

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XV

LA GRANDE, OREGON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1916.

NUMBER 209

Modern Guns at Erzerum

CAPTURE ADDS STRENGTH FOR SPRING DRIVE

RUSSIANS HAVE HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF CAPTURE OF ERZERUM YESTERDAY.

LA GRANDE MAN KNOWS TERRITORY INTIMATELY

Erzerum Was to Land Advance What Dardanelles Stronghold Is to the Sea—City Surrounded for Several Days and Snow Is Deep Hence Few Turks Escaped Is Belief.

Petrograd, Feb. 17.—Russia has made holiday over the Grand Duke's capture of Erzerum. Newspapers declared this is a prelude to Russian recapture of Poland and Galicia before summer. It is reported Turks are moving westward, abandoning part of their artillery.

Loses Were Heavy. Amsterdam, Feb. 17.—Five thousand Russians were killed and thousands wounded in the last three days of battling before Erzerum, a Constantinople report says.

London, Feb. 17.—Nearly 100,000 Turks and many guns were captured when the Russians took Erzerum, Petrograd has unofficially reported. The Garrison of 100,000 without the onslaughts for several days. The modern forts were mounted with a thousand guns. There is no news indicating the number who escaped. The city has been surrounded for five days, and heavy snows made the highways impassable. It is believed few escaped. Many of the captured guns are modern Krupps and will prove of value for further slav operations. The city was reported aflame when the Russians entered.

Erzerum (or Erzurum) is a gateway on land toward Mesopotamia such as the Dardanelles is to the Bosphorus—it is not quite of the commercial significance, but is a vastly important stronghold. It is a defile in the mountains whereas the Dardanelles is a narrow neck of water.

Dr. H. L. Underwood is intimately acquainted with the region and the news yesterday in the Observer that Erzerum had lost its outer fort, and the latter information that the city had fallen prompts an interesting discussion of the place by Dr. Underwood. In this connection he said:

"American educational and missionary influence was felt there as early as 1839, and in the years since a growing work has been developed including two schools, one for boys and one for girls, housed in substantial modern stone buildings, and a hospital also of stone with a brick surgical ward. Two American families reside there besides two American lady teachers. Except for the work of the American physician in charge of the hospital and dispensary, which naturally touches alike the Turk, Armenian, Greek and Kurd, besides the scanty European element resident in the city, the general activities have been almost wholly limited to the Armenians.

"Dr. Case recently left Erzerum to engage in Red Cross work in Constantinople. This leaves Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton, herself a physician, to care for any remnant of the Armenian population left alive and she faced the horrors of a besieged oriental city during the several weeks the siege was carried on to end last night, if reports are correct."

A newspaper clipping speaking intelligently on the point in question prior to the downfall says:

Russians are hammering at the Turkish padlock upon the northeastern borderland of Asia Minor, powerful Erzerum, which has even more importance in the defenses of the Ottoman frontier than has Metz in the protection of the German boundary. While dispatches from the Caucasian war theater have been extremely meagre, the news that the forces of the Tsar are gathering for the assault of the famous gateway in the mountains makes Erzerum one of the points of greatest present interest in all the many miles of battle lines.

Where the Armenian plateau becomes a bleak complex of gorge-and-mountain, is traced the present boundary line between the Russian Caucasus and Turkey-in-Asia; and the largest city and the all-important fortress on this strong natural frontier is Erzerum, which guards the one convenient way through the ragged heights to the flatlands of Mesopotamia.

FLAG SALES SATURDAY

Tiny silk flags, costing 10 cents each, will be sold by the Parent-Teacher associations of La Grande next Saturday in conjunction with similar sales all over the state of Oregon. The sales are Saturday though this is National Child Welfare day and the 19th anniversary of the founding of the National Congress of Mothers. Get your dimes ready and let's all wear a flag on our lapels Saturday out of tribute to our babies—and at the same time help the national organization that help the parents of the nation and help their children.

STOCK SHOW BOOM BEGINS

SECOND FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINS TODAY.

Enthusiasm Rife at Union—Memberships Selling Anew.

Union, Ore., Feb. 17.—An enthusiastic meeting of the Union Live Stock Show association was held in the city hall here last night and the ball was started rolling for the big annual show for this year. About fifty business men were present these all being heartily in favor of making a bigger and better show this season. The meeting was presided over by President M. S. Levy and the motion to continue the old organization was carried unanimously, the old membership cards were good for but five years this time being for 1915. The new membership cards will call for the same length of time and the association will continue under the same name. The fees for membership are \$10 and carry admission at the gate for five years, and no restrictions are placed so that stockmen throughout the county and state may become members and help to make the show one of the leading ones of the northwest.

Rousing speeches were made by prominent business men last evening and a committee composed of T. D. Smith, Geo. W. Benson and M. S. Levy was appointed to solicit members and get the organization under way. The election of officers will take place at the city hall on next Wednesday evening and a large and enthusiastic attendance is promised for the event. The ball has been started rolling and every stockman has promised to make the big show a bigger success than ever. Fifty membership cards were taken out at the meeting last evening and as many more have been already promised.

River Still Normal. The river has shown some raise but is what would be considered normal. Ice is rapidly going down stream.

Asia Minor, the lower hills of eastern Asia Minor. The beginning of history finds this city a military station and a point of considerable strategic value; it is the Armenian fortress of Garin Kalakh of antiquity, the Arabian raiding base of Kalkale, the Byzantine frontier post, Theodosiopolis. Erzerum bars the roads from Kars and other points on the frontier. These ways follow the valley of the Aras river through the high mountains, north, west and south. North of the fortress, leagues of impassable mountains extend from deep in Turkish Armenia beyond the Russian border. To the south, an equally mountainous country is broken through by rare, miserable trails. In the extreme south, near the Persian-Turkish border, one of the best of these routes into Turkey leads through the country near Lake Van.

Situated at the eastern end of an open, treeless plain, 30 miles long and 12 miles wide, and surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains, steep to bases, Erzerum enjoys a splendid setting, within the town, encircled by an earthen enceinte, however, appearance are cramped, unfavorable and gloomy. The streets are many sizes too small according to the western measure, and they lack utterly in stability of direction. Moreover, they are badly drained and dirty, and the houses by their side do not add cheer with their old, unvaried facades of dark gray volcanic stone.

The town has always enjoyed fairly prosperous transit trade, for it is on the main overland route from Trebizond to northwest Persia and to the trade centers of the southern Caucasus. A good road leads from Erzerum down to the coast at Trebizond, and the journey can be made by carriage in five or six days. The place has also been noted from early times for the quality of its brass and copper work, wheat, barley, millet and vegetables are grown in the country around, and sheep are pastured. The population of the town is 43,000, of which one-quarter is Armenian. A garrison is stationed here in peace times 5,000 strong and more.

NEW MEXICAN UPRISING HAS COME TO LIGHT

SEVERAL AMERICAN CITIES HEADQUARTERS OF VARIOUS BRANCH COLONIES.

GUNS SMUGGLED OVER NOW AND MEN TO COME

General Funston Given Details So Far as Known—Men Were to Slip Across the Line in Small Numbers at Various Places—Few Villistas Included It Is Said.

Washington, Feb. 17.—The war department has sent General Funston unofficial information about plans of a new Mexican uprising, reported maturing in the United States. It is declared the conspiracy has reached a definite stage. Munitions are already smuggled across the border into Mexico and the conspirators expect to slip across in small parties from a number of points.

The plotters include many Sienitos and a few Villistas. The headquarters are in Los Angeles, El Paso, San Antonio and New Orleans. It is unknown whether the threatened revolution is connected with the reported attempt to blow up the battleship Kentucky at Vera Cruz recently.

ACCIDENT WITH AN AXE Ladd Canyon Resident Suffers Bad Wound on Hand.

Wm. Banton, a resident of Ladd Canyon, came to La Grande yesterday evening for surgical aid necessitated by serious cut of the left hand inflicted while splitting wood. There were some projecting splinters on the stick which deflected the axe and the thumb of the left hand was sliced and two tendons severed. A portion of bone was also cut away. The injury is considered quite serious.

BATTERSON WINS VERDICT OF \$3,100 AGAINST YOUNG

A verdict of \$3100.00 against George Young was reached at 2:30 this afternoon by the jury which heard the case against him brought by Clarence Batterson who while in the employ of Young fell while in the basement of the building. He sued for \$16,500 and the suit was originally against J. B. Fisher as well, but the case against him has been non-suited and the \$3100 allowed the plaintiff by the jury is against Mr. Young alone.

MYLIN FACES PRISON La Grande Man Found Guilty of Penitentiary Offense.

Baker, Feb. 17.—Tom Mylin, charged with planning the robbery of A. McAdams, in which Wm. Erby and Neil Hickman pleaded guilty of the actual stealing, was yesterday afternoon found guilty by the jury hearing the case in circuit court. The verdict was reached by the jury on the third ballot and was unanimous for conviction. The penalty for the crime of which Mylin is found guilty carries a sentence in the state penitentiary for a term of six months to

Seth Baker Answers Call

Seth Baker, the aged resident of South La Grande, died at the home of his sons, J. A. and G. H. Baker, 905 B avenue, at 4:30 o'clock this morning. The deceased was one among the most aged persons in La Grande, he having passed his 92nd birthday. The funeral will be held from the family home Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock and the interment will be in the Masonic cemetery.

FLAG PRESENTATION. Is Gift of the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution.

The Sons and Daughters of the Revolution will present a flag to the Circuit court of Union county. Similar gifts have been made to Circuit courts throughout the state. Only a few weeks ago Judge Knowles received a flag for Wallawa county and the one which is to cover the part of his district including Union county will be presented at the court house next Monday.

WAR BULLETINS

Washington, Feb. 17.—England must pledge her liners won't fire upon German submarines before Germany will instruct her commanders to not attack armed merchantmen, without warning.

This is declared to be Germany's counter proposal in answering American objections to the Teuton decree. It was announced after a 20-minute conference between Ambassador von Bernstorff and Secretary Lansing. Germany and America have agreed upon the Lusitania settlement except America considers the future submarine questions must be settled. It is understood Lansing insisted upon adherence to the previously proposed, the reports indicate.

BOATS PICK UP MAROONED

ABOUT 1000 IN DIRE DISTRESS FROM FLOODS.

Natchez and Catrica Sorely Hurt by High Water.

Natchez, Miss., Feb. 17.—The federal steamer Lafourche stood by today while rescuers in small boats attempted to save several hundred who are marooned at Newellton, Louisiana. Telephone calls were sent here for aid last night. About a thousand are marooned and three have drowned.

The city is without facilities for reaching safety. Catrica, Louisiana, is completely submerged; houses swept away and livestock perished.

SESSION BRIEF.

Last night's session of the city commission was brief and only perfunctory affairs came up for transaction. These included payment of \$161 as Supreme court judgement in the South Fourth street litigation. The auditorium was well filled with spectators and taxpayers who had anticipated a more important session.

Basketball Squad Arrives.

The Pendleton high school basketball team which meets the La Grande high tonight arrived on No. 6 today. The squad includes Emile Siebert, Ned Fowler, Ernest Boylen, Wes Mims, John Snyder, Ray Wilks, Chas. Gordon and the coach, Don Rice.

claimed American stand for the right merchantment to arm for defensive purposes. Before meeting the American terms Bernstorff must ask Berlin. The Austrian decree is announced today to be similar to Germany's.

Air Craft Lost. London, Feb. 17.—Germans have lost two Zeppelins in the last raid on England, Lord Kitchener announces in the House of Lords this afternoon.

Storm Hinder Movements. Paris, Feb. 17.—Violent storms in the Western front have impeded the artillery struggle and held the infantry within the trenches it is officially stated. Shelters have been blown down and the trenches are flooded at Artois. Roads have become impassable.

SCHMIDT WILL DIE TOMORROW

UNFROCKED PRIEST ADMITS OUTLOOK BLUE.

Murderer of Anna Aumuller to Be Executed in Chair.

The Schmidt case epitome.

Sept. 2, 1913.—Anna Aumuller or was killed and her body was thrown into the North River.

Sept. 15.—Hans Schmidt was arrested and confessed that he had killed her and dismembered the body.

Oct. 23.—Alienists were called in by the State and pronounced the prisoner sane.

Dec. 23.—The first trial was concluded.

It resulted in a disagreement of the jurors holding that he was insane.

Feb. 6, 1914.—Another jury convicted him of murder in the first degree.

Feb. 12.—He was sentenced to die in the week beginning March 12.

Feb. 16.—Schmidt confessed that he shammed insanity at his trial.

March 19.—Notice of appeal filed, which automatically acted as a stay of execution.

Nov. 10.—Motion for new trial made before Supreme Court Justice Davis.

Jan. 29, 1915.—Motion for new trial is denied.

March 19.—District Attorney moves before the court of Appeals for the affirmation of the judgment without argument. Court of Appeals sets the case for the second Monday in October.

Sept. 27.—Alphonse G. Koelble appears before the Court of Appeals and makes application to be assigned as counsel for Schmidt on appeal. Applies for further delay, but is ordered to serve his brief on the District Attorney by Oct. 11.

Oct. 27.—Schmidt's appeal is argued before the Court of Appeals. And later denied.

Jan. 10.—Schmidt to die in the electric chair.

Jan. 14.—Reprive granted until Feb. 18.

Ossining, N. Y. Feb. 17.—Hans Schmidt, the unfrocked priest convicted of murdering his sweetheart, Anna Aumuller and throwing her body in the Hudson after dismembering it will be electrocuted in the death house at Sing Sing penitentiary here tomorrow.

The law may again intervene as it did a few days ago, but this is not likely. Schmidt himself hasn't abandoned hope but admitted things looked pretty blue.

Schmidt is the man who told his attorney he wanted to die in the electric chair in the hope that his innocence would afterward be established and capital punishment thereby would be stopped.

It was on Sept. 5 1913, that the upper part of Anna Aumuller's dismembered body was found in the river off Woodcliff, N. J. Ten days afterward by persistent work on the part of Police Inspector Faurot the mystery was solved to the satisfaction of the police.

The body was identified as that of a former servant in the rectory of St. Boniface's Church, and Schmidt who for three years had been performing the functions of a priest in New York, was arrested in the rectory of St. Joseph's Church.

On the day of his arrest the priest made a full confession, in which he admitted that he killed the girl and cut her into nine pieces. His statements on that occasion were so startling that his sanity was questioned, and experts were called by the State. A month later they pronounced him sane and shamming insanity. Four

(Continued on page 8.)

CANNING PLANT BOOM BEGUN BY CITY BOOSTERS

COMMERCIAL CLUB LAUNCHES MOVEMENT LOOKING TOWARD FACTORY HERE.

OUTPUT AND SUPPORT NOW BEING SURVEYED

Immediate Field Consumes Large Tonnage of Vinegar and Canned Stuff—Canned Corn Would Be a Big Feature, Boosting the Rapidly-Developing Corn Industry Here.

A special meeting of the commercial club was held yesterday evening for consideration of the proposition of a canning establishment for La Grande. There was an enthusiastic sentiment expressed in favor of taking steps toward an undertaking of this kind. As a preliminary a committee was appointed to investigate the prospects, such a securing data as to probable output in acreage, cost of equipment, probable market, and to secure any information bearing on the subject. The committee appointed consists of J. A. Russell, Paul H. Spillman and C. M. Riddle. They are to report at a meeting of the commercial club to be held Monday evening. In the way the matter was discussed at the meeting last night the proposition is for a canning industry that will fit the country and with the special purpose of using corn, peas and beans with an adjunct for vinegar and other apple products.

While nothing further will be done until the special committee reports there were some items of interest presented at the meeting last night that indicate something of the possibilities in the canning industry.

Local Demand Great. Figures were shown that the territory including the country from Baker to Walla Walla uses annually 90,000 cases of corn. There are two dozen cans to the case, so this would be 180,000 dozen cans of corn which the people within the district mentioned buy from outside sources each year. In this same territory there is also sold to the consumers each year 50,000 cases, or 100,000 dozen cans of peas. The canned corn comes largely—in fact almost exclusively—from Kansas, Nebraska and the state of Maine.

It was also estimated that the people of Union and Wallawa counties alone, use 500 barrels of vinegar each year. The mere fact that thousands of cans of corn consumed by the people of the northeastern part of the state of Oregon comes from the northeastern part of the United States is suggestive of the proposal that some of this supply might be produced at home.

Some Other Figures. Nearly everyone has heard of Paulhamus and the Puyallup and Sumner Fruit Growers' association. The annual statement of this concern at the close of business December 31, '15, shows a surplus of \$100,000 and total receipts of last year amounting to \$1,410,830.15. Mr. Paulhamus, the head man of the concern, is quoted as saying that the principal part of their business is canning and that their capital is only \$26,078.

It is believed that a canning concern is easily within the reach of the people of La Grande; that it can be installed and operated entirely by home people, that it is feasible; that it is an economic necessity and that it will pay.

STORMS MENACE HOLLAND

Dykes Already Broken in Places—Storm Hurls Waves.

The Hague, Feb. 17.—A heavy northwest storm is hurling waves against dykes and already many are broken in several places. Towns in the vicinity of Amsterdam are threatened. Mookendam and Volendam are in danger. Residents on Marken Island are reported fleeing.

POLICE MAKE ARREST.

A Chef at Poisoned Soup Dinner May Give Valuable Aid.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Raiding a south side house, the police have arrested Fritz Schoenfeldt, a chef at the University club where the poison banquet was held last week. Schoenfeldt said he had information which would help the authorities locate the plotters. He denied being an anarchist himself.