

Pres. Farrell Says Engineers Will Stay

Coyote Cutoff Makes Theoretical Division Operated By La Grande Men Entirely

SHIP LOADED WITH RELIEF IS SENT DOWN

MINE OR TORPEDO IS BLAMED FOR DESTRUCTION OF THE MISSIONARY SHIP.

WAS AN ENGLISH BOAT UNDER AMERICAN CHARTER

Crew Taken Off and Saved by Other Ships—Last Reports Say Relief Ship Was Beached After Partial Destruction at Sea.—Sailed from New York Nov. 24th.

Rotterdam, Dec. 17.—The relief ship Levanpool, from New York, under American charter with Belgium relief, was mined or torpedoed today. She was first reported sinking, but later reports say she was beached at Mucking Flats. Her crew was taken off by English steamers, it is reported from London.

Ship Was Large One.
New York, Dec. 17.—The Levanpool was a 4900 ton English vessel under charter of the American-Belgium Relief Commission. She sailed from New York Nov. 24th. The boat carried sixty-five hundred tons of bacon and lard for Belgium. She flew the relief flag, and was believed immune from attack. Only the regular crew aboard. She is believed to have struck a mine.

TRAFFICERS JAILED.

Big White Slave Scandal Due to Be Aired About Tacoma.

Tacoma federal officials believe a gigantic white slave plot covering many northwestern cities will be bared by Mrs. Milly Eddy, arrested today in Chicago. She was recently indicted here by the Federal grand jury. Assistant Federal District Attorney Fishbourne said the woman posed as a clairvoyant, and induced girls to go to Tacoma, and other cities where they fell into clutches of white slavers.

MINNESOTA INSPECTED.

Boilers Looked at and Testimony of the Crew Is Taken.

San Francisco, Dec. 17.—Federal officials have begun inspection of the boiler tubes of the Minnesota. Others are taking testimony of the crew.

TRIPLE WRECK FATAL.

Many Die and Some Are Missing When Peculiar Wreck Occurs.

New Castle, England, Dec. 17.—Sixteen are known to be killed and several are missing and fifty injured in a triple collision when a freight train, a pilot engine and passenger train piled up near Jarrow.

ZEPPELIN DESTROYED.

Cargo of Bombs Aboard Craft Explodes—Witnesses Jailed.

Amsterdam, Dec. 17.—Destruction of Zeppelin and death of its crew near Brussels is reported today. She was passing Namur with a cargo of bombs which exploded. The cause is unknown. Three peasants who witnessed it were arrested to suppress the details.

PEACE COMMITTEE NAMED.

Formal End of Baseball War Expected to Follow Move.

New York, Dec. 17.—National league club owners have named a committee to confer with similar bodies from the Federal, American and International leagues over the proposed baseball peace pact. The committee is expected to formally end the baseball war.

FREIGHT TRAINS WILL RUN INTO UMATILLA

Portland, Dec. 17.—(Special)—La Grande will not lose the residence of any of the engine crews as a result of the creation of Pilot Rock Junction—three miles west of Pendleton—as a through train terminal of the La Grande, or second division, of O. W. R. & N. Company, it was announced today by J. D. Farrell, president of the company. Instead, the change adds to the responsibilities of the La Grande office as a division center, as the La Grande crews will operate the cut off which is to be used by through passenger trains.

Changes Largely Theoretical.
The arrangement of the division operation is largely theoretical and is occasioned by putting into operation the Coyote cut off. Through trains leaving Portland will make Pilot Rock Junction a changing point for engine crews only, the train crews being unaffected and going on through to Pendleton. Other trains will run on to Umatilla as at present.

New Division Created.
The change really creates what is to be known as the Coyote cutoff division which will be made out of a part of the first, or Portland division, and part of the second, or La Grande division, as far as through trains are concerned, but gives La Grande crews the responsibility for operating the cutoff.

Double Back Provided For.
The schedules will be so arranged that crews arriving on Westbound trains in Pilot Rock Junction in the morning will double back to La Grande that day. Train crews will be entirely unaffected by the change and other than through passenger trains will not be concerned.

Passengers to Use Cutoff.
Through passenger trains, instead of going through to Umatilla, will merely use the cutoff saving time and distance. La Grande in all particulars will continue to be a central division point between Huntington and the western terminus.

Farrell Issues Statement.
"The point is that the new Coyote cut off affects only engine crews on through passenger trains and they only theoretically, and does not affect the train crews," Mr. Farrell authorized his office to say today. "It has no significance to Portland beyond the usual interest of time saved by operating a cutoff. Part of the Portland division goes into the Coyote cutoff division, with a part of the La Grande division, for through passenger trains only. In other words, the new cutoff merely overlaps on the first and second divisions."

"The engine crews will not have to change their residences. Connections will be made at Pilot Rock Junction so that engine crews can return to La Grande as a part of their run."

PROPOSITION DISCUSSED.

Decorous Consideration of Questions at Hand Given by Club.

Sober consideration of the engineers' question was given last evening by a group of about 60 businessmen and veteran engineers when the Commercial club met to consider the possibility of moving the engineers from La Grande. The upshot was the appointment of a committee of five which will assist the engineers at any time that there is anything the committee can do. The speakers all voiced regret at the possibility of men who have made their home in La Grande for a lifetime having now to face the possibility of moving to another locality. At the same time the engineers present and the businessmen as well realized that there was little to be done. George Barnhart, chairman of the engineers' grievance committee said the orders issued mean removal to Pilot Rock and Huntington of all passenger engineers. He told of an appeal being taken to higher officials by engineers. Several businessmen and engineers spoke, expressing the distress the possibilities create. All but one of the eleven have their homes here, their children are in school here.

The meeting ended with appointment of a committee as noted, and the businessmen adjourned feeling that the future would develop something toward a solution of the problem. The committee named consists of F. J. Holmes, T. J. Scroggins, J. C. Henry, George H. Currey and J. A. Russell.

Rev. C. Ernest Smith, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal church in Washington, which Mrs. Norman Galt attends, will perform the ceremony of marriage for her and President Wilson. Mrs. Galt has long attended the church, which is one of the most fashionable in the capital. Since the announcement of her engagement she has not been seen there so often.

OFFICIALS GO EAST.

O'Brien and Buckley, O.W. Chiefs, Will Return Tonight.

J. P. O'Brien, general manager and vice president of the O.W., M. J. Buckley, general superintendent of the same company, and J. F. Graham, superintendent of motive power, were in La Grande this morning in two private cars. Their stop here was confined to a few minutes, but most of them went on to Huntington and expect to return to La Grande tonight. Mr. Graham however, spent the day in La Grande conferring with Division Foreman Thomas and other officers related to the mechanical end of railroading.

AUSTRIAN NOTE WILL NOT HURT THE HONEYMOON

IF CONFERENCES NEEDED, LANSING WILL GO TO HIM IN PERSON.

AUSTRIAN NOTE READ TO CABINET UNSATISFACTORY

Wedding Will Take Place Tomorrow, Probably in the Evening, and the Austrian Affair Will Be Handled by Premier—Entire Cabinet Hears the Answer Read.

Washington, Dec. 17.—International affairs won't cloud the president's honeymoon. He weds Mrs. Galt tomorrow. The hour is unannounced but probably will be in the evening at Mrs. Galt's home. There will be a few guests. The honeymoon plans are secret.

If the Austrian note has created a situation demanding the president's attention, Secretary Lansing will visit him.

Washington, Dec. 17.—President Wilson and the cabinet today read Austria's unsatisfactory reply to American demands in the Ancona case. They mapped a course for Secretary of State Lansing after the president starts his honeymoon. Lansing will draft a definite rejoinder which is expected to have one of three results. First, severance of diplomatic relations. Second, an Austrian back down. Third, Austria to produce evidence refuting that on which her first statement is based. Lansing will submit a message to President Wilson and then send it to Vienna. It will leave no loophole for further delay.

Ministers Meet Lawyers

Washington, Dec. 4.—Major J. J. Dickinson, lecturer for the American Defense society, has returned from a two weeks' tour of Western Pennsylvania. He related at the New York Willard a unique experience at Butler Pa.

"For the first time in my experience in this week," said Major Dickinson, "I heard two ministers of the gospel take the affirmative side of the question of National preparedness in a joint debate. It occurred at Butler. Their opponents were two of the leading lawyers of Butler. The subject of the debate was 'Resolved that we should support President Wilson's programme for military preparedness.' The debate was held in the auditorium of the Butler Y. M. C. A. building whose seating capacity is 1500. The hall was jammed. An admission of 25 cents was charged. Five of the leading citizens of the city were the judges. After a lively hair-pulling match of an hour and a half between the preachers and the lawyers the judges retired for half an hour, during which interval I accepted an invitation to speak.

"The judges returned a verdict in favor of the affirmative side. Keener interest in the subject of military preparedness seems to be felt in Pennsylvania than in any other state I have visited. This is shown by the old-fashioned joint debates that are being held all over the Keystone State. Debates between preachers and lawyers in other Pennsylvania cities are now being arranged by the American Defense Society."

WAR TAX WINNING.

Clear Sailing Seen Before Night for War Measure.

Washington, Dec. 17.—With sixteen democratic majority and no filibuster threatened, final enactment of the administration war tax extension measure is expected before adjournment tonight. The president will approve it tomorrow. It is expected public opinion will make the fight that the tax be extended not more than three months.

11 MILL LEVY MADE FOR THE COUNTY FUNDS

DEFICIENCIES LAST YEAR HELP SWELL COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS.

SCHOOL AND CITY LEVIES RAISE TAXES MATERIALLY

Forty-one and Five-tenths Mill Tax Will Be Required of La Grande City Property Owners—City Increase of One Mill and Schools of Two Chief Items.

Union county's tax levy was last evening placed at 11 mills. The total for La Grande taxpayers will be 41.5, considerably more than last year. The extras are largely brought about by two mills added city school tax, an added city tax of one mill, and county levies to make up for deficiencies last year. The high school levy a year ago, through error, was almost nil, the library fund and the indigent soldier funds last year were practically made nil too and this year the county must care for current accounts and make up deficiencies. For that reason the levy is raised from 10 to 11 mills.

The levy by detail follows:

Fund	Returns	Mills
General Fund	\$ 57,641.00	.00284
State	51,350.00	.00253
School	45,240.00	.00223
High School	17,600.00	.00086
Call warrants	15,000.00	.00074
Library	845.00	.00004
Indigent soldiers	650.00	.00003
Bridges	10,000.00	.00048
Roads	*20,000.00	.00125

Total county	\$218,326.00	.01100
La Grande city		18.05
La Grande schools		12.00
Total levy in La Grande		41.06

*Based on valuation other than cities. Others on total valuation of \$20,296,272.76.

MEXICAN ENVOY NAMED.

Former Minister to Chile Is Made Ambassador to Mexico.

Washington, Dec. 17.—Henry P. Fletcher was appointed ambassador to Mexico today. He has been minister to Chile since 1909.

SCHOOL CENSUS READY

The La Grande school district census shows a total school population of 1822, of which 927 are boys and 895 are girls. This includes residents of the district between the ages of four and twenty years. The figures are reported to the county superintendent of schools and are made the basis for the apportionment of school funds for the ensuing year.

Facts About Well Known People.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—War Secretary Garrison tells a story to point practically every remark he makes. His jokes are never long-winded, always interesting and invariably apropos. He makes you wonder where he gets 'em all. Seems to have a new supply every day.

"Jimmie" Grateful.

"Jimmie" Rosendaum appreciates the help that made it possible for him to win the motorcycle in the recent contest. "I feel deeply grateful to my friends who helped me win the prize," said Mr. Rosendaum today, "and I want them to know I appreciate everything that was done for me in that respect."

Auto Wrecked and Owner Injured.

Pendleton, Ore., Dec. 14.—Edward Lorimer was seriously injured when the automobile he was driving plunged off a grade about a quarter of a mile above the Lee street bridge and turned over three times going down the embankment. The machine was wrecked.

ELAM HARNISH SAWING WOOD IN FAIRBANKS

FORMER LA GRANDE MAN "BROKE" AFTER SPENDING TWO LARGE FORTUNES.

LONDON'S "BURNING DAY-LIGHT" HERO ENERGETIC

Story of Mighty Spender, Once La Grande Man, Revived by Arrival in La Grande of Man Resident in Fairbanks and Well Known Jack London's Famous Character.

Elam Harnish, leading character in Jack London's story "Burning Daylight," and for many years a La Grande citizen, is now running a wood saw in Fairbanks, Alaska, for a living, having gone through two fortunes in a few years. He is, this winter, saving up enough to prospect through the new prospects near Fairbanks and conscientiously expects to harvest a third fortune.

This is the information brought to La Grande by H. E. Pratt, first federal district attorney of the fourth judicial district in Alaska, who is here visiting his old schoolmate, John Girdler, city superintendent of schools. Mr. Pratt is on his way to Arkansas to spend the holidays with relatives and will then return. Conditions are such that the trip from Valdez to Fairbanks can be made in seven days.

"I know Elam Harnish quite well—I have often shaken hands with him on the streets of Fairbanks. He is known everywhere," said Mr. Pratt this morning.

Elam Harnish spent the most of his younger days in and near La Grande. He was associated with what was known as the "Four Nations" company in doing placer mining on top of Curson hill the summer previous to the Klondike excitement. The company took out \$4000 in dust up the river that year. He left La Grande for the Alaskan eldorado with the company of La Grande men including the late J. B. Thorson, Joe Warsnick, a Dane, Albert Loisel, a Frenchman, and one or two others. They got through to Dawson after a severe winter trip and all of the party, except Elam Harnish and the Dane, afterward returned from the north.

During all of his residence in this part of the country Elam Harnish was known as a "steady young man," no better than some and a whole lot better than a good many others.

If reports of his career in the northern country are correct he must have changed some to have made and spent a couple of fortunes during the time since he left the more quiet ways to which he became accustomed while living in this part of the country.

Siberian Wheat Thrives.
Siberian wheat is proving successful in Alaska, explains Mr. Pratt. Farming generally is being developed and if this type of wheat continues successful, cereal production will largely have been solved. Railroad development continues, new gold prospects, as yet unproven, have been rumored, and Alaska generally is "looking up" according to Mr. Pratt.

PROSECUTORS MEET.

General Discussion of Prohibition Law Occurs at Salem.

Salem, Dec. 17.—District attorneys of about half the counties of Oregon met here today to discuss enforcement of the prohibition law, effective January first. Attorney General Brown addressed the meeting and general discussion followed.

TORNADO SWEEPS SOUTH.

Meridan, Miss., Dec. 17.—Ten are reported killed and 100 injured by a tornado sweeping this section. The town of Cullum is reported almost totally destroyed. Six were injured there and two killed and many hurt at Meridan. The property loss here is light. Two women were killed at Giles and forty injured in Kemper county.

Persian City Taken.

Petrograd, Dec. 17.—Russians have occupied the important Persian city of Hamadan.