

La Grande Evening Observer

TWO SECTIONS—12 PAGES.

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

PAGES 1 TO 8

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GREEK PEACE PARTY WINS IN TEST ELECTION

GOUNARIS PARTY RESTORED TO POWER SUPPORTING KING'S NEUTRALITY.

IMPORTANT MOVEMENT OF TROOPS NOTED BY ALLIES

Hundred Thousand Men Moved Away in Such a Way as to Indicate Abandonment of Either Dardanelles or Egyptian Conflicts—Grecian Election Claimed to be Illegal.

Salonki, Greece, Dec. 20.—Mrs. Walter Farwell, a Chicago society woman and now doing correspondent duty, was roughly handled, while Dr. Harry S. Forbes, of Boston, in charge of Red Cross work here, was attacked and jailed when Bulgarians raided the American Red Cross headquarters at Monastir in Southern Serbia.

American Flag Insulted.
The Bulgarians ripped down the American flag and seized stores intended for Serbian relief. Mrs. Farwell and Forbes were held prisoners.

Edward Staurt, chief of the Red Cross endeavor in Serbia, has appealed to the state department through Consul Kehl. It is learned that both were safe last Wednesday though their situation is becoming more dangerous daily. The attack was made when Forbes hung the flag over the provisions and attempted to defend them.

Allies Not Thwarted.
Paris, Dec. 20.—Greece has refused to interfere with the Allies' fortification of Saloniki according to an Athens dispatch. Many Greeks are leaving Saloniki expecting immediate attack against the city.

Great Changes Pending.
London, Dec. 20.—The fact that England is moving a portion of her Dardanelles troops may have a vast significance. It is rumored her remainder is to follow. Reports have been current that England has decided to abandon either the Balkan or Dardanelles campaign. Following confirmation of the Paris rumor, it was reported the Allies had persuaded Britain to continue the Balkan effort. This is taken to mean England plans either to concentrate in Balkans or defend against possible German invasion of Egypt. Questions as to whether it means the Dardanelles have been abandoned, was, of course, unanswered.

FORD PARTY DISCOURAGED.
Press and Public in Norway Oppose Peace Efforts.

Christiania, Norway, Dec. 20.—For the first time since they embarked, the Henry Ford peace promoters are doubtful of success. This is as a result of the first reception they received in the first neutral country touched. The Norwegian press and public sentiment is unfriendly.

Judge Ben Lindsey of Denver counseled Mr. Ford to direct the enterprise to finding homes for war orphans. Mr. Ford was not willing. He is personally optimistic still.

SATURDAY WEDDING QUIET.
J. M. Ohi and Elizabeth Young United in Marriage.

J. M. Ohi, manager of the Standard Oil company in this city and Mrs. Elizabeth Young were quietly married Saturday evening at her home on Fourth street. Rev. Edwards performed the ceremony, and it occurred at 7:30. They left for Boise and Salt Lake. The bride is a sister of Mr. E. E. Myers of the Savoy hotel.

BANKING OUTLOOK GOOD.
Oregon's Annual Bank Statement Published Today.

Salem, Dec. 20.—That Oregon banking conditions are very satisfactory, that a feeling of confidence in all lines of business and prospects for 1916 are encouraging, are declarations contained in the annual statement of Banking Superintendent Sargent made public today. Adoption of conservative methods and general care in business with resultant shrinkage in every bank of doubtful items, marked the return of normal conditions, the report said. Six new state banks were organized during the year. One was closed by the banking department. Two went into voluntary liquidation and two were absorbed by national institutions.

U. S. Marshal Here.
Deputy United States Marshal Fuller is here from Portland on business matters today.

RAILROADS HAVE MONEY PROBLEMS

"EFFICIENCY DOCTOR" OF O-W GIVES INTERVIEW.

Discussion of Pilot Rock Junction Question Also Included.

Interesting statistics concerning railroad finances, more especially insofar as they pertain to the O-W. in Oregon and Washington, were given out this morning in an interview with A. W. Perly, special representative of the O-W. mechanical department. Mr. Perly, who incidentally is what modern business calls efficiency fixer, also touched upon the recent Pilot Rock Junction-to Huntington order.

"The laws passed by the federal and state governments and the rules promulgated by their commissions, have added materially to the expense of operation," declared the "railroad business doctor" at the beginning. "The railroads in the states of Oregon and Washington pay more taxes, based on any known or accepted methods of assessing them, than in any other state in the union," he declared.

Rates Always Downward.
Speaking of conditions that make it necessary to operate more cheaply, not only here but in all railroad territories, he said that "since 1903 the O-W. has spent in the state of Oregon and Washington in providing additional facilities and constructing new lines a little more than \$5,000,000 per year, more than they have taken in. Rates have been continually regulated downward. All of these factors have compelled the railroads to endeavor to operate more cheaply in order to keep many of them out of the hands of receivers. In the construction of the Coyote cut-off, the establishing of a terminal at Pilot Rock Junction and in the changes of line to eliminate grades and curves between Hinkle and Pendleton, this company has spent approximately \$2,000,000. They now do not feel like being penalized by paying an excessive miles to train employees for operation between La Grande and Pilot Rock Junction which is the governing factor in running them from Huntington to Pilot Rock Junction.

Proposed Changes Discussed.
In reference to the new order governing engines on the Eastern Oregon passenger runs, Mr. Perly predicted amicable agreements.

"While not authorized to speak for the company," he said, "I know the policy of the management is not only to satisfy their patrons but to have the employees contented. I feel convinced that if the men have any proposition to present that will be more satisfactory to them and which will not cost the company any more money, that it will be favorably considered, and if taken up at once the superintendent of this division, Mr. Bollons, there is no doubt that a satisfactory solution will be possible."

Railroad Finances Shown.
Quoting from government statistics, Mr. Perly went into the inside financial question of railroads in the Northwest, speaking incidentally of the fact that the O-W. alone in the Northwest pensions its old employees, looks after their welfare with club homes and hospital care etc. In regard to finances he said that "this company has a property valuation of \$144,000,000. Their stocks and bonds aggregate \$140,000,000, leaving \$4,000,000 more property than is represented by the stocks and bonds. I have a report from O. O. Calderhead, statistician of the Public Service commission of Washington covering our operation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914. Our earnings were about 17 1/4 million dollars. Our operating expenses were 11 3/4 million dollars. Our operating losses were \$2,000,000. This is dining cars, observation cars, steam boats, etc., all of which are necessary to give the public the service they demand. Our taxes were one and a quarter million dollars. Gains from other sources, \$496,000 which represents rent for property not used for railroad purposes and rent of joint facilities. The interest on our bonds, which was four per cent, aggregated more than 4 1/2 million dollars. Hire of equipment, rent of joint facilities, which covers the lease of the Northern Pacific from Portland to Seattle, and of the Milwaukee between Tacoma and Seattle, interest on unfounded debt and miscellaneous deductions is a little more than \$2,000,000, leaving a net operating income of \$90,343 with which to pay interest on the \$50,000,000 worth of stock.

"The railroads are looking hopefully toward the future. The increase of business in August, September and October is most gratifying. This may be due to the abnormal conditions existing but we trust it may be permanent. The lack of shipping, the closing of the Panama canal and the movement of enormous quantities of war supplies are of course important factors in this increase of business."

Al Puckett Improving.
Al Puckett, who was injured about the head when his Ford machine met with accident near Union last week, is improving and his condition is considered very satisfactory. First reports on the accident stated George Puckett was the injured one, but it proved to be Al Puckett and his car that met with the accident.

RED CROSS IS ATTACKED BY BULGAR ARMY

TWO AMERICANS UNDER ARREST NEAR MONASTIR AND FACE DANGER.

RED CROSS PROVISIONS TAKEN, COLORS INSULTED

United States Flag Torn Down and Boston Man, Then in Charge, Jailed for Defense of His Charge—Chicago Society Woman, Now Correspondent, Also Mishandled.

Athens, Dec. 20.—The Gounaris party, supporting the king's neutrality policy, was returned to office and power with a large majority in yesterday's election. The Venizelos party refrained from voting on the ground that the election was illegal.

Many Troops Moved.
London, Dec. 20.—It is officially announced that British forces at Suvla Bay and Ansoa regions have been transferred to "another sphere of operations" presumably Saloniki or Egypt. The order affects 100,000 and is possible a step towards and forerunner to abandonment of the entire Dardanelles campaign. Some think it means abandonment of the Egyptian efforts.

NEW RATE ON WHEAT
Sixty Cents Minimum on 80,000 Pounds Shipment.

A special rate from this territory to New Orleans on wheat and flour destined for foreign trade, was announced Saturday by the O-W. R. & N. company. The change was announced following a telegram to District Agent R. Burns from the Portland office.

The new ruling establishes a 60-cent minimum rate on 80,000 pounds of wheat or flour from the Pacific coast and interior points to New Orleans, the rate applying from points that at present are taking a 50-cent rate to St. Louis. The rate has been given following urgent requests from millers and shippers. It will go into effect in the near future.

Student Under Knife.
Telegraphic information from San Jose received by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bradley tells of an operation undergone by Nell Bradley, their daughter. The young lady, who won very high honors in her high school class, is a student in the state normal at San Jose. Yesterday it was found necessary, suddenly, to remove her appendix. The information says she withstood the first shock nicely.

CHRISTMAS TREES RIGHTED
Forty More to Be Placed at Cluster Light Poles Tomorrow.

Undaunted by the handicaps of having to re-foundations the big Christmas trees placed at the chief business street intersections because heavy winds yesterday blew them down, city officials are today adding further touches to the wholesale decoration of La Grande streets for Yuletide. Late Saturday evening trees were erected in hogheads filled with dirt and placed in the center of the chief intersections. These were ruthlessly blown over by the gale yesterday. They have been re-erected and more substantially reinforced. Tonight 40 smaller trees will arrive and will be placed at the different cluster light poles. Business houses will make their fronts Yuletide like too, and a decorative scheme never before attempted in La Grande will be the result.

The Eastern Oregon Light & Power company is running lights to the principal trees and at night they will have a truly holiday appearance with sure-enough lights burning in the half dozen or so large ones and probably some of the smaller ones.

BIG RAILROAD WORK.
Extensive Projects to Be Undertaken by O-W. R. & N.

Guthrie-McDougall & Co., of Portland, were awarded the contract for relining the O-W. R. & N. tunnel, first announcement of the contemplated project being published in The Record of November 27. The contract will include the lining of the tunnel which extends for a distance of 5,435 feet from Mock's bottom under Columbia Park and terminating at the Columbia slough road. The cost has been placed at \$400,000. The company also is preparing to start the work of the re-laying of tracks for a distance of 100 miles, details of which were also previously published. It is said that no contracts will be let for this work.

MOVIE CAMERA BRIGADES FAIL TO GET FILMS

PRESIDENT AND BRIDE SUCCESSFULLY ESCAPE AGENTS OF MOVIE ARMY.

BREAKFAST SERVED IN WINTER RESORT SUITE

Great Throng of People, Including Winter Resort Residents and Movie Agents, Wait All Morning in Vain for Glimpse at Honeymooners—Business Mail Answered.

Hot Springs, Va., Dec. 20.—The Wilsons breakfasted in their apartments, where they had all meals served yesterday. Winter resorters waited vainly throughout the morning for a peek at the honeymooners.

The day's plans included motoring, and the President answered congratulations. He was secluded with his stenographer answering routine business mail.

An army of movie cameramen begged for an opportunity to snap the President and his bride during the honeymoon. They thronged the town today, but the President firmly refused. Secret service men are prepared to smash cameras, if necessary to prevent annoyance.

EX-GOVERNOR DEAD.
J. T. Morrison, of Idaho, Succumbs to Heart Failure Early Today.

Boise, Dec. 20.—Ex-Governor J. T. Morrison of Idaho, died suddenly of heart failure this morning.

\$79 DEPOSIT YIELDS \$1629.
Interest Accumulates in Jersey City Bank for 61 Years.

New York, Dec. 10.—Mrs. Catherine Weldon, 80 years old widow of Thomas Weldon, who was vice-president of the Provident Institution for Savings of Jersey City before the Civil War, went to the bank the other day and received \$1629.50. In 1854 her husband deposited \$79 in the bank and the account was never disturbed. The sum she received represented the principal and interest.

No one knew of the account excepting the bookkeepers in the bank. They merely added the interest from year to year. Mrs. Weldon found the old passbook with the \$79 entry in a trunk in her garret. She had to obtain a certified copy of letters of administration from Surrogate Stichel, of Essex County, for her husband died more than 30 years ago. Upon the presentation of this copy at the bank she received her money.

There is only one change in the passbooks given out by the bank today and those issued in 1839, when the bank was first organized. The instruction reading "All letters to the institution must be postpaid" no longer appears. In those days postage could be paid either by the sender or recipient of a letter.

"Take care of the pence and the pounds will take care of themselves" was the motto of the bank in the early days and that is still the motto.

SHORT ON WATER.
Baker's Supply Said to Be at Very Low Stage.

While snow is piling up in the mountains, insuring a plentiful supply for the next summer, water in the city reservoirs is down to the lowest point this winter and only the cold cutting down the need for water, is warding off a real water famine, says the Baker Herald. The supply coming through the penstock is barely sufficient to run the power wheel and W. C. Ross, in charge of the municipal power plant reports that he has with difficulty persuaded the city lights to burn during the past few nights.

The scarcity of water is attributed to the freezing up of smaller tributaries to the streams furnishing Baker's supply, and it is predicted by Commissioner George Henry, that unless a heavy thaw comes, the shortage will continue until March.

BOY LOSES ARM.
Barney Lester the boy who was injured Saturday noon by accidental discharge of a shot gun while he was hunting near Oro Dell, late Saturday evening suffered amputation of the member. The arm was cut off close to the shoulder. The nerve and blood systems were completely shattered by the shot. He is resting fairly well today.

PROSECUTOR JOB CANDIDATE LOOMS

H. E. DIXON SEEKS NOMINATION TO THE OFFICE.

Political Hibernation Ends and Candidate Prepares for Tussle.

Today H. E. Dixon, attorney at law with offices over the La Grande National bank, announced to a reporter for the Observer that he was a candidate for the Republican nomination to the office of district attorney for the Union county district.

While to all appearances the political game is not very active for the election is not until next November, yet around the edges it is very plain that candidates are beginning to rub down and go in training with the evident belief that the early bird catches the worm.

Mr. Dixon has been a resident of La Grande for several years during which time he has practiced law continuously. He is a member of the Republican county central committee and president of the Young Men's Republican club. As a party man he is recognized as "regular." During the last campaign he took an active part in Republican politics and made several trips over the county in the interests of different candidates who were then running for office.

It is probable that Colon R. Eberhard, the present district attorney, will not seek the office again. At least he has not said that he would and many construe this to mean that he intends to stick to his private practice in the future.

JUDGE TAFT ILL.
Taken from Train at La Crosse, Wis., but is Better Today.

La Crosse, Wis., Dec. 20.—Taken from the train last night suffering with la grippe, Judge W. H. Taft has sufficiently recovered today to promise to speak tonight at the Manufacturer's banquet tonight.

M'CORMICK HOME AGAIN.
Claims However that Roosevelt Will Not Be Candidate.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—"As far as I know Roosevelt it not a candidate for president," is the statement of Medill McCormick, progressive leader, following his return from a conference in New York with Col. Roosevelt.

OFFICER IN QUANDARY.
Case of Becoming a Law Breaker Whichever Way He Goes.

The sheriff of Baker county is or will be an infractor of the law, involuntarily and without recourse. He cannot help himself. A saloon at Haines has been seized under attachment and the most of the effects secured by the officer of the law is spirituous liquors. Under the law personal property cannot be disposed of only by public sale and after ten days' notice. By the time the legal notice is given the state wide prohibition law will be in effect and then it will be illegal for anybody—officer or civilian, master or servant—to sell, barter, or give away "intoxicating liquors."

Heated Underwear for Germans
(United Press Staff Correspondent) Berlin, Nov. 23. (By Mail)—Germany's latest scientific contribution to war is electrically heated underwear. The inventors are Max Beck, professor of technical electricity, University of Innsbruck, and Lieutenant of engineers, and Professor von Schrotter of the University of Vienna. The electrically heated underwear is made of non-conducting material interwoven with a system of fine wires. For each series of trenches it is necessary to install an electrical plant, from which conducting wires are carried. When a soldier feels cold, all he has to do is connect up his underwear with the current wires. The garment offers special facilities for warming the hands merely by placing them in the pockets of the trousers. One possible danger of the electrically heated underwear is short circuit, but the inventors are confident they have practically eliminated this possibility by a secret system. As now perfected it will be possible for soldiers to warm themselves with this electrical clothing in trenches about 400 feet in front of the electrical plant; in isolated advance posts, the underwear may be warmed 1,500 feet away. A transformer located in the trenches regulates the degree of warmth.

A full wired pair of drawers weighs less than two pounds and costs only \$20. They will be extensively used on the Russian front this winter.

ANCONA LIST GROWS.
Twelve Americans Now Known to Have Been Aboard Vessel.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The state department has announced that 12 Americans are known to have been aboard the Ancona when she was torpedoed. Three are known to have arrived here.

Secretary Lansing has announced the American reply to the Austrian note will be made public Wednesday. The note reaches Vienna tomorrow. It is believed it is brief.

STORM BLOCKS RAILROAD AND COUNTY ROADS

TRANSCONTINENTAL TRAINS STALLED 16 HOURS IN TELOCASET DRIFTS.

THREE SLIDES HINDER CLEARANCE OF TRACKS

Crew Plow Through First Only to Have it to do Over Again—Passengers Suffer no discomforts While Waiting for Resumption of Traffic—Highways Badly Drifted In.

Shifting snow, moved about by a stiff gale that swept Eastern Oregon yesterday, very effectively tied up transcontinental traffic and practically sewed up country travel for the time being. Passenger trains due last evening from the east, arrived between 12 and 1 o'clock today for the reason that they had been tied up on the Telocaset hill by blocked tracks. At 12 o'clock today trains were moving again, and last night's No. 18, and No. 4 and No. 6 today noon are now on their way eastward again while No. 5 and No. 19 due here last evening and midnight, are likewise hurrying into Portland after the 17 hour tieup.

Slides Persistent.
None of the passenger trains were in drifts. A locomotive pushing a snowplow was the one that stalled. This engine had come down the hill to help No. 18 up last evening—that is, got as far as Bacon when a slide struck her, "drowning" the engine. The rotary was sent out of here and the engine shoveled out by 3 o'clock this morning. Just about the time the engine was pulling out, another slide hit it. This time it took only three hours to free the iron horse, but no sooner was it out than a freight train, tied up behind her, fell into a slide and then traffic was stuck until noon today.

The sixteen hour law hit several crews and light engines were sent out from here with relief crews. All trains eastbound were held at Union and the westbound at Telocaset except No. 17 this morning which was held at Baker.

The diner on No. 18 last night and on the midnight train were used to good advantage and there was no serious discomforts other than the monotonous wait as far as passengers were concerned.

Storm is Bitter One.
The gale blowing yesterday was one of the worst of a story fall and winter. Traffic was practically blocked on county roads, and the biting wind drove all within doors except such as found it a necessity to be out. Moderation came last night in wind and temperature, followed by a light snow.

Drifts Hurt Travel.
George Puckett, who lives between here and Cove on Catherine creek, is in La Grande today. He came in on horseback and freely stated that this is one snow storm where the best geared automobile made could not plow through the valley. "I could not have even driven a team in here today," said Mr. Puckett, "the drifts are so heavy and the changing wind makes clearing of roads a very uncertain proposition. I call this an old fashioned Grande Ronde valley snow storm."

INSTALLATION DECEMBER 31st.
Eastern Star to Have Big Time and Serve Dinner Then.

The Eastern Star will install officers on Friday evening, December 31st, instead of next Wednesday as reported in Saturday's issue of the Observer. The committee in charge of the installation is arranging for a big dinner on the night installation takes place and are bending every effort to make it a red letter day for the order. The meeting next Wednesday night will be but a regular lodge meeting.

ELKS WORKING ON TREE.
B. P. O. E's to Continue Their Established Custom.

This year the children of La Grande will again be entertained by the Elks lodge with a big Christmas tree, plenty of candy, nuts and good things, along with toys and music. The Elks established this custom some time ago and each year interest grows in the event. At present a committee composed of twenty Elks is at work on the tree and arranging details for this big event.

Here to Spend Christmas.
Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Marks, of Nez Perce, Idaho are here to spend the holiday period with their mother Mrs. L. M. Harris.