplaced creature in the list of living things. Public Prosecutor Bodkin arose in the Bow street Police court and introduced George Joseph Smith to the world when he said:

"This man will be charged with the murder of three wives."

And then, Bodkin told the story that filled the London newspapers today with the tale of alleged crime, crowded the war news of the front pages and gave England a topic that has made it forget, for the time, the struggle that is going on with the Germans in France.

This story showed that there was just enough humanity in George Joseph Smith to cause his heart strings to anchor themselves to one woman; from her side went into the world to do unspeakable things, if Bodkins' story be true, but he always came back to her; against her there was no murder in his heart; other women died in his presence, but he came back from their graves to this one woman who seems to have clutched and held him, as he had clutched and held the lives of other women.

Here is a list of his weddings and supposed murders:

Wife No. 1—1898—George Joseph Smith, 26, as George Oliver Love, married Caroline B. Thornhill, at Leicester. Deserted her. She has been living in Canada.

Wife No. 2—1908—Apparently Smith's one true love affair. Under his right name he married Elizabeth Mabel Pegler, at Bristol. She is still alive and after death of each of his other wives he always returned to Elizabeth Pegler.

Wife No. 3—1910—Smith, as Henry Williams, married Beatrice Constance Annie Mundy, at Weymouth, Aug. 25. Deserted her, taking \$500 of her money; met her again March 14, 1912. On July 13, 1912, she died in a bathtub. Her will brought Smith \$12,500.

Wife No. 4—1913—Smith, under his proper name, married Alice Burham at Portsmouth on Nov. 4. She made her will out to Smith and on Dec. 12, she died in a bathtub. Death brought him \$2,500.

Wife No. 5—1914—As Oliver Charles James Smith, on Sept. 7, married Alice Reval at Woolwich. She is still alive.

Wife No. 6—1914—On Dec. 17, as John Lloyd, Smith married Margaret Elizabeth Loft. She made out her will to him and on Dec. 18, she died in a bathtub. Arrested as result of trying to collect \$13,500.

Smith sat in the prisoner's box, an interesting figure. He is forty-three years old; his father was a life insurance agent and, from his earliest days, he had heard, as household talk, the details of insurance plans. He is tall; his eyes are rather small and deep set; his nose is long, and his cheek bones protrude slightly. His chin is strong and well chiseled. He wears a drooping mustache. In fact he is an Englishman of so ordinary appearance that one would take him for granted as a steady-going, plodding average citizen. There were none of the popularly accepted earmarks of the murderer about him, as he sat, wearing his overcoat, in the Bow street police court and heard Bodkins' charges.

It was in 1898 that George Joseph Smith was first married. Why he cheated Caroline B. Thornhill, at Leicester, and told her his name was George Oliver Love, no one knows. However, it was better to be cheated than to be murdered. Whether Smith got any money from this woman will come out at the trial. Mrs. Caroline