

La Grande Evening Observer

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EMBARGO ON MUNITIONS A POSSIBILITY

LEGISLATION AGAINST TRAVEL ON BELLIGERENT VESSELS ALSO POSSIBLE.

WILSON WOULD CURB INFLAMMATORY SPEECHES

Congress Likely to Stir up Foreign Bitterness, Contends President Wilson Unless Debate is Shorn of its Bitterness—Sentiment in Favor of Embargo is Shown.

Washington, Jan. 6.—America may never protest the sinking of the Persia, high officials have admitted. Only a startlingly frank Austrian statement that the vessel was torpedoed without warning would justify a protest.

Washington, Jan. 6.—Possibility of legislation to prohibit American travel on vessels owned by belligerents abroad is creeping out and congress showed sentiment favoring an embargo on munitions today.

Administration leaders admitted that the senate's intervention in the international situation is causing uneasiness, and it is pointed out that yesterday's acrimonious discussion indicates American feeling regarding submarine slaughter, and is therefore a helpful feature.

President Wilson desires to minimize congressional debate and prevent introduction of inflammatory resolutions, fearing it might create a foreign bitterness.

The senate has directed Secretary Garrison to furnish full information of cost, maintenance and usefulness of every army post in the country.

Congress Stirs Mexican Issue.

Passing the Fall resolution the senate has asked Mr. Wilson for information concerning the status of the Mexican problem. Fall sarcastically asked what has become of Pittsburg publicity the administration promised.

Victim of Pneumonia.

San Diego, Cal., Jan. 6.—Hans Schumann-Heink, son of Madame Schumann-Heink, the singer, died in this city early today following two weeks' illness of pneumonia.

Madame Schumann-Heink was called from her home, Grossmont, near this city, to the bedside of her son last night when it became apparent that the young man was dying, and other members of the family were also summoned, all of them remaining at the bedside until the end came.

Young Schumann-Heink was taken ill Christmas day, and was removed to a hospital. The case was first diagnosed as grip, and later developed into double pneumonia. Madame Schumann-Heink was in Chicago at the time, but hurried to San Diego. As her son seemed to be improving, Madame Schumann-Heink consented to sing at the New Year's day opening exercises at the Panama-California International exposition, later leaving for a visit with friends in Riverside, going to her home at Grossmont, near this city, yesterday.

Arrested After Search Lasting Years.

Los Angeles, Jan. 5.—George W. Risho was arrested here last night on a charge of embezzling 12 years ago, \$1200 from the Omaha postoffice while employed as a money order clerk. Roche has admitted the theft of \$570, the police say. He was taken into custody in Denver in 1911, it was said, but broke away from the arresting officer and made his escape while being taken to the police station. Before coming to Los Angeles, Roche lived in Fresno, where he married last August.

Mrs. Tape's Mother Ill.

Mrs. Tape of Hot Lake has received word that her mother is quite ill in California. She is holding herself in readiness to go to the bedside within a few days.

Linn's Merger Vote Must Be Passed.

Oregon City, Jan. 5.—West Linn, it has been decided, is to have another election on the question of merging with Willamette, as the election held in the early part of last month was illegal. The notice given for the election at that time was not published in a newspaper as required, but was posted; neither was it given by the town council, but was issued by the town recorder. For these reasons a new election is required to make the merger legal, and the notice, to be given by the council, will be published. At the former election the proposal to merger carried by a big vote.

PENDLETON IS COLD.

Lowest Record Since 1912 Set Tuesday Night in Roundup City.

Pendleton, Jan. 5.—Last night was the coldest night Pendleton has experienced since January 7, 1912. The official thermometer of which E. F. Averill is custodian, went down to below zero some time during the night, while on January 7, 1912, the same thermometer registered 10 below. The weather continues cold today with but very little indication of a moderation. Farmers and wheat growers are not complaining for the snow is sufficient to protect the grain and there is plenty of feed on hand for all the stock.

M. I. A. GAME FRIDAY.

Y. M. C. A. Seating Capacity Practically Doubled for the Game.

Tomorrow night the first inter-association games of the L. D. S. state basketball league will be played in La Grande. Union's M. I. A. team comes to La Grande for that occasion and the game will be played at the Y. M. C. A. La Grande has been beaten by Imbler in this league and Union is credited with a team strong enough to repeat Imbler's trick. It promises to be a speedy contest.

While the La Grande and Union teams are battling, the M. I. A. team of Imbler and Cove will meet at Cove. The seating capacity at the Y has been practically doubled for this contest.

COAST IS IMPROVED.

Federal Reserve Manager Sees Big Improvement in West.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—Business conditions throughout the coast district show noteworthy improvement over three years ago, when it was really bad, commented Manager Herin of the federal reserve district, supplementing the reserve board report noting continuing good conditions throughout the nation.

ENGINEER AND CITY AT ODDS

WAGES FOR BUILDING DAM AN ISSUE.

Howland Files Resignation and Refuses \$250 Tender.

L. D. Howland last evening tendered his resignation to the city commission, at the same time refusing a tender of \$250 in payment for his work as supervising engineer on the Beaver creek dam. The upshot of the proposition is that the city and the engineer are at loggerheads, with a suit very imminent. The dispute began with a retrenchment plan adopted some time ago when a city engineer was hired at a reduced salary with the purpose of providing him work only at stated times. When the Beaver creek proposition came up the engineer's entire time had to be given to the city, and the remuneration for that exclusive service is now the cause of the dispute. The statements of the two parties concerned, set out the details.

Statement of Mr. Howland—My position in the matter is briefly this; at the time I was engaged by the manager to do the engineering work of the city, it was understood and agreed that I was to receive additional compensation for any special work, the matter of the Beaver creek reservoir being mentioned and in mind at the time. There was no understanding then or after between myself and the manager as to the amount of additional compensation, although I endeavored to have one. The only difficulty now, so far as I am concerned, is to determine what the reasonable additional compensation should be. The amount I am asking is based upon the practice of engineers throughout the United States to charge from six percent to 12 percent of the whole cost as a fee for similar work. Because of the duties incident to the construction of Beaver creek dam my income from my practice as a civil engineer was cut from \$265 to \$109 per month for a period of six months and by accepting the amount of \$250 offered me by the city in settlement of my claim, I would be compelled to make a sacrifice of an amount approaching \$1,000.00.

That the engineering work of the city has been on an economic basis during the past year is shown by the following figures:

Cost in 1913, \$4,877.52; in 1914, \$2,220.21; in 1915, \$1,209.07. Of the amount spent in 1915, I received \$879.28 after deducting the five percent discount.

I have nothing further to say in the matter, only that I shall re-establish my private office and continue the practice of civil engineering and F. J. Lafky, city manager—Some time ago the city passed an ordinance, No. 822, series 1915, in which section 2 says:

"That the City Engineer of the City of La Grande, shall perform such duties as shall be required and pre-

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SWEDES READY TO ALLY WITH TEUTON FORCE

HATE OF CZAR, NOT ANY LOVE FOR KAISER, BEHIND THE MOVE.

DENMARK PRO-ALLY; NORSEMEN FEEL SAME

Scandinavian Situation Looms Up As Important—Fear of Russia Entertained by Swedes Would Force Her Into Conflict Before Seeing Germany Defeated—Norwegians Divided.

Copenhagen, Denmark, Jan. 6.—Sweden doesn't intend to let Germany lose the war, even if she is forced to join the Teutons. She feels she cannot allow Russians to beat Germany.

Peculiar Feeling Prompts.

It is not thus because she is particularly pro-German, but is wholly anti-Russian. She believes her strength will be the deciding factor at the last resort. This was outlined from Scandinavian critics today as the situation right now, and comes from a reliable source.

Swedes in Terror.

Swedes have long been in terror at the Russian attempt to secure a coveted part of the West coast of the Scandinavian peninsula. Swedes claim to have a million troops.

Petrograd Objective.

In the event of hostilities she would invade Finland, expecting the Finns to join the campaign to capture Petrograd, and thence go southward to join the Germans.

Norwegians Split Up.

Norwegians sympathize as a government with England as a consequence of trade relations. The army is most pro-German but the masses pro-English.

Denmark Against Germany.

Brushing Germany on the north, the Danes are pro-ally. This partly because of wars of her own with Germany not long since. She is persistently pro-ally.

PASSENGERS LOST.

Thought Eight, Including Women and Children, Go Down With Steamer.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Jan. 6.—It is believed eight perished—including two women and a baby—at the sinking of the steamer Kanawha. The Captain thought all were saved. The Registrar was lost, hence there are no means of checking the survivors.

GOVERNOR HAS HAD BUSY YEAR, DAY BOOK SHOWS

Salem, Jan. 6.—Governor Withycombe's first year in office is up in January 11th, and an examination of his engagement book for 1915 shows how strenuous a twelve months it has been for Oregon's chief executive. The total mileage covered by him during the year, as carefully estimated from the record of the points visited, discloses the fact that he has covered 20,333 miles, or about 54 miles per day—exclusive of the distances he has walked, which are considerable.

The railroad mileage for the year totals 17,287 and all of this, with the exception of approximately 2,500 miles involved in trips to San Francisco and Seattle, has been within the boundaries of Oregon. By boat he has covered 681 miles, this being exclusively on the Columbia and Snake rivers. Automobiles are credited with 1,285 miles; while he estimates that since the purchase of his pure bred American saddle mare, "Loretta," in April, he has traveled on her approximately 1,080 miles, this being reckoned on an average basis of 30 miles per week.

Of course as matters stand much of the cost of the transportation utilized by the Governor comes out of his own pocket, for his office has available an appropriation of only \$500.00 a year for traveling expenses. The result is that any executive who really gets around the state has to foot the excess bills himself.

The 1915 trips have included two journeys to San Francisco, one as a "private citizen" for the Benson Day exercises, and one in an official capacity; a voyage from Lewiston, Idaho, to the sea, when the Cello canal was opened; an automobile journey through central Oregon and back to Medford, via Crater Lake; a journey to Baker to welcome the Liberty Bell; a score of meetings with governors and other notable travelers en route to the San Francisco exposition; trips

Thirteen Precincts Created in La Grande, 36 in Whole County

KEY TO NEW PRECINCTS

South La Grande embraces precincts 1 and 8.
West La Grande, 3, 11, 10.
Central residence district, 9.
Central business district, 2.
Sawmill territory, 4.
North La Grande, 12, 13.
Sugar factory and Pleasant Home, 5.
Flour mill and countryside to the east, 6.
Commerdale and east La Grande, 7.
Salient registration facts:— Everyone must register to vote. No one is registered in the county registration unless done since Jan. 1, 1916. City precincts and city registrations have nothing to do with county and state precincts and registrations. La Grande voters can register at Security Land & Savings Co.

Union county has 36 precincts instead of 29 as formerly. Most of this addition is taken up in La Grande alone where 13 precincts now prevail for county and state elections, instead of seven. The addition in precincts is made to conform with the new laws requiring not over 200 voters live in each precinct. Another change made is that there will be but two judges instead of three. Three clerks are retained. The upshot will be counted much more rapidly than under the old way when election "crews" were working two and three days, often. Not all precincts of the county are

changed, but a majority feel a difference, some slight, others material.

Few Remain as Before.

Among the county precincts that remain unchanged are: Antelope, Big Creek, Hilgard, Hot Lake, Kamela, Perry, North Powder one and two, Starkey and Summerville.

All others feel a change. In Alicel and Island City this is the most marked outside of the large towns. La Grande is completely changed and addition of one precinct is made in Union. To make rearrangement of the Imbler precinct it was necessary to cut into the Elgin territory, and the removal of Minam from Union to Wallowa county made necessary the changes there.

Registration Down Town.

Commencing next Monday, County Clerk Ed Wright will afford registration facilities down town. All who come to register should know their street number, and if no number is known, then the lot and block; from the country all should know the section and township upon which they live. With that description given, the clerks will know where to place the registered person. Once registered, this time, it will not be necessary to register again in the future unless a change of residence is made.

Deputy Put in Charge.

Miss Annetta Johnson has been appointed registrar for La Grande. Every afternoon she will be found at the office of the Security Land & Savings company. Those purposing to register should acquaint themselves with the requirements set out above and be ready to give answer.

For the benefit of people in such precincts as are changed, the Observer gives the complete boundaries of all such on another page.

COLD SNAP ENDS.

After Drop of 47 Degrees in 24 Hours, Chicago Mercury Rises.

Chicago, Jan. 6.—After a severe downward trend, causing much suffering in poorer sections, the thermometer took an unexpected leap this morning, and stood at ten above. Forecasters say it will be warmer tomorrow. Mercury dropped 47 degrees in 24 hours.

PRICE FOR SUN.

Former Chinese President Worth Large Sum to New Emperor.

San Francisco, Jan. 6.—Confirmation has been received that Yuan Shi Kai has offered \$500,000 reward for the capture of Sun Yat Sen and Wong Haing. Sun is in Japan and Wong in Philadelphia.

Cablegrams indicate Yuan is experiencing trouble getting chiefs more troops to crush the revolution.

PETERSON IS AFTER PLACE

UMATILLA COUNTY MAN WOULD ASSIST IN RE-NAMING

Democratic Fight for National Delegates in Oregon to Be Waged.

The ambition to sit in the national Democratic convention as delegate is spreading among the Democrats of Oregon, for it is apparent a number of the stalwarts of that party are anxious to show President Wilson that they are with him first, last and all the time.

And now comes Will M. Peterson, who is a solid, rock-ribbed Democrat of Umatilla county having been chairman of the county central committee there for eight years and last year was chosen as a presidential elector, and claims his rights as a delegate to the next national convention at St. Louis.

Realizing that there are others in the Democratic camp who want this same honor Mr. Peterson is already starting his appeal to the voters and asks them to keep him in mind for this position.

In Union county it is believed the Umatilla county man stands well and that he will have strong support among the fellows who vote the Democratic ticket regularly.

Eastern Oregon Republicans and Democrats alike are boosting William H. Taft for the supreme justice job left vacant by the recent death of Justice Lamar. At one point, Pendleton, steps have already been taken by Democrats to urge President Wilson to appoint Mr. Taft. In view of the fact that Judge Taft himself set the precedent of appointing a justice of a political faith other than his own, Republicans feel no compunction about asking a Democrat to name a Republican, albeit that Republican was the standard-bearer of his party just recently.

Democrats Want Taft.

William H. Taft for the United States Supreme Court is the choice of Will M. Peterson, secretary of the Umatilla county central committee, who as Presidential elector, has sent a telegram to President Wilson, urging the appointment of Mr. Taft, and also sending like telegrams to Senators Chamberlain and Lane.

Although a strong Democrat himself Mr. Peterson recognizes the fitness and qualifications of Mr. Taft for this important position and therefore he lays all party considerations aside and comes out openly for a Republican for the appointment.

"I consider ex-President Taft the ablest man in Christendom" said Mr. Peterson, in an interview yesterday, "the best qualified man for a place on the United States Supreme Court that President Wilson can possibly select. Particularly, in view of the fact that Mr. Taft, himself, while President, appointed Lurton of Tennessee and LeMarr of Georgia, both Democrats, to the Supreme bench, I think President Wilson should now appoint Mr. Taft.

"He will bring more dignity honors and learning to the bench than any other man possibly could. He is ab-

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BATTLE ON GREEK SOIL IS IMMINENT

EVERY MOVE POINTS TO BATTLE IN GREECE WITH IN SHORT TIME.

Teuton Forces Concentrating on Grecian Border Preliminary to Battle With Allies Near Saloniki, It is Contended—Great Mass of Munitions Moving.

London, Jan. 6.—Teuton forces are about to invade Greece, Saloniki advices have indicated, saying Bulgarians are again concentrating on the Grecian border after temporary withdrawal.

Allied aviators are extremely active on the Bulgarian front and troops are hastening preparations for the expected attack.

The Frankfurter Zeitung reports Von Mackensen has been ordered to proceed immediately to Saloniki. The Serbian railways have been repaired and munitions are moving to the front.

Rome and Athens advices indicate a battle on Greek soil is imminent. Bulgarians, returning from the Albanian campaign, are massing on the Hellenic front.

Failure Explained.

London, Jan. 6.—General Hamilton in a final report said England's failure to send fifty thousand reinforcements as requested, caused collapse of the Dardanelles expedition. He also revealed the reason of the recall. "Kitchener sent a message suggesting possibility of evacuation of Gallipoli and abandonment of the expedition. I replied this was unthinkable, whereupon I was recalled. I am informed here the government wanted a fresh and unbiased opinion from another commander concerning the possibilities of early evacuation."

STEEL TRUST GIVES

Common Laborers Get Increase of Ten Per Cent Voluntarily.

New York, Jan. 6.—The United States Steel Corporation has granted an increase in wages to all employees. Common laborers get increases of ten percent.

LINER ESCAPES BLOW.

Bringing Survivors From Other Lost Ships, She Lands Safely.

Marseilles, Jan. 6.—The liner Karnak, 250 passengers has arrived here after an exciting flight from a submarine. She brought survivors of the torpedoed British snips Middleton and Abella.

Telephone Operator Is Bride.

Lebanon, Ore., Jan. 5.—Robert M. Follett and Miss Eva Armstrong were married at Albany one day this week and immediately left for their new home in Walla Walla, where the groom has employment. Miss Armstrong was a telephone operator in this city before her marriage.

Bank Statements Called.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The comptroller of the currency has called for a statement of the condition of national banks at the close of business Dec. 31.

olutely honest, fearless, clean and his name as Supreme Judge would go down in history as one of America's greatest judges. I am, therefore, as one of the Presidential electors in Oregon, sending a telegram to President Wilson recommending the appointment of Mr. Taft, and am also calling this matter to the attention of Senators Chamberlain and Lane."

F. J. Holmes, chairman of the Woodrow Wilson club in La Grande, takes exceptions to the Pendleton man's viewpoint. "It is not because Taft wouldn't make a splendid judge, but because Taft himself named a Democratic justice to keep the court balanced politically, that I would oppose a Republican at this time. If it were non-partisan in every way, Taft would be just the man; if any political party is to be considered, a Democrat is needed to give equal balance politically in the court. No, I would not oppose Taft on a non-partisan basis."

"Taft would be an eminent jurist in my opinion. He became known as an extremely capable judge while on the federal circuit court of appeals." This was the statement of H. E. Dixon, president to the Union County Young Men's Republican club.

"I haven't given the matter any thought and it hasn't come before the committee in any way, but I am sure Mr. Taft would be a most capable man for the place, especially if any Republican is named." Thus spoke C. E. Eberhard, secretary of the Union County Republican Central committee when asked concerning the Eastern Oregon movement now on foot in this connection.