

OLD RIVALS TO MEET ON SAT.

M. I. A. AND UNION FEDS TO CONTEST.

Game Will Take Place on the Floor at Union Saturday Night.

Basketball rivalry that dates back many a year is booked for next Saturday night at Union when the M. I. A. plays the Union Feds at Union. A year ago the Feds came to La Grande

and gave the M. I. A. a terrific run for their money, but the M. I. A. has lost some of its better men, while the Feds are reported to be stronger than ever. Also, playing on the home floor should help Union and it is very probable that a battle royal is booked for Saturday night.

Otto Neal, principal of the Caldwell high school and director of athletics in that institution is in La Grande visiting with friends. Mr. Neal formerly lived in Oklahoma and was there acquainted with the Palmer and Eakins families with whom he is a guest this week. Although sportsmen don't usually look to the south for coaches in football especially, Mr. Neal is the exception and is proving himself valuable in both athletic and academic departments at Caldwell.

1915 REVIEW OF THE PRESENT WAR

New York, Dec. 27.—Germany has won the overland pathway to her place in the sun, as the close of the fighting of 1915 merges into the second winter of the European war. But the seas still remain shut to the Teutons and economic distress and food scarcity are exerting a more pronounced pressure for peace in the Central Empires than among the other belligerent nations.

The primary cause of the war has been lost this year to both of the original participants. The conflict began over the irreconcilable Balkan differences of Russia and Austro-Hungary. Each power wanted to be supreme in Southeastern Europe. The end of the fighting in 1915 finds Russia held in check beyond the Balkan border, while Austro-Hungary is playing a minor military part in Serbia under the direction of Marshal von Mackensen and the German General Staff. German influences are now dominant in the Balkans. The Kaiser has wrested the first prize of the war from the Slavs themselves, and from his own Southern ally as well.

Bulgaria's entrance into the conflict

on the side of the Teutons has been the year's most important development. The military consequences which have followed Bulgaria's action, have given to the Germans a clear road from Berlin to Bagdad. The Mesopotamian metropolis has long been marked by German statesmen to become the Berlin of the Middle East and the center of Germany's place in the sun. The year's events having opened for Germany the rear entrance into Bagdad, the Kaiser must continue to fight to the point of exhaustion for permanent possession of this previous right of way. The British fleet can prevent Germany from expanding overseas, but it cannot block the road to the new empire in the east. This is the dominant reason for Germany's interest in Bagdad.

An Anglo-Indian expedition, after twelve months' toil northward through Mesopotamia from the Persian Gulf, is now trying to enter Bagdad by the front door. But the Turks under German leadership have thrust the invaders ninety miles to the south

of Bagdad, and the city at the close of the year remains safe for the Teutons. Nevertheless, during the year's fighting, the British have captured the Garden of Eden and other territory between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers greatly desired by Germany. If the German dream of a Teutonic Empire in the Middle East is to come true, the district between Bagdad and the Garden of Eden, 250 miles to the south, must either be won by a new military offensive, or purchased in the peace conference after the war.

The military developments of the year make it certain that the Russian bear will not be able to take his drink of warm water at the Persian Gulf; and little less than a miracle must now happen to give the Czar Constantinople for an outlet to the unfrozen seas. The British effort to enter Constantinople by way of the Gallipoli Peninsula has failed during the year, and Great Britain is now reluctant to undertake a second costly experiment in southeastern Europe for Russia's sake. The ease with which the Teutons and Bulgarians have been able to overrun Serbia apparently has been due to Great Britain's disinclination to risk wasting her strength in a major Balkan offensive. The odds all favor the Teutonic allies in the Balkans because of their unimpeded lines of communication.

British interest in the Balkan campaign is primarily due to its bearing on the security of Egypt. Lord Kitchener's visit to the Levant during the latter part of the year and his quick return, seem to have created a belief in London that Egypt is not in any immediate jeopardy. The British now apparently have concluded that Egypt can be better defended along the Suez Canal than in the Balkans. The advantage of communications, which the German holdings in the Balkans, would pass to the British if the Teutons and Turks were to attempt an offensive by crossing the desert to the east of Suez.

The Russians however, are urgently pressing Great Britain to pursue the Balkan campaign. Otherwise, the Czar will probably be the war's principal loser. His own troops, waiting, as the year ends, to invade Bulgaria by way of Romania, can hardly prove equal to the task, unassisted. The Teutons, Bulgarians and Turks have certainly 700,000 men available for Balkan operations and this force might possibly be increased to a million. Unquestionably differences of opinion have arisen among the allies during the year because of divergent Balkan military policies. The conflicting interests have not been reconciled in detail as the year ends.

Russia's defeat on her own soil by the combined Austro-Hungarian and German offensives this summer was not sufficiently decisive to cause the Czar to sue for a separate peace. The Grand Duke Nicholas saved the greater part of his armies, and although because of the loss of Galicia and the Vistula defenses, he prevented the Kaiser from compelling the Czar to surrender. The Russian military failure was followed by the suppression of the Duma, the popular legislative body, and the Council of the Empire, the bureaucratic legislative house. The Czar is now governing by fiat as a complete autocrat, relying neither on the people themselves nor on the bureaucracy.

The year has seen no change of importance along the western battle-front. The French in Champagne, and the French and British in Artois attempted to develop a simultaneous major offensive during the last week in September, but without success. The Germans lost a few miles of trenches; but they were able to check the enemy before the drives threatened to compel a general retirement toward the German frontier. The result of the costly experiment showed that the Teutonic trenches are not impregnable, but also revealed the fact that the Anglo-French general staffs have not solved the problem of following up one successful attack by another in the face of German artillery.

Italy's entrance into the war this year has had disappointing results for Great Britain, Russia and France. The Italians, after seven months' fighting have not gained as much territory as Austria offered to cede last Spring in exchange for Italy's benevolent neutrality. The principal factor working against Italian success has been the superiority which trench warfare gives to an army on the defensive. The Roman government is now facing seri-

ous though subdued criticism at home. As the year ends, there are reports that pressure is being exerted in favor of the return to power of the veteran pro-German ex-premier Giolitti. Italy has signed an agreement with the other members of the Quadruple Entente not to make a separate peace, but if Signor Giolitti were to be made Premier Minister, he would undoubtedly use his influence for peace at the earliest moment.

The financial situation among all the belligerents has steadily grown more and more serious as the expenses of the conflict during the year have ceaselessly mounted. The total daily cost of the war is now about \$85,000,000, two-thirds of which is being paid by the Quadruple Entente, and one-third by Germany and her allies. The British, who have been most lavish in their payments, have also been the most sincere in facing the critical monetary problems of the war. Great Britain alone among the belligerents has begun to shoulder the financial burden of the conflict by accepting large war taxes. Elsewhere the war is prolonged almost exclusively on borrowed money. It is probable that the exhaustion of golden bullets, and the accompanying danger of economic disaster will be the principal determining factors in bringing the war to an end.

The food situation in Germany and Austro-Hungary, has become more serious this year than last, but has not grown sufficiently hazardous to compel the Teutons to accept peace. It is a contributing cause, nevertheless, to the persistent desire for peace which is more apparent in Germany as the year closes than anywhere else. A nation which will consent to live on half rations indefinitely if it is fighting a defensive war, may refuse a long curtailment of food if the government has offensive purposes in view. As this year's fighting drew to an end, Dr. von Bethmann-Holweg, the German chancellor, declared in the Reichstag that Germany was fighting a defensive war to prevent herself being crushed by the allies. But, last August, Dr. Helfferich, the German Minister of Finance, announced, also in the Reichstag, that Germany's war expenses would be paid by an indemnity collected from the enemy. The year is closing without any disavowal from Berlin of Dr. Helfferich's intimation of conquest.

Today's Oddist Story
Urbana, Ill., Dec. 24.—The only impurity found in cigarettes is hay according to Dr. Beal of the University of Illinois, who has just completed an exhaustive analysis of leading brands. The use of alfalfa and straw, said Dr. Beal, appears to be on the decline. Dr. Beal found in cigarettes hydrogen sulphide, carbon dioxide, ammonia and nicotine, but in such small quantities as to be practically non-injurious.

WHEAT STILL GOING EAST.
But There Is No Material Advance in the Price.

Pendleton, Dec. 23.—Wheat from Umatilla county and the entire Inland Empire continues to trail across the continent by rail to the Atlantic seaboard where it is shipped to Europe.

Local warehousemen are shipping wheat east just as fast as they can get cars and the right grade of cereal to fill them. H. W. Collins has already shipped over 4,000 tons and yesterday Carl Engdahl of Helix shipped out 2,000 tons from that point. Other buyers are shipping in quantities in proportion, so that altogether practically all the wheat movement from this section is to the Atlantic seaboard.

From Dayton, Colfax, Walla Walla, Spokane and all other Inland Empire points comes the same report of wheat going east. The Portland shipping is just about nothing due to the closing of the Panama canal and the high charters prevailing at Portland and Puget Sound and also the lack of cargo ships.

One little hope of a change in the conditions sprung yesterday when it was announced that the canal had been opened for a few hours to permit ships to pass and the further prophecy that it would be opened to

all traffic within a few days. This will permit the ships now on the Pacific coast and under charter to load and get away but that is all the hope there is, for ships are so awfully scarce that whether the canal is doing business or not it will make but little difference in the wheat situation on the Pacific coast. This grain which is now going east is not of recent purchase and is having no effect whatever on the local market. Notwithstanding the fact that Chicago wheat is a dollar and a quarter the local market remains around 84 and 85 cents.

BIG REDUCTIONS

During the Dull Season we will make a Reduction on all Tailor Made Suits both Ladies' and Men's, for 20 Days \$5 to \$10 reduction.

TOGGERY - Andrews Bros.

UNIVERSITY of OREGON GLEE CLUB

—AT—

SHERRY'S THEATRE
Wednesday Night, December 29

PRICES \$1.00-75c-50c

Seat sale at
Red Cross Drug Store

Shoot: at the Butte

5 Miles North of Island City

Thursday, Dec. 30th.

Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Beef

A turkey will be given as a "booby" prize to the poorest record for the day.

C. C. CONRAD

Lunch on Grounds at Noon.

You never dreamt of a Bargain as big as our BARGAIN COUNTER

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We have everything for your New Year feed. Will have a full supply of Grape Juice, Logan Berry Juice and Cider after the 1st.

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THERE'S ECONOMY OF MONEY AS WELL AS OF TIME AND LABOR IN MAKING CLOW'S WAFFLES

Did you ever mix and fry a batch of waffles in 15 minutes? No. I have. "Impossible," you say? Ah, but there's a perfectly good reason. They were Claws Waffles. Time saving waffles, the hard work done before you begin. All that is needed is to mix the batter to a thin consistency with sweet milk or water, it is self raising. Think of it. A dozen less articles to wash and put away afterwards.

TRY A PACKAGE 25c EACH.

SUNKIST ORANGES

SHELL BARK HICKORY NUTS, BLACK WALNUTS.

FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT.

COLUMBIA LITTLE PIG PORK SAUSAGE. ATMORES PLUM PUDDINGS.

GREEN CHILI AND PIMENTO CHEESE. DATES AND FIGS.

OLD MASTER AND BARRINGTON HALL COFFEE.

HOLSUM BREAD AND CAKES

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