

La Grande Evening Observer

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MANY LIVES LOST AT SEA

THIRTY-ONE HUNDRED ON BRITISH BOAT THAT GOES TO BOTTOM

AMERICAN OFFICIALS IS AMONG THE SHIP LIST

Two Others Also Reported Aboard—Four Boatloads Picked Up at Sea by a Steamer—Details Missing—Feared that Total Deathlist Will Be Tremendous One.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The British liner Persia was submerged Thursday while approaching Alexandria, near Crete. Consul Skinner at London has cabled that American Consul R. N. McNeely at Aden was a passenger. Nearly all aboard are lost, it was at first believed, but since rescued persons have been reaching shore it is now believed that the figure is not so big.

A steamer rescued four boatloads of the survivors. They landed this morning at Alexandria. Officials estimate that the Persia carried 3100 passengers, including 86 women and 25 children. She left London December 18, Marseilles the 26.

Besides McNeely, Charles Grant and Edward Rose, Americans, were passengers, but it is believed Rose disembarked at Gibraltar.

It is not known if the ship was warned or whether it tried to flee. The fact that so few persons are known to have been saved indicates scant time was allowed to reach places of safety. The Persia was the third largest English vessel yet submerged.

It is possible that other life boats are still afloat but if not, the loss of lives will be tremendous.

Dr. Mellon's Being Married Now

Pittsburg, Pa., Jan. 1.—If he had good luck after he sailed from New York for Athens some time ago, Dr. George W. Mellon of this city down in Belgrade, Serbia getting ready in the midst of war for his marriage to Miss Zagorka Cabo, said to be one of the uncrowned queens of the devastated little land. Dr. Mellon, twice decorated for his work with the American Ambulance in the typhus camp of Serbia, first by Crown Prince Alexander and then by the American Red Cross, has gone back to Serbia his first hospital command commission. Dr. Mellon met Miss Cabo in the course of his hospital work in Serbia. She was not, however, a nurse. Just a visitor. As Dr. Mellon's wife, Miss Cabo will help him in his hospital work, which they expect to continue until the war is ended. Dr. Mellon continued his wooing by letter and cable when he recently was recalled from Serbia by the Red Cross. Miss Cabo's father lost practically all his fortune in the second fall of Belgrade. Dr. Mellon is a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Kansas is out of Debt today

Topeka, Kans., Jan. 1.—Kansas got out of debt today. State Treasurer Earl Akers took up the last outstanding bonds totaling \$159,000. To properly celebrate the event Akers has suggested issuance of \$25,000,000 in bonds for good roads.

Provides for Education of Workers

Pittsburg, Pa. Jan. 1.—A new era dawned in Pennsylvania today for the boy or girl who must toil in mill, factory, store or other industry, when the child labor law enacted becomes operative. The new law contains stringent provisions and severe punishment for their violation. Employers of child labor throughout the state have prepared to comply with the act.

The act provides for the health, safety and welfare of minors. It forbids their employment in certain establishments, restricts their hours of labor, regulates conditions and provides for their education in continuation schools. This last is something of an innovation. It shall be unlawful to employ any minor between 14 and 16 years, unless the child attends school at least eight hours a week. The school must be approved by the state superintendent of public instruction. Children employed on the farm or in domestic service in private homes are exempt from the provisions of the act.

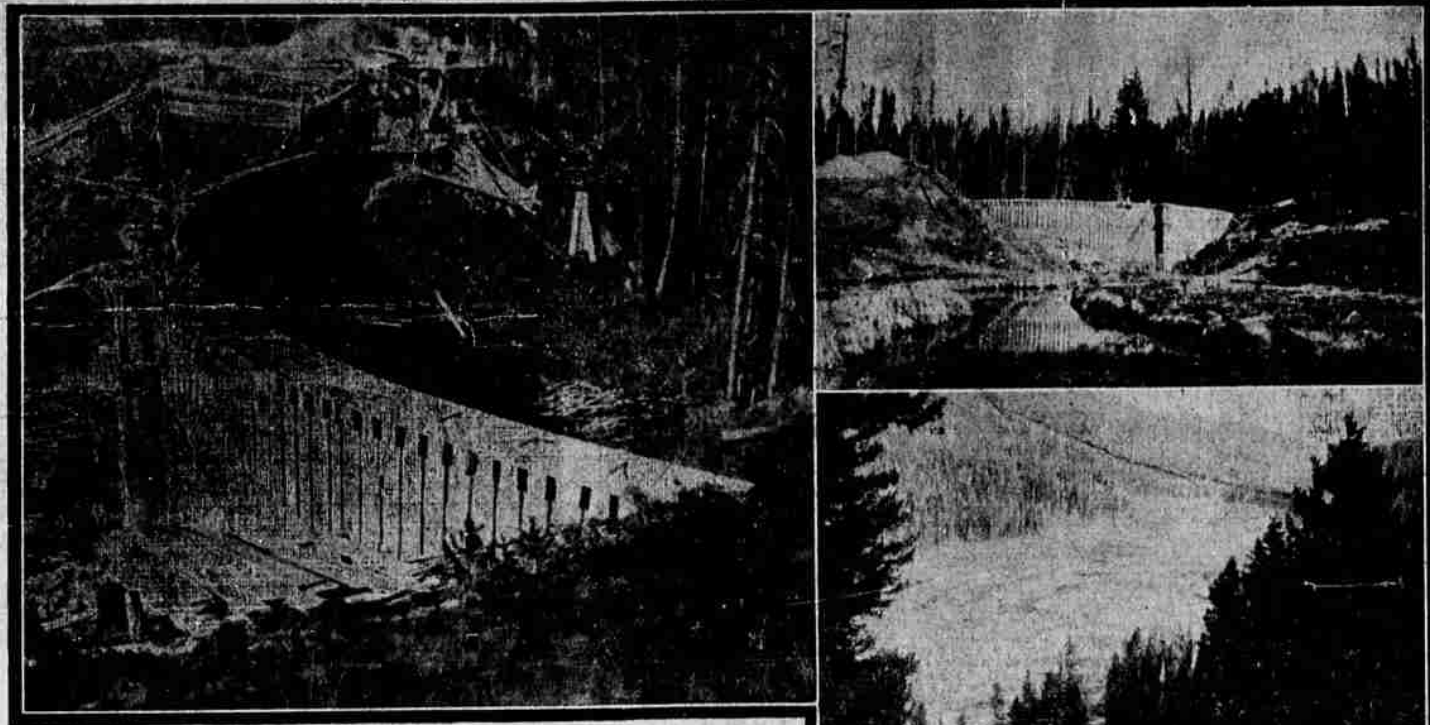
Whitman's Give Reception.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 1.—Governor and Mrs. Whitman held a public New Year's reception in the executive mansion here today. They were assisted in receiving by the various state officials and their wives.

Secretary Changes Jobs.

Pittsburg, Jan. 1.—Frederick B. Shipp, executive secretary of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., today became general secretary of the Pittsburg Y. M. C. A.

COMPOSITE PICTURES OF LA GRANDE'S NEW WATER SYSTEM.



Index to pictures (Reading from left to right) top and end view of dam taken just before last pour was made. The small knoll in the back ground separates the dam from spillway. Another view of dam from the front showing Beaver creek in foreground. Second picture down, view of the reservoir site of about 60 acres, taken from lower end. Third picture down is original site of dam and spillway. At the extreme right is the narrow gap where the dam is built, and the left spillway. Fourth down, view of emergency reservoir showing construction work, city and Mt. Emily in back ground. Bottom picture, as the dam reservoir looked before the city cleared it off. Note secluded Beaver creek bed. The picture was taken from the same position as the cleared site shown above. Insert, I. D. Howland, supervising engineer.



EXPECTED BACCHANALIAN REVELS FAIL TO SPROUT

Eight More States Go Dry

Washington, D. C. Dec. 31.—Nine states in the United States will go dry in 1916, eight of them at midnight tonight and one, Virginia, Nov. 1, 1916. The eight are Alabama, South Carolina, Idaho, Arkansas, Colorado, Washington Oregon and Iowa. This will make a total of 19 dry and 29 wet states of a total of 48. The states heretofore dry and the year each became so, are Maine, 1851; Kansas, 1880; North Dakota, 1889; Georgia and Oklahoma, 1907; Mississippi and North Carolina, 1908; Tennessee, 1909 and Arizona and West Virginia, 1915. Alaska, Vermont, Indiana, Nebraska and South Dakota will vote on prohibition in 1916. It these four states go dry, practically half the United States will be dry. National prohibition through state prohibition is considered probable within a very few years; by leading prohibitionists.

Shorn of fangs, minus rowdism, void of boisterousness, tamed and docile, liquor was banished from La Grande last night. The expected debauch in saloons, the anticipated "excitement," died aborning and there was none. County and city authorities were ready to enforce the law to the letter, but the saloon men enforced it themselves.

Saloons Close Early

At 6 o'clock last evening saloons began to close their doors for want of good s to sell and the closing was kept up at intervals to the last. Julius Fisher was the first to bid good-bye to a business he has followed more or less constantly for, lo, these many years. Ulrich Lottes was closed by 9:30 and by 11:30 Jack Kerr was closing his doors, and Herman Roesch was locked up. The Sommer and Hotel Foley bars were gathering places of orderly, well behaved people who were neither drunk nor near drunk, and at the stroke of midnight which brought on statewide prohibition, proprietors opened the doors, the crowds passed out and before the hammer had struck 12 strokes, there wasn't a saloon in town that was occupied by others than the proprietors. It was a docile, tame closing. Hundreds of people were upon the streets, in grills and at the various dances, but drunk men were as scarce as hen's teeth. The expected didn't happen.

Tame, tame indeed, was John Barleycorn's exit.

Whistles on the Job.

The crowds upon the streets, at dances and in grills and restaurants, broke out in a joyous greeting to the New Year. The distinctly La Grande precedent and custom of tooting railroad whistles with vigor was not overlooked. The near 1916 was greeted joyously but not boisterously, and although there were groups upon the streets until well towards morning there was no evidence at any time of that which the public expected—a bacchanalian revel—be it said to the credit of the saloon element. The germ was more noticeable early in the evening but by 9 o'clock it had spent its strength and died with scarcely a gasp.

First Arrest Made.

Seattle, Jan. 1.—The first arrest for violation of the prohibition law was made at 2:55 o'clock this morning and another saloon keeper was arrested at 4:20 o'clock. Otherwise the water wagon rumbled peacefully into Washington. New Year's celebration was even quieter than usual.

Quiet at Portland.

Portland, Jan. 1.—No trouble accompanied the enforcement of prohibition promptly at midnight. Saloons quickly complied. A light fall of snow forced the crowds to disperse. Little drunkenness and no looting were reported and very little liquor remained, that mostly kegged beer. Cities throughout Washington, Oregon and Idaho reported enforcement with less efforts than expected. Violations at Seattle whereby people inside saloons allowed to remain after doors were locked at midnight and to drink liquor purchased before.

Pittsburg to Have Golf Tourney

Pittsburg Pa. Jan. 1.—Pittsburg will have golf tournament of national importance next season. Davidson Herron of Princeton, secretary of the Intercollegiate Golf Association, who made the announcement, stated that the annual college championship will be held next September at the Oakmount club.

Practically all the big eastern colleges will be represented. It is possible that several of the big western schools will also enter. The first two days of the meet will be taken up by the playing elimination matches. The balance of the week, will be given over to individual intercollegiate championship.

Boxers Meet.

Columbus, O. Jan. 1.—Willie Beecher and Johnny Harvey, New York City lightweights, are scheduled to clash in a 12 round bout before the Tuxedo club at the Coliseum here tonight.



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MRS. MYERS LOW.

Although Assailant is Dead, Alarm Felt for His Victim.

Portland, Jan. 1.—Mrs. Myers' condition this morning is still serious. The body of Evan Kemp, her assailant, with a bullet from his own revolver in his brain, lies in the morgue. A note addressed to the people of Portland was found near the body and it admitted the crime. He expressed grief. It is believed Kemp suicided Wednesday night after leaving the house nearby where he saw a newspaper telling about the man hunt.

PRESSURE APPLIED.

Opposition to Radical Conscription May Lead to Resignations.

London, Jan. 1.—It is authoritatively reported Sir John Simon has resigned from the British cabinet. He may reconsider, however, if Asquith agrees to a less radical conscription bill than the one being drafted. Sir McKinnon is trying to reduce the number of men which the bill demands, believing withdrawal of too many will seriously cripple home industries.

San Diego Celebrates.

San Diego, Jan. 1.—The city was wide open all night celebrating the opening of the Panama-California-International 1916 exposition.

Kaiser Has Carbuncles.

Amsterdam, Jan. 1.—Disquieting anxious Berlin messages is a report that the Kaiser is suffering with virulent carbuncles.

DR. BEST IN AUTO WRECK

PENDLETON MAYOR UNCONSCIOUS LONG TIME.

Not Believed Injuries Are Severe—Car Turned Turtled.

Pendleton, Jan. 1.—Mayor Best and David Graybell were severely injured today when an auto turned turtle and was ditched. Both were pinned underneath. The Mayor regained consciousness after several hours, but his injuries are announced as not serious. Dr. Best is the man recently elected mayor during the heated campaign of which there is still aftermath in Pendleton.

REVOLUTION GROWS

Uprising is Headed by Former Viceroy of Canton, Says Report.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—Revolutionists have appointed Sham Cung Huen, former Viceroy of Canton, as provisional president of China, according to cables to the newspaper Young China. The Governor of the Quangse province is reported imprisoned after issuing a proclamation urging the people to remain loyal to the emperor. A successor favoring the revolutionists was named.

MRS ZWEIFEL WINNER

Candle Contest Decided last Evening by Drawing.

Three were tied for the first place and two for fourth place when the candle contest came to an end at the Snodgrass store last evening. Mrs. Nate Zweifel, George Gekeler and J. F. Baker tied at 270 hours while the correct time was 269:54. By drawing the tie was decided Mrs. Zweifel being first Mr. Baker second and Mr. Gekeler third.

R. Pickens and R. D. Bonnel were tied for fourth with 268 hours apiece. On the decision by drawing Mr. Bonnel was fourth and Mr. Pickens fifth.

PERFECT CITY WATER PROJECT BUILT IN 1915

FINAL COST FIGURES BEFORE COMMISSION, IN FULLEST DETAIL.

ENGINEER'S REPORT IS DESCRIPTIVE AND FULL

Story of How Site Was Picked Out, Details of Construction, and Possibilities of the Plant Told by Report Now With the Commission—Plans Changed Early.

La Grande in 1915 perfected its water system to a point where experts can see no flaw and no shortage for a city of twice the population La Grande now claims. Not only did the city administration go into the mountains and there create a reservoir to store the spring floods, but rimmed the reserve tank south of the city with added walls so that it now holds about 1,700,000 gallons of water, ample to keep the city supplied in case of accident to the pipe line, while repairs could be made. A sum total of \$23,000 has been spent by the city for the dam, reservoir, building the main line and otherwise rehabilitating the water system that has been in general use entirely inadequate to meet demands upon it. Necessity is the mother of invention, and notwithstanding that La Grande's finances had been in bad shape, this extensive remedy was applied without seriously handicapping the general policy of retrenchments. The whole thing is paid for, too.

There has been so much misunderstanding, through lack of publicity and personal inspection by citizens, that few know just what has been going on. For that reason the Observer herewith prints the report of Supervising Engineer Howland, which has just been filed with the commission. The dirt dam plans were abandoned after having once been adopted. The cost of a dirt dam would have been \$10,050 exclusive of clearing which would have been the same as under the present project. Confusion has arisen over the fact that the estimates published prior to building the dam were about half of the total cost. As a matter of fact the dam estimate was extremely close. The clearing costs were not included in the original estimates.

The Report Published

Following are excerpts from the report, the only items eliminated being those of a technical nature, tables etc.

(Continued from Page 10)

KING UNDER KNIFE.

Greek Ruler to Have Operation of Minor Nature Performed.

Athens, Jan. 1.—King Constantine of Greece will undergo an operation either today or tomorrow. Dr. Strauss, a German specialist, is expected to arrive today to perform it. It is officially announced the operation is of a minor nature and the king will recover shortly.

Auto Party Have Breakdown

A party from Cove, including Mrs. Roy Lay, Mrs. Cora Richards and Miss Brown, a teacher in the Cove public school, came over to La Grande yesterday by auto, but had the misfortune to have a breakdown and were compelled to return on No. 6 as far as Union this morning. On account of the trouble on the Central Railroad, it was expected that a private conveyance would be needed by which the members of the party could complete the remainder of the journey homeward.

CENTRAL RAILWAY BLOCKED

Engine Off the Rails Between Union and Cove.

Union, Ore., Jan. 1.—(Special)—The engine of the Central Railway is off the track between Union and Cove, the derailment occurring some time last night. Up to 11 o'clock today the efforts to clear the road for traffic had not been successful and as a result the whole Central Railway system is in a tie-up.

FORD AT HOME.

Will Reach Port Tonight—Detroit Giving Greetings.

New York, Jan. 1.—Henry Ford's boat reaches Quarantine tonight and is expected to reach port tomorrow.

Detroit, Jan. 1.—Detroit will honor Ford with a wide open welcome next week. A public reception will be given. His wife and son are in New York to greet him.