

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## Persia Victims More Than 250

### SURVIVOR PICTURES THE SCENES ATTENDING BLOW STRUCK BY A SUBMARINE

#### American Diplomat Last Seen Struggling in Seething Water

Washington, Jan. 3.—President Wilson will cut his vacation short and return here immediately, as the result of news of torpedoing boats with Americans aboard.

Alexandria, Jan. 3.—Officers of the liner Persia are positive she was a victim of a submarine. It seems certain the loss of life will be more than 250.

The numbers of survivors reaching here is placed at 160, including many sailors.

American Consul McNeely was last seen struggling in the water, it is reported today, and was probably drowned. Leonora Moss, an English survivor, said on reaching shore: **Sinks in Six Minutes.**

The Persia sank in less than six minutes. Passengers were having luncheon and not thinking of submarines. We were making 18 knots when a dull thud came, and it seemed but a second until the ship began to list. Those on deck rushed to life boats but the starboard boats were worthless and began to list severely. Everybody was pretty cool, but women and children were crying.

#### Women Go Down.

Two boats were cleared and got away but the next rolled over as it hit the water. Many women were in it. Two other boats were cleared before the Persia sank.

#### Passengers Grouped on Deck.

Passengers were mostly grouped on deck. Waves were breaking over the stern and I was thrown into the water.

## OIL TANKER BLOWN TO BITS

#### MEN ABOARD HER THROWN HIGH IN AIR.

#### Craft Has Recently Carried Oil to the Allied Governments.

New York, Jan. 3.—One is known to have been killed, and seven are missing as the result of an explosion aboard the Norwegian tanker Axtec at Brooklyn dock. More than 10 were taken to the hospital.

The tanker sank soon after the explosion, which had torn out her rear end and hurled men into the air. The vessel was recently engaged in carrying oil to the allies, hence there is a belief she is the victim of anti allies' agents.

#### CHARGES DROPPED.

#### John Weaver Escapes Prosecution in Milton "Girl Case."

When W. P. Leach, an uncle of the girl in question, took 17-year-old Alvina Leach back to Umapine, near Milton, he dropped what looked like serious charges against John Weaver, formerly of Enterprise, now of La Grande. It appears that the uncle pricked a romantic bubble. The story goes that Weaver met the Milton girl but about two weeks before he proposed marriage and they have been staying with relatives in La Grande for a week. When officers located the couple, the girl's relatives were ready to prefer serious charges, but on investigation found no laws had apparently been violated, and ended the matter by taking the young lady home. The first damper on the romance came when the two were arrested New Year's Eve.

#### GRANGE MEETING CALLED.

#### Closed Meeting in Morning and Open Afternoon Is Program.

C. D. Huffman, grange master, has announced that Pomona grange will meet with Blue Mountain grange Jan. 5th at 10 a. m. The morning meeting will be a closed one but in the afternoon C. H. Finn and W. M. Pierce will discuss the tax question and the public is invited to be present at this time. Only at the morning session is there to be executive business.

London, Jan. 3.—The British steamer Glangely of 9000 tons was torpedoed Sunday between Port Said and Malta. It is reported 100 were rescued. She carried some passengers and these are reported saved. The Japanese ship Kenkonmaru is also said to have sunk.

"Wilson Doctrine" Due. Washington, Jan. 3.—President Wilson's next statement regarding submarine attacks will likely announce a "Wilson doctrine," concerning rights of Americans everywhere. The state department said it should make no effort to minimize seriousness of the situation.

#### "Continuation School" for Child Labor

Beaver Falls, Pa., Jan. 3.—Beaver Falls today opens a new kind of public school, with an enrollment of nearly 100 young pupils. It is the "continuation school," started under the new Pennsylvania child labor law which makes it compulsory for employed minors, to receive at least eight hours' educational instruction weekly. The scholars' ages are from 14 to 16. Some of them will attend two hours a day, while others will make up their eight hours by two-hour shifts. School days are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

#### Legislature Opens Wednesday

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 3.—Legislative leaders are here today for the launching of the 1916 legislature Wednesday. The Republicans will control both houses. The senate roll shows 34 Republicans and 17 Democrats; in the assembly, 96 Republicans, 52 Democrats, 1 Progressive and 1 Socialist. The upper house will retain its present officers and committee chairman Eiron R. Brown of Watertown will continue as Republican majority leader and Robert F. Wagner of New York as Democratic minority leader.

#### Hotel at Dallas Changes Hands.

Dallas, Ore., Dec. 31.—Henry Serr, who for the past four years has been proprietor of the Hotel Gail in this city, has sold the hostelry to J. B. Thompson of Albany, who was formerly proprietor of the hotel. Mr. Serr and family will go to Spokane for the winter and expect to re-engage in the hotel business somewhere in Northern Idaho in the spring.

#### RESIGNATION REPEATED

#### Sir Simon Positively Declared to Have Quit English Cabinet.

London, Jan. 3.—The Chronicle asserts Sir John Simon has positively resigned from the cabinet. Opposition to conscription measures is assumed to be the reason.

## VACANT HOUSES BEING FILLED

#### OCCUPANTS LARGELY FROM OUT OF TOWN.

#### Holiday Week Saw Marked Influx of Families—Week Better Than Most Months.

New people are moving into La Grande in numbers. Real estate firms with houses to rent report a brisk business during the past seven days. That the occupancy of houses for some time idle, does not come from a move of local people entirely, is reflected by records in realty offices. "A big majority of the vacant houses we put tenants into lately have been out of town people; some are railroad employes, others are not—but they come from elsewhere." This is the statement of J. K. Wright, of the La Grande Investment company. "We have filled more vacant houses in the week between Christmas and New Year's day, than in any one month of the two preceding months" he declared.

#### SIGNS COMING DOWN.

#### Saloon and Brewery Display Ads Being Rubbed Off This Week

In compliance with the new prohibition law, all brewery and saloon signs and ads must be expunged. In La Grande the men formerly in saloon business are having their signs obliterated, and while no formal statement is made from the district attorney's office, it is understood that a reasonable number of hours will be given the owners and managers to get rid of the signs which were banished by law New Year's morning.

#### MICHIGAN BOOMS TEDDY.

#### Enough Petitions to Put Name on Ballot Filed by Moosers.

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 3.—Petitions bearing enough signatures to insure Roosevelt's name on the presidential primaries were filed today.

#### LANE MAY GET ERMINE

#### Interior Secretary Talked of as Lamar Successor

Washington, Jan. 3.—Secretary of the Interior Lane is mentioned today for the post of associate justice held by Joseph Lamar, who died last night of heart failure. Today is the fifth anniversary of La mar's appointment.

## MEXICAN AMBASSADOR'S WIFE A SOCIAL FAVORITE AT WASHINGTON.



Senora Marie Emery de Arredondo.

## COMMISSION WILL PERFECT ORGANIZATION

#### ANNUAL MEETING TONIGHT WILL LIKELY SEE LAFKY REAPPOINTED.

#### Majority of Appointees Now Holding Office Are to Be Retained. It Is Expected, if Lafky Is Reappointed Manager This Evening—Gardner to Become President.

When the city commission meets in annual session tonight complete organization for the coming year will take place. In the first instance, City President J. A. Russell will step out, having served out his second year. His seat in the commission will be taken by J. D. McKennon, recently elected; Commissioner John Gardner will be elected president and Vincent Palmer will be second oldest, instead of youngest, member of the commission.

#### Commission Faces Duties.

When this organization has taken place, appointment of a city manager will be next in order. While nothing is final until actually ordered, there seems every indication that F. J. Lafky will be retained as city manager. If that proves to be correct, the list of city appointees will very likely be announced tonight, and put up before the commission.

#### Arday for Chief.

J. C. Arday, many years ago a city policeman, but later land office official, La Grande postmaster, and of late a piano tuner, is foremost among the aspirants for chief of police. He will go to work soon unless the unexpected happens, and Chas. B. Oral will surrender the chief's job, his resignation having been filed some time since.

Also, if Manager Lafky is retained, other city appointive jobs will go to the following, it is expected: City recorder, Lee Warnick.

City treasurer, C. M. Humphreys. Chief of fire department, W. A. Benham.

Water superintendent, L. M. Hoyt. City physician, A. L. Richardson. Some few jobs are not definitely determined.

## REGISTRATION NOW AT HAND

#### FOR FIRST TIME, THE PLAN IS PERMANENT.

#### Full Requirements Given for Benefit of La Grande Voters.

Register! Who? Everybody. When? Today, if you wish. Where? County Clerk Wright's office, courthouse. Why? You don't vote if you fail to register. As a special inducement to women Mr. Wright is offering an unprecedented privilege. They don't have to give their ages! Fact.

"Citizens 21 years or over do not have to state their age," reads the proclamation. This is unusual, positively revolutionary, and is expected to swell the feminine vote to unheard-of proportions in this county.

The registration books opened at 8 o'clock this morning are for the permanent registration, asserts Mr. Wright. Once signed up, it is unnecessary to register again except for one of two reasons. The first is in case the voter moves from one precinct to another; the second in case he fails to vote once in two years.

Requirements of those who would be registered are listed as follows: Only naturalized citizens will be permitted to register.

Naturalized citizens must exhibit "final" citizenship papers, unless the same have been exhibited at the previous registration.

If the father of an alien became naturalized before he (the child) became of age, he is a naturalized citizen but must exhibit the father's papers or a copy of the same from the court issuing them.

A foreign woman, married to a citizen of the United States, is a citizen. An American woman, who marries a foreigner, takes the nationality of her husband and must exhibit his papers; at the termination of the marital relation, if she continues to reside here, she may resume her citizenship.

Foreign-born unmarried women must be naturalized themselves after they become of age, or by their father before they become of age, if married to a foreigner who is naturalized, she must exhibit his "final" papers.

Any foreign woman who acquires citizenship by marriage to an American retains the same after the termination of marital relations, if she continues to reside here, and unless she make formal renunciation of citizenship.

Service of aliens in the United States Army does not, as is generally believed, imply citizenship, unless petition for final papers has been made and papers issued, such service eliminating only the necessity of "first" papers.

Proof of filing on homestead is not sufficient proof of citizenship. Certified copies of "final papers" can be had by writing to the clerk of the court where they were issued, if the originals are lost.

Voters when registering must state under oath whether or not they are taxpayers.

Appended is a brief text of the entire law:

1. Registration of voters opens Monday, January 3, 1916, and closes 30 days next preceding any General or Primary Election, or 15 days next preceding any Special Election held throughout the county.

2. In registering electors, the card index system is used, and as the original card is a permanent record, care should be taken to keep them clean and neat, and use either black ink or a typewriter in filling them out.

3. All blank spaces must be correctly filled in. Draw a line through headings not used such as, male, female. Cross out the one not used.

4. The full name of the elector must be given, viz: John Paul Jones—not John P. Jones, or J. P. Jones; and Mary Ellen Jones—not Mrs. John Jones, or Mrs. J. P. Jones.

5. Blank "B" on the back of the registration card is to be used in connection with the regular form when an elector has moved to a new precinct and desires to re-register there, and by executing this card, thereby cancels his former registration.

6. Blank "A" is to be used only before boards of election, and requires two witnesses.

7. Qualifications of Voters. Any citizen of the United States of the age of 21 years and upward who shall have resided in the state during the six months preceding an election, is entitled to register and vote at such election. Also any elector who may complete his residence during the period in which the registers are closed or who may attain the age of 21 years, may register during the period of 30 days next preceding the closing of the registration for the election at which he desires to vote, but the Clerk or Registrar shall endorse upon the registration card in red ink these words: Qualified to vote . . . (month) . . . (day) . . . (year).

8. Foreign born persons: All persons born in a foreign country of alien parents, no matter at what age they came to this country, are aliens unless the naturalization laws of the United States have been complied with, either by themselves after they

## COAST RAKED BY BAD WIND

#### DEATH AND DESTRUCTION LEFT IN WAKE OF PLANETARY WINDSTORM.

#### HOUSE LIFTED FROM MAN WHO IS UNHURT

#### San Francisco Shipping Suffers and Communication Is Crippled—Lumber Loads Swept From Ships Like So Much Paper—Electric Signs Kill One.

San Francisco, Jan. 3.—One death, and a dozen injuries is the toll of the terrific windstorm last night. Henry Chilson is dead as the result of a falling signboard. An electric sign crashed from the top of a fifteen-story building on Market street, injuring a woman and barely missing others.

Several steamers broke loose from their moorings. Loads of lumber were whirled away like papers. Communication is badly demoralized.

House Demolished; Owner Escaped. The wind blew a house away, leaving Henry Worte, the owner, standing amid the ruins, uninjured.

A great many freaks are reported from the wind storm.

Planetary Flirtations Cause. San Jose, Jan. 3.—Solar pneumonia, resulting from triangular flirtations of Venus, Uranus and Mercury, produced a terrific windstorm which swept California last night, according to Director Richard of the Santa Clara observatory. He said Saturday's earthquake was also the result of planetary influences.

Life Saver in Trouble. Seattle, Jan. 3.—Life saving cutter, Snohomish has wireless she is ashore in a blinding snow storm ten miles from Seattle. Later efforts to reach her were unavailing.

Light rain this morning, followed by a modified chinook, has settled the overabundance of snow in Union county today. Marked moderation in the climate presages early disappearance of the surplus of white.

Shovelers Put to Work. A crew of men were sent to Bacon this noon to reduce the danger of snow troubles on the side hill there. The thaw makes it easy to work down the drifts on the hills which might cause trouble in the way of slides.

## BOMB MISSES MOTHER, BABE

#### Sacramento, Jan. 3.—A bomb hurled through a window at the home of Peter Apostolo killed three Italians, and injured another. The front of the house was completely blown out.

The bomb landed beside Mrs. Apostolo who was holding a baby. She screamed and thrust the dynamite into the stove and the explosion did not injure herself or child.

#### Gasoline Schooner Disabled in Storm

Marshfield, Ore., Dec. 31.—With her engines disabled and in a waterlogged condition, after four days of buffeting in terrific seas, the gasoline schooner Enterprise of Astoria, was towed into this port this morning by the Adeline Smith. The vessel left Astoria Sunday for Waldport with a general cargo and oil. Arriving off the Alsea bar on Monday heavy seas prevented her crossing in, and the craft put down her anchor and rode out the night in a storm that almost swamped her.

Early Tuesday the anchor chain parted and the craft was inside the first smother of breakers before the engine was started and she pulled out to sea going 20 miles off shore. At this point the vessel began leaking and the engine room was flooded. With power lost a canvas bag was rigged for a sea anchor and the boat drifted with the southwest wind.

Distress signals were sent out, but Captain Parker says they were unheeded though several vessels passed. The Yaquina coast guard was unable to be of assistance because of the heavy seas that prevented the launching of a boat. The crew ran out of food and water, and the members were almost frozen from the cold wind and the seas that continually broke over them.

On Thursday no less than five vessels were signaled. Some came within one mile, but paid no heed to the disabled Enterprise. At 1 o'clock this morning the Willamette, southbound from Portland, answered and gave the vessel a line, later transferring the tow to the Adeline Smith, bound in here from San Francisco.

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