

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XV

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NUMBER 168

EXPLOSION ON CRUISER NATAL DESTROYS SHIP

OVER 300 MEN UNACCOUNTED FOR AND 400 REPORTED SAVED

EXACT LOCATION KEPT CLOSE SECRET BY NAVY

Investigation Under Way to Fix Blame—Submarine Sunk by Austrian Squadron—Greece Sends Second Protest to Allies Because of Saloniki Fortifications.

London, Dec. 31.—The British cruiser Natal was sunk by an internal explosion and 325 men are unaccounted for. Details are not given. The harbor where it occurred or the reasons for the explosion are not announced by the admiralty but immediate investigation was ordered. The government withheld news of the disaster nearly a day to ascertain the number of survivors. Four hundred reported saved and it is believed many, possibly all, of these were ashore when the explosion occurred.

Berlin, Dec. 31.—An Austrian squadron sank a French submarine at Monge Durrazzo Harbor Thursday before the battle when two Austrian destroyers were sunk, the war office stated. Second officer and 15 of the Monge's crew were captured.

Greeks Protest Again. Berlin, Dec. 31.—Greece will send a second protest to the Allies on account of fortifying Saloniki, an Athens report said.

MORE PIPES FREEZE. Although Cold Abates, Plumbers Have Much to Do.

This is harvest time for the plumbers. Although there was a very noticeable relief in the cold snap last night, water pipes continued to freeze. There is no trouble with underground portions of the water system, as there was last year, the breaks and freeze-ups being within the homes into which the severe mercurial capers of the night before had gained access.

CLAMBAKE FOR MEMBERS. First Announcements of Eagle Spread Tonight Erroneous.

When the Eagle lodge rooms are made ready for the clambake booked for tonight, only the members are to be present, notice to the contrary notwithstanding.

TEAM LINEUP READY. Considerable Switching to Be Done by M. I. A. Quintet.

Considerable changes have been made in the M. I. A. lineup preparatory to tomorrow night's game at Union with the famous Feds. Leslie Stoddard who has been doing service in a basketball way in Utah of late, and Ferrin, will play forward. Peterson is booked for center and Baum, Ainsworth or Larsen will play guard. The team leaves on the noon train tomorrow.

MOTOR SLEDS POPULAR. Motorcycle Appearances on "Bobs" Make Merry Riding.

Several have resurrected the motorcycle-driven bobs in use a few years ago. The merry sputter of the gas engines and rear wheel of a motorcycle is a frequent occurrence. These machines will attain speed as high as 50 miles an hour, and now that the streets are suitable for sleighing, the novelty of the thing is quite popular.

Albany College Gets Gift.

Albany, Or., Dec. 30.—Former President Harry M. Crooks of Albany college, sent word yesterday that the promised present of \$50,000 for the college endowment from James J. Hill has been received from Mr. Hill in the shape of securities, well invested and drawing interest. Acting President Wallace Howe Lee of the college, gave out this information last night. Albany college now has an endowment of \$258,000, bearing on an average 6 1-2 per cent interest.

Found in Salem Commons.

Salem, Or., Dec. 30.—Louis Martell of Oregon City, aged 67 years, who left the home of his son, Noah Martell in Clackamas county, December 18, was last evening found by the local police in the Commons mission, where he had been two days without means. He said he had gone away to find work. The son came up in an auto and took the aged man home today.

POLONIUS GIVES ADVICE.

On Eve of Departure for Nowhere, Warns Laertes Nyneteen Sixteen.

Eternity Hall, Eternity, Dec. 31.—A copy of Polonius Old Year's advice to his son, Laertes Nyneteen Sixteen, was presented to the United press correspondent by Father Time here late today. It reads:

"My son, I stand upon the threshold of Oblivion, where in I soon shall vanish never to return. My legacy to you is a sadly disorganized world, and I trust that you will faithfully and better administer it than have I. You have many things to contend with, but take them easy. A menagerie, led by a Donkey, and Elephant and a Bull Moose will chase the Winged Rooster of Victory up and down your days to the jaws of November. Heed them not. Men with peace missions they don't know what to do with will try to settle a war being fought for reasons no one has discovered. Let them go. The Panama Canal may slide all over South America and Colonel Goethal's conversation will sound like a frequent reference to the Gatun Daur. Let him alone. Cupid may pretend to scorn Romance and be engrossed in Eugenics. Tell him that Europe needs babies. Let the war dogs chase their own tails until the peace Dove sheds some of its court plaster. Then cautiously look about and see what you can do to fix things up. George Bernard Shaw, Theodore Roosevelt, William Taft, Lord Northcliffe, W. J. Bryan and Vesuvius are subject to eruption at any time. There's nothing you can do to stop any of them. Remember that styles, suffrage, the tariff and sample nunchucks you have always with you. Do the best you can with all these things and remember that however powerful and able you feel in this your youth, on the 365th day of your reign you will be weary and old and worn. Your robes, once white will be dragged and torn and stained, as flapping rags about your withered legs. Your hand palsied, your step halting, your eyes dim, you will die; and the World will go on. So take it easy and don't get excited. If you sigh for a place in the Sun, let it be on a park bench on a summer afternoon. Do these things in calm judgment and you may accomplish more than you expect."

Five Saloons Close in Polk County. Dallas, Or., Dec. 30.—Only five saloons will be put out of business in Polk county by the operation of the statewide prohibition law. Three of these are at Independence and two at Falls City. Dallas voted out saloons a year ago and McMouth and West Salem, the other two incorporated cities of the county, have never had public bars. Both Sheriff Orr and District Attorney Sibley have expressed themselves as anticipating little trouble in enforcing the law, and no special appropriation has been requested by either for that purpose.

KILLED BY BROTHER. Hunting Trip Ends in Accidental Shooting.

Chehalis, Wash., Dec. 30.—Earl Johnson was accidentally shot and killed by his brother, Lawrence Johnson, near their home at Bunker, at noon yesterday. Earl Johnson was about 16 years of age and his brother, Lawrence, is 14. The boys are sons of Albert Johnson who is employed at the Hill Logging company mill near Bunker and the family formerly lived in Chehalis. The two boys were hunting near the Hill Logging company camp at the time the accident occurred, the shoot being fired with a 22 rifle. The injured boy lived but a few minutes.

Some time ago the boys' mother secured a divorce from Mr. Johnson and later married Frank Little, of Lewiston, Idaho, at which place he now resides. The sons remained here with their father, when the parents separated.

Install Safety Devices

Salem, Or., Dec. 29.—Complying with a recent request of the labor commissioner, the secretary of the state board of control announced today that safety devices for window cleaners would be installed at the State Institution for Feeble-Minded, the State Training School, the State School for the Blind, and the State School for Deaf.

The labor commissioner also asked that such safeguards be put on the state house, but the secretary informed him that the board had no control over it, and suggested that he write the custodian, Secretary of State Olcott.

Becomes Youngest Judge

Cleveland, Dec. 31.—Pierre A. White, aged 26, will become the youngest judge in Ohio tomorrow. He was appointed a municipal judge by Governor Willis. White looks even younger than 26. White was born in Sandusky, O., Easter Sunday, 1889.

Lad Dies Christmas Night.

Goldendale, Wash., Dec. 29.—Funeral services for Albert Hector, 11 years old, son of M. M. Hector, a prominent Klickitat stockman and wheat grower, were held at Goldendale yesterday and burial took place in the Catholic cemetery. The boy was taken suddenly ill Christmas night after he had retired, and died before a physician could be summoned to the Hector farm.

DIVERS PROGRAMS MAPPED FOR NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Personal Mention:—Mr. John Barleycorn expects to leave on the midnight train tonight for Oblivion where he will spend an indefinite period.

News Item:—The world comes to an end tonight.

New Year—the year fraught with long waits between drinks—will be ushered in in devious ways tonight. Most of the churches have plans for song and watch services. Grills and restaurants will be jammed, for early reservations say so. Just what the situation in saloons will be, depends. Some say that the drink-while-you-can fever has spent itself and that there will be comparatively little of it this evening in saloons. Others look to free and copious consumption. Distinctive from both of these methods of greeting 1916, several lodges have affairs booked for tonight that will keep the members busy until the new-born year displaces the dying 1915. That drinking after 12 must not be, is the intention of city and county officials. This is not taken to mean that the grills will be raided at 12:01, but that there will be no more purchases after that hour, and that just as soon thereafter as possible glasses and bottles disappear.

The shortage which was feared, is still something of a menace to saloon celebrants tonight, many lines of popular drinks being down to the dregs.

To some, the world comes to an end tonight. To some, the millennium begins. To officers, the year is looked upon as one that will require great effort on their part. However, the thought uppermost this evening is not what the morrow will bring forth, but that there be joyous, albeit sorrowful, to some, scenes of parting when Mr. John Barleycorn rings down the curtain, sighs and begins that long journey to Oblivion.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 31.—At one minute past 12 o'clock tonight 2100 saloons will go out of existence and the three big states of the Pacific Northwest will enter the "dry" column.

Prohibition, or near prohibition takes effect in Washington, Oregon and Idaho simultaneously increasing the total "dry" area in the United States by nearly 40 per cent.

During the last month the stores of liquor in the hands of saloons and wholesale houses have practically disappeared. Much of it was sold to those who heeded the admonitions of big banners in front of every "family liquor store" to "Stock up for the Drought."

Today many saloons in every city throughout the northwest are dismantled, but nevertheless they are prepared for the biggest night's business in history. Tables in the big cafes of Seattle, Portland, Spokane and Tacoma were at a premium and preparations were being made to uncork the last few bottles of champagne.

Champagne is a scarce article in the northwest. Since it became known that the three northwest states were going dry, no champagne has been received here and the supply on hand is almost exhausted. The revelers tonight will have to be satisfied with a cheaper brand of wine in most of the cafes.

Wets and dries a like point out that neither Washington nor Oregon will have real prohibition. The laws of these two states are practically the same, and allow the shipment into the state of liquor in small quantities. Idaho's law, on the other hand, is what the prohibitionists call "drum tight."

The Idaho dries still have a hard fight before them. They failed to have prohibition written into their constitution by vote of the people. Instead, the legislature passed a prohibition law. The wets now have this law before the United States Supreme Court on appeal, but meanwhile the district attorneys, sheriffs and police in every county and city in the state are preparing to clamp down the lid at the stroke of twelve tonight.

There is nothing in the laws of Oregon or Washington to prevent anyone from drinking all he wants to, provided he doesn't fall under the public nuisance section. There's nothing to prohibit him from keeping all the liquor he wants in his house—if he can get it. There's nothing to prevent him from carrying all the liquor he wants across the state line for his own use. But he can't take it on a common carrier. The law merely limits the amount of liquor a common carrier may carry to each individual. And the laws strictly forbid the manufacture or sales within the state of any liquor containing more than one half of one per cent alcohol.

Dries believe and public officials profess to believe, that bootlegging in Oregon and Washington will not be a popular profession. In the first place, they argue, the bold blind pig will have a hard time getting his wares into the state without bending or breaking the law. He will run a tremendous risk trying to sell it. And finally, they argue, who's going to patronize a blind pig and run a chance of being arrested when

there's a simple means provided for getting it legitimately.

Efforts of the Washington liquor men to find a legal hole in their prohibition law were watched with bated breath by the Oregon wets. When the Supreme Court finally decided to leave the law alone the Oregon liquor men also gave up hope.

Although the prohibitionists are congratulating themselves on having knocked "King Booze" flat on his back, they will have to knock him down again next November. In Washington the law automatically goes on the ballot again. In Idaho the voters will pass on the amendment which will give constitutional authority to the law already passed by the legislature. Oregon wets already are taking steps to circulate petitions which will gain at the prohibitions question before the voters this fall.

Lawyers have declared that, with the Washington Supreme Court decision, there isn't a loophole in either the Oregon or Washington law. There isn't even a flaw in the drug-store provision, they point out. Drugstores cannot sell liquor for any purpose. The nearest to genuine "booze" they can sell is ethyl alcohol. Some druggists might contend that "100 proof" corn whiskey is nothing but ethyl alcohol, but there's so much red tape connected with buying even a little ethyl alcohol that it would be a long time between drinks for anyone who hoped to evade the law in this way.

BEER PLENTIFUL.

Portland Has Great Dearth on All Other Lines of Drink.

Portland, Dec. 31.—Prices of liquor have almost doubled as the result of a liquor famine proceeding prohibition. The price of grain alcohol has tripled over the entire northwest. There is plenty of beer and prospects are this is the only drink obtainable by New Year's crowds.

\$72.50 Price of Seeing New Year.

New York, Dec. 31.—This is what it will cost one and a friend to see in a modest way, the New Year hit the White Way:

Table reservation (dinner)....	\$14.50
Dinner	10.00
Tips	1.50
Theatre seats	7.00
Table reservation (supper) ..	14.00
Supper	20.00
Tips	2.00
Cab	4.00
Total	\$72.50

WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE.

Methodists to Hold Forth at Church Until the New Year.

A watch night service will be held at the Methodist church tonight, with communion. A social hour will be held first and Rose Sherman will conduct the special religious services after which the pastor will administer communion. Ensign Children and her efficient corps will be present to take part in the service. Rev. Edwards issues a cordial welcome to be present.

The services will be in the basement of the church.

Druggists Ban Alcohol.

Eugene, Or., Dec. 30.—After December 31 no alcohol can be bought in Eugene unless from an illegitimate source. Every druggist in the city has agreed not to sell alcohol under the prohibition law, and will, therefore, give no bond as required of those druggists who intend to sell alcohol after the first of the year.

The reason given by the Eugene druggists for failure to take out the bond of \$250 is that they do not desire to take chances of being prosecuted. After a careful study of the prohibition law, they have decided that any one wishing to do so might cause the arrest of druggists for violating the law, when the dispensers were honest in their endeavor to obey it although technically guilty.

HAMMERED BY GALE.

Helpless Gasoline Schooner Is Towed Into Coos Bay.

Marshfield, Dec. 31.—With a crew of three men exhausted from lack of water and food, the gasoline schooner, Enterprise from Astoria, was towed into Coos Bay this morning. The schooner was badly battered in a 75-mile an hour gale Tuesday night. The engines were flooded and the vessel drifted helplessly for two days before being rescued this morning.

New Building Nears Completion.

Monmouth, Or., Dec. 30.—The new building for the Oregon Normal Training school is nearing completion. The ventilating plant is being installed and cement walks constructed about the building.

SCHMIDT WON'T HANG

Though Convicted for Part in Times Blowup, Clemency Urged.

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—M. A. Schmidt faces life imprisonment today as the result of conviction for complicity in dynamiting the Times building. The jury recommended clemency, hence Schmidt won't hang. Postponement of sentence until January 12 was asked by the defense attorneys to prepare arguments for a new trial.

Schmidt was convicted on the first ballot by the jurors.

ENDS LIFE WITH POISON

Pendleton Woman Becomes Despondent Over Love Affair.

Pendleton, Dec. 31.—Despondent over a recent love affair Elizabeth Ulrich, aged 19 years, committed suicide last night about 8 o'clock at the rooming house of J. M. Childers, 203 West Webb street, by drinking the contents of a one ounce bottle of carbolic acid and more than an ounce of laudanum. She died from the effects of the poison at St. Anthony's hospital this morning about 3 o'clock.

Last evening Miss Ulrich went to her room after dinner. As she was accustomed to being alone nothing out of the ordinary was noted. Early in the evening two men rooming at the house who had retired heard a knocking at their door and a woman mumbling inaudible words. The men opened the door and seeing the door of Miss Ulrich's room open went in and found her in a heap across the bed. A physician was called at once and she was taken to the hospital.

In her coat pocket she left a letter addressed to her sister, Mrs. C. H. Myers, of Friend, Oregon, and one addressed to Al Warner a young Pendleton man which was to be delivered as soon as she was found.

Word has been communicated to the sister.

Miss Ulrich who was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ulrich was born in Denver in 1888. She was married at the age of 14 to a man by the name of McCullough in Huntington. Later they were divorced and assuming her maiden name she came to Pendleton about two years ago. Since coming here she has been employed at the Domestic Laundry. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. C. H. Myers, of Friend, Oregon, and a father and mother who are separated. It is thought that the father is residing in Huntington. She is a niece of Frank and Chauncey Ulrich well known Pendleton men.

It is understood the girl had been keeping company with Mr. Warner for the past four or five months but in the past week or two they had become estranged, and she had brooded over her troubles until life seemed to her no longer worth living. Yesterday she went to one of the employees of the Domestic Laundry and attempted to borrow a revolver but failed and at night she took the poison. Her suffering was intense until death came this morning.

Postoffice Looted by Burglars.

Dallas, Or., Dec. 30.—The postoffice in the general store of Lucas & Price at Rickerall was entered by burglars Tuesday night and about \$50 in stamps taken. There was no money in the till when Postmaster Price closed on that evening. The same night the home of H. C. Eakin, a Dallas attorney, at Rickerall was entered by a burglar and a lady's gold watch and several dollars in money taken. The Rickerall postoffice was robbed once before about a year ago, at which time the safe was blown open. Since then no safe has been used by the postmaster.

Explosion in Oil Plant.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Three are missing and several were injured in a fire and explosion in the South Chicago plant of the American company. No bodies were recovered. The fire loss is a quarter of a million.

Many oil tanks exploded in succession. Officials do not believe any of the missing persons were killed.

Drug Company Incorporated.

Salem, Or., Dec. 30.—Articles of incorporation have been filed by the La Grande Pharmacy of La Grande, capitalized for \$5000.

One Delivery Tomorrow.

The city carriers will make one delivery tomorrow but the rural routes none. The general delivery windows will be open on a holiday basis.

Girl Becomes Japanese Subject.

Dallas, Or., Dec. 30.—Miss Anna Hendrickson, a Monmouth girl, was married on December 24 to Rio Yamans, a Japanese, at Vancouver, Wash. The couple will live in Monmouth.

Party Ascends Mary's Peak.

Albany, Or., Dec. 29.—A party of high school students headed by Professor H. C. Clifford, left this city yesterday for Mary's peak in the coast range for a three days' outing. The party will scale the mountain which is now capped with snow.

Robbers Loot Church Basement.

Albany, Or., Dec. 29.—Burglars entered the basement of the First Presbyterian church one night this week and stole a quantity of carpenter's tools that had been used by workmen in preparing for a Christmas pageant.

AUSTRIAN NOTE DISAVOWS BLOW GIVEN ANCONA

OFFICIAL CONTENTS NOT PUBLIC UNTIL NEXT MONDAY SOME TIME.

REPARATION BY AUSTRIA PROMISED IN THE NOTE

Austria Will Not Quarrel with America Over Torpedoing of the Ancona—Note Received by Lansing but Contents to Remain Secret Until After New Year Begins.

Washington, Dec. 31.—The United States and Austria won't quarrel over the torpedoing of the Ancona. An official view given in Austria substantially complied with American demands in the note which arrived in Washington today. Secretary of State Lansing refused to make the contents of the note public until Monday.

Further negotiations will probably be on minor points.

Unofficially it is reported Austria has ordered punishment of the submarine commander; Granted disavowal of the torpedoing; agreed to reparation; concurred in the principle an enemy vessel shall not be destroyed until those aboard are rescued, unless it flees and resists; desire to maintain friendly relations.

HISTORIC VIOLIN HERE.

Also Wonderful Artist Who Plays It—Concert This Evening.

Alex Skovgaard and his wonderful Stradivarius violin, which lay unused in a museum for two hundred years, are in La Grande today.

Accompanying the Danish wizard are Mrs. Skovgaard of Copenhagen, and the other members of the New York Metropolitan company which give their magnificent program at the L. D. S. church tonight under auspices of that church. Each one of the half dozen people in the company are artists of the first rank—great performers they all are—but to those who attend the opera concert tonight, the Dane himself and his historic violin will probably be the greatest attraction. The Observer is in position to say that the company is first class, and better concerts won't be booked right away.

Mr. Skovgaard is a unique character. But he is human. His party arrived on a delayed train early this morning, and when the virtuoso went to bed in his hotel, it was with instructions that he be left to sleep until 2 this afternoon.

Others of the group had their breakfast sent up about 11 o'clock.

The party has many unique features about it, and the Stradivarius is not the only one. An oriental smile always is vividly in the memory of Miss Florence Hawkins, the well known American soprano, who is with the party. For it almost ended her grand opera career two years ago when an ardent young Japanese wooed her as only a Japanese can.

This young Japanese lover was of a family of high rank, but Miss Hawkins refused to give his name when asked about the romance the other day. She admitted, however, that once she was tempted to give up her career and hie away to the flowery kingdom with her oriental admirer. That was when she was with the Chicago Grand Opera company.

And Miss Hawkins has retained a bit of the sentiment of this romance of the past. Each night she appears in a beautiful Japanese kimono, one of the gifts of this young man. She prizes it more than almost any other of her possessions. She guards it closely. This kimono is worn during the singing of "Madam Butterfly."

"Every time I put on that kimono," she said, "I see that oriental smile, alluring and—well, I am an American and love my career."

The program begins at 8:30. Popular prices.

NEW RULES PROMULGATED

Application for Final Citizenship at Stated Periods.

Circuit Judge Knowles has promulgated a new ruling pertaining to hearing of applications for final citizenship papers. The order amends rule 23 of the rules of Court heretofore adopted, and makes these hearings in Union county on the second Monday in December and the second Monday in June of each year; in the county of Wallawa on the second Monday in May and the third Monday of November of each year, provided, however, in years in which there is a general election throughout the state applications shall be heard in the county of Union on the first Monday in March, and the last Monday in September; and in Wallawa county the first Monday in April and the third Monday in September, in addition to above specified dates.