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WILSON ADMITS LITTLE CHANCE FOR ARMY BILL

STRONG MODIFICATION NECESSARY TO INSURE PASSAGE BY PRESENT CONGRESS.

PREPAREDNESS WAVE IN NATION AT CREST

Little Chance for Preparedness Measure to Get Through Under Present Conditions—Kern Will not Lead Fight and Country Itself Has Spent Its Demands Early.

Washington, Jan. 5.—Unless materially modified, the President's preparedness program will be defeated, the administration is itself reported to believe. Senator Kern's defection leaves promise of unsettled leaders in both houses. President Wilson had expected Kern to lead the fight in the senate, but leaders think the preparedness sentiment which swept the country has reached its crest.

GRANT COUNTY INTERESTED.

Movement for State Highway With Advice from Chief Engineer.

The proposed state highway traversing Grant county is slowly but surely taking form and passing through those preliminary stages so necessary for such innovations that touch the public welfare, says the Grant County News. A few weeks ago the Grant County stockgrowers' association met and endorsed the plan and the first question that presented itself was one of procedure. To solve the first difficulty the association appointed a committee to advise with the State Highway Commission. G. S. L. Smith member of the committee, communicated with commission and urged that a representative be sent to Grant county and look over the proposed route for a trans-state road. The commission advised Mr. Smith that they would send a representative to the county. The roads at this season, however, are not pleasant traveling and so on the suggestion of Mr. Smith the inspection trip was postponed until some later date. In response to Mr. Smith, Chief Deputy State Engineer E. F. Cantine in a communication said:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of December 12 and replying thereto. Beg to advise that I send you herewith a copy of the statute under which authority the State Highway Commission is acting. You will note that it is the province of the State Highway Engineer to render such assistance and advice as the county courts of the respective counties may call upon him for, this including not only bridges but matters pertaining to highways, their location, types of construction most practical and feasible, etc.

The funds at the disposal of the State Highway Commission are derived of a quarter mill tax authorized by the last legislature, which in 1915 gave us a fund of approximately \$237,000; in 1916, due to a lower valuation, it will give us a fund of approximately \$233,000.

Thus far, the prevailing rule in the disposition of these funds is to expend same first in counties that help themselves; second at points where for special reasons the counties are unable to do very much for themselves, but needs of the general public due to volume of traffic, etc., require an expenditure. For example: Clatsop county, which has bonded itself for approximately \$400,000 has received state aid to the extent of \$100,000; Columbia county has received assistance to the extent of \$40,000; Hood River county has received assistance to the extent of \$50,000 both counties having bonded themselves, the first to the extent of \$400,000, the second to the extent of \$75,000. Jackson county, which has bonded itself, has received assistance on the Siskiyou mountains to the extent of \$40,000 the past year. Wasco and Hood River counties have received an appropriation for 1916 contingent upon Wasco county bonding to the extent of \$45,000. Counties do not necessarily have to bond themselves to be considered for assistance. They may assist themselves by other methods.

It is the desire of the Commission and the attitude of its engineering department to be of material assistance to every county where their service can produce results. I have been unable, during the short time I have held the position of Highway Engineer, to visit the eastern counties not only as the counties deserve assistance and recognition, but as it is personal desire and pleasure to become acquainted with the local situa-



NEW CHIEF IN OFFICE TODAY

ED BRADY RESIGNS AS A PATROLMAN.

J. C. Christiansen Becomes Regular Patrolman in His Stead.

J. C. Ardrey has assumed the office of chief of police. With his inauguration into office, only slight changes result in the police department. Ed Brady, recognized as one of the most efficient men on the force, has resigned to accept a position in sugar factory work at Roseburg. Jim Christiansen, formerly city marshal at Elgin, but now a resident of La Grande where he has been doing special police duty for some little time, becomes a regular patrolman with Art Weagle and C. F. Calkins as fellow officers.

One of the first duties to be taken in hand by the new chief was to dispose of a young man's case wherein the fellow appears to be erratic over religion.

Chas. B. Oral, retiring chief, has not announced his future plans.

WENT AFTER BIG BEAR.

Norman Desilet and Party Brave the Snows of the Mountains.

Demonstrating once more that he is no mollycoddle and that the cold north wind has no scare for him, Norman Desilet and a party of other hunters left yesterday for the upper country to have a romp with a few bears and incidentally, if possible, bring down a "Br'er Bear" for meat during the cold wave. A good deal of guessing has been done regarding Norman's ability to play the part of a northern hunter once more, but here's guessing that he brings home the biggest bear that roams the woods, be he brown, black or grizzly.

Late Shipments of Liquor Held Up.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—Because of delay in the shipment, arrival and delivery of wet goods in dry territory until after the new prohibition law went into effect, there are great quantities of liquor held by common carriers, which, under the ruling of Attorney General Brown, cannot be delivered and must be shipped out of the state at once, there is weeping and wailing on the part of numerous consignees.

There are numerous packages of liquors of different kinds in the hands of the Southern Pacific and the express companies in Salem which did not arrive until too late for delivery before the prohibition law went into effect.

Department Needs No Appropriation.

Salem, Or., Jan. 3.—Statement of the receipts and disbursements for 1915 of the state banking department, issued by S. J. Sargent, superintendent of banks, gives the department a balance of \$415 over the amount paid out, and shows that none of the \$15,000 appropriated by the legislature for maintaining the office for two years, has been expended. This is the first time the department has made such a record. The diversion of the annual license fee paid by the banks of the state, from the corporation department to the state banking department, enabled the office to leave untouched its appropriation.

The department collected \$10,591.58 for making 318 examinations of banks during the 12 months.

I will adopt your suggestion and wait until such time as we can traverse your section in an automobile.

This monster rifle on which twenty men may sit comfortably, as large as anything owned by any government in the world, with the single exception of the German 42 centimeter—which is a mortar—is Uncle Sam's best weapon for preparedness. It has recently been completed at the War Department Arsenal and was sent to the proving grounds at Sandy Hook. This particular gun is for use in Panama; but there are already two just like it in position at Sandy Hook.

The man shows their radius of action, and how they can protect New York City and environs from an invading foe. The range of the gun, mounted on a disappearing carriage,

may easily be made twenty miles by elevation, and this would permit it to beat off ships which might go near enough Manhattan or Brooklyn in New York, or Newark, Jersey City or Elizabeth in New Jersey, to do damage. In fact, it would be able to protect several million persons and many billions in property.

The gun is forty-nine feet four inches long, sixteen inches at the muzzle and twenty-eight at the breach. It carries a shell of 2420 pounds, requiring 672 pounds of powder for a single shot. The railroad car which carried the gun had thirty-two wheels.

GOVERNMENT MARKS TIME CONCERNING PERSIA CASE

Washington, Jan. 5.—After hours of conference with the President, Secretary Lansing said the country is still "awaiting facts" in the Persia case. It is hoped that Ambassador Penfield at Vienna, will be able to enlighten the administration.

It is indicated informal inquiries will be made at Vienna and then specific requests for Austrian assistance to determine the nationality of the submarine which attacked the Persia.

The situation in other Austro-

American negotiations are clearing. Mr. Lansing said there probably will be no further note in the Ancona case.

The President will call a cabinet meeting Friday. It is expected the nation's policy toward submarines will then be formulated. By withdrawing consent of consideration of the foreign policy, Senator Stone this afternoon ended a warm debate threatening to embarrass the administration's policies.

MILLION TO BE USED IN FIGHT.

Two New Provinces Threatened to Secede if Monarch Rules.

San Francisco, Jan. 5.—Prominent Chinese met Sunday to arrange transfer to China of a million-dollar revolutionary fund, collected here. A cablegram today said Yuan Shi Kai has offered rewards for the arrest of prominent Chinese who oppose his ascendancy to the throne. It is reported governors of two Southern provinces have appealed to Yuan, asking him to relinquish his monarchial plans, or these provinces will secede.

"HOME COMING" PLEASANT.

Christian Church Has Interesting Program Sunday.

"The Church of Christ," Seventh and Penn avenues, held its annual "Home Coming" last Sunday. The pastor preached a special New Year's sermon. The message being on the line of optimistic vision and progress taking his text from Exodus 14:15. Mrs. H. L. Ford sang a solo entitled "Watered Lillies" which was well received. Dinner was served in the basement at 1:30 p. m., followed by a baptismal service and a business meeting. The day closed with Endeavor meeting and gospel service. Many expressions of satisfaction and hope were expressed for the future of the church.

SUEZ CANAL IS IN DANGER

FIREMEN DANCE TONIGHT

Tonight at Rex hall La Grande's valiant volunteer fire department will be host to the dancing public at their annual ball. Splendid music has been provided, and a good time is sure to result. These annual affairs are always well arranged, well managed and well attended. The public is invited. The hosts are in an organization without which the city could not well get along and the proceeds will be used for a worthy purpose.

DEMAND HEAVY FOR LEASES

LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY ON INCREASE

J. T. Williamson, Manager Mt. Emily Timber Co., Tells of Leases.

"It is very evident that the livestock industry is on the increase in this part of the state," said John T. Williamson, manager of the Mt. Emily Timber company, today.

When asked why he thought so Mr. Williamson explained: "As manager of the Mt. Emily Timber company I have the leasing of the grazing lands and it has been many years since the demand for grazing leases has been so large as this year. In sections of the company holdings where no live stock has run lately there are several applications for leases by men who contemplate running stock in this Eastern Oregon country."

This bit of information is of general importance to the country at large, for it plainly means that the supply of meat producing animals is on the increase and that Eastern Oregon, the home of the prime beef steer, is again coming into her own as a live stock section.

In the past few years the comment has been made often regarding the lack of live stock to run the range, and that comment went hand in hand with the tremendously high price of meat. When sections in this part of Oregon again produce the cattle that is possible to produce, the meat supply will be greatly increased.

On the Thirsty Ones.

It was the morning after the midnight when booze was declared off in La Grande, but the story has just come to light. The reason for this is that the story was on several well known citizens of the city. But it leaked when J. F. O'Connell laughed so loud it attracted the attention of all the storekeepers on Depot street.

Here it is: When the Observer reporter was making his morning rounds talking the subject that was in everyone's mind—a dry town—the young man who handles Charlie Miller's hot dog parlor in O'Connell's when Charlie is out Oaklanding around, was calling his friends as they came in over to his counter and whispered, "It is dry on the surface, old man, but a few of we old timers have provided for this emergency. Will you have a few drops this cold morning to make the blood circulate?" And with that he brought a whiskey bottle from under the counter.

"Sure and I will," said they all—but one at a time—with considerable pleasure when the bottle was uncorked, a good-sized drink was poured into a coffee cup. Feeling that the law was being fractured to a certain extent each would look sharply around and then with one gulp down the contents of the cup. It was fine extra fine old Royal club or Preferred Stock coffee guaranteed to have the back kick and the lasting wakening powers.

Not a word was said. There was no "thank you" from the ones befriended. Generally they batted their eyes and began talking about the improvements that are slated for the shops the coming year. But the crowd yelled as they never yelled before, and J. F. O'Connell stilled laughed when he thinks of the incidents.

Albany Has An Official Flag.

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 5.—By a decision of the city fathers, Albany today has an official flag. The design shows three perpendicular stripes, red, white and blue, with the seal of the city stamped in blue on the white stripe. The flag typifies the old Dutch banner that floated over Albany from 1630 to 1634.

Attended Insurance Meet.

F. E. Voight of Enterprise is in La Grande tonight on his way home from Spokane where he attended a convention of agents of the Western Life Insurance company which called all agents together at Spokane. He reports a good attendance.

HUNGARIANS ANTICIPATE AN ALLIED MOVE

GREAT OFFENSIVE LOOKED FORWARD TO AT ALL FRONTS SAYS CRITIC.

ADVANTAGES OF ALLIED TEUTONS POINTED OUT

Count Andriasy, Hungarian Critic, Grants Interview in Which He Predicts Speedy Throback of Allied Move—Suez Canal Facing Serious Danger.

(BY CAROL OKERMAN)

(United Press Berlin Correspondent) Budapest, Jan. 5.—Hungary expects the allies to spring a great offensive at all fronts; Hungarian officials are certain the move will be defeated. Count Andriasy told me in this connection this morning that all Allies have failed to take account of our military position. We are situated so we can help each other. We can send men and resources to any front at any time. We can concentrate, something they cannot do. This makes our victory certain because it overbalances opponent resources.

Peace Not Deemed Near. Contrary to Berlin opinions, the Hungarian critic does not believe in possibility of early peace. The Count said in this connection:

"I think it will be a long, long war. There is no chance of peace now. We could make peace next week but the Allies do not desire it. They are not yet convinced of our superiority. The world is becoming hysterical. Even neutrals are impatient. It is a shame for humanity that we cannot make peace now."

The speaker expressed admiration for the way King Constantine has handled the Greek situation. "He will keep his nation neutral, save her from disaster like that which befell Belgium and Serbia, and will increase her territory without sacrificing her future."

Suez Canal Endangered. "When the turks get reinforcements, the British will lose Mesopotamia and presently the Suez canal will be endangered."

To Seek Dye Materials Here.

Washington, Jan. 5.—For investigation and experiment in the utilization, for coloring purposes, of raw materials grown or produced in the United States, Congress has been asked by Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo to appropriate \$20,000. It is believed this amount expended by the Bureau of Chemistry will result in discoveries important to American dye users.

Investigations by the bureau will be continued during 1916. Among these are experiments relating to the application of chemistry to agriculture; investigations of character of tests applied to American food products in foreign countries; investigations of present usage and best methods of preparing poultry and eggs for market; investigations of handling of fish and shell fish; development of new sources of food supply; investigations of the action of food and drug products on the human organism and the putting into effect of provisions of the pure food and drug act. The general expenses of the bureau are estimated at \$832,210 for 1917.

Equipped to Manufacture Tree Sprays

White Salmon, Wash., Jan. 3.—S. H. Boddinhouse, horticultural inspector is rushing the work on the new lime-sulphur spray factory. The local cannery building, located on the S. P. & S. tracks, is being utilized, the new boilers installed in the cannery being just what was needed for the manufacture of spray material.

Two 3000-gallon tanks are being built and the plant will be in operation by March. The Underwood and Lyle districts will benefit by the new project, as the spray can be bought here at a great saving to orchardists.

Coquille Business Firms Merge.

Coquille, Ore., Jan. 3.—The Coquille Valley Mercantile company, a recently organized corporation with \$25,000 capital and \$50,000 resources, today took over the S. M. Mosler grocery, the P. E. Drane grocery and the J. E. Norton Warehouse & Commission company's business here. The stores will be continued at their present stands, and the only change in management is in the Drane grocery, where C. T. Skeels succeeds P. E. Drane. The stock is all held by local business men.