

La Grande Evening Observer

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

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BREAK WITH KAISER HINT HEARD AGAIN

BELIEVED WILSON MAY HIMSELF ASK FOR DIPLOMATIC SEVERANCE.

NO FURTHER PARLEY TO BE TOLERATED

High Authorities See Danger of Final Break With Germany Should the Lusitania Case Drag on Indefinitely—Technicalities Also Ground for Parley.

Washington, Feb. 23.—High administration authority has forecasted President Wilson's appearance before congress within a week to announce his desire to break diplomatic relations with Germany.

This action is certain to follow, it is pointed out, if German intimations are correct that Von Jagow has instructed Ambassador Bernstorff to play for further delay in the settlement of Lusitania case, and for long discussion of technicalities of the German proclamation of warfare against armed merchantment.

Final Crisis Due Thursday. Relations between Germany and America depend entirely upon Bernstorff's instructions, due here in two days. President Wilson is determined to not permit parleying. If Germany endeavors to cause further complications the president is prepared to place the whole affair in the hands of congress.

400 ATTEND PROGRAM.

Salvation Army Event Successful Beyond all Hopes.

Over 400 people either heard or tried to hear the Salvation Army Washington day program last night at the army hall. So great was the turnout that the program will be repeated Thursday night for their special benefit, and it will be followed by a supper. The jam of people was several hundred bigger than was expected, and is probably the greatest crowd assembled for any program of that kind in the history of the city.

Enlarging Show Windows.

Internal improvements are in progress in the La Grande Pharmacy in the way of enlarging and revising the show windows.

Justice Court Busy.

This morning the case of State vs. Lem Young, charged with larceny by embezzlement of some of the goods of the firm of Lung & Co., was up in the justice court. Justice of the Peace Williams dismissed the case, holding a partner could not be held under the Oregon statute.

The case of State vs. Russell R. Evans, the famous Wallingford, who last week is alleged to have secured some goods from Wests on a check, was up for completion of the final hearing. He was bound over to the grand jury in bonds of \$500.

Jack Stevens, charged with beating a board bill, today pleaded guilty and got \$50.00 or 25 days in jail, as he chooses. He is now in jail.

District Attorney Eberhard appeared for the state in each case.

ORATORS IN CONTEST.

M. I. A. Stake Competition on Rostrom Interests Many.

At the M. I. A. meeting at L. D. S. Tabernacle yesterday evening a special program was presented, the chief numbers of which were three orations in which the following persons participated:

George Chadwick, of Mt. Glen, "The Powers by Which We Achieve."

Campbell Garrick, of La Grande, "Success."

John Stoddard, of La Grande, "Duty."

Scores are kept on the merits of the orations, but they are not made public at this time. As heretofore stated, the ones receiving the highest credits will be allowed to participate in the finals.

In addition to the above Miss Mildred Stringham entertained the audience with her series of "Re-told Stories."

There were also two musical numbers, including a duet by Janette Stoddard and Anna Warren and a duet by Joseph T. Price and Nellie Garrick.

The meeting was highly enjoyed by all present.

10,000 CATTLE ON NEW PENDLETON RANCH

Chicago, Feb. 23.—The Swift interests will stock a Pendleton, Ore., ranch, recently acquired with 10,000 head of beef cattle, it was announced today. They will maintain a high standard of cattle, and sell only the increase in the herd each year.

CASE NON-SUITED.

Chinese Litigation Thrown Out of Justice Court.

Holding that the information didn't constitute sufficient evidence to justify continuation of the case, Justice A. C. Williams has brought to an end the litigation involving a dispute over some rice. Toy Young was the principal complainant, saying that while he, Jim Livermore and Lem Young were partners in business, Lem Young was the manager and as such embezzled some rice and other valuables. The case has been hanging fire for several days but today Justice Williams brought the litigation to an end by throwing it out of court.

FIRE GUTS THE KNOWLES HOME

FIRE OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN DOES MUCH DAMAGE.

Almost the Instant the Family Escapes, Entire House is a Fire.

Fire starting no one knows where, gutted the home of Circuit Judge and Mrs. J. W. Knowles at high noon today. A chair or two, a sofa, some few trinkets, most of the furnishings and clothing of Everett's room, the two stoves, and a dining table either escaped the flames or were hauled out—otherwise the loss was complete. The framework hulk still stands but it is doubtful if it can be repaired at a cost less than a new home would cost. The place has only recently been completely made over.

Shortly after 12 Mrs. Knowles, waiting the arrival of her husband for lunch, went to a small hallway leading upstairs and there met the flames to her astonishment. Everett ran to the alarm box and Mrs. Knowles seized up the baby and hurried to neighbors with it. A few seconds later the flames had spread to all the downstairs rooms with such ferocity that it was almost impossible to enter the house until the smoke had escaped through broken windows.

The entire downstairs is gutted and ruined—piano, library, carpets, rugs, china, all personal effects and all the baby's clothing and a new baby buggy purchased yesterday—all are in ashes. The department stopped the spread and saved the bulk of the structure. Up stairs a closet or two protected some wearing apparel but otherwise that story too was damaged beyond repair. While there is some insurance, the total loss will probably be close to \$4,000.00.

NEW AUTOMOBILES ARRIVE

McCrary Rents Show Room on Depot Street.

With the warm days comes the automobile fever and to meet this epidemic local automobile agents are laying in a supply of cars. C. A. McCrary, agent for the Haynes and Grant cars, has rented a room on Depot street and today unloaded six Grant Sixes for his trade. The Grant is attracting a great deal of attention in La Grande and the several cars which Mr. McCrary has already sold seem to be giving satisfaction.

Jay VanTuyt, of the Haines Motor Co., of Portland, is here today to inspect all Haynes cars in use. While in the city he is the guest of Mr. McCrary.

PORTLAND'S TONG WAR BREAKS OUT ONCE MORE

Chinaman Shot Down at Third And Washington, Dying Instantly

Portland, Feb. 23.—A Chinese gunman shot and killed Yin Luck at 3 o'clock this morning, at the corner of Third and Washington streets—the heart of the business district. Yin, who is a janitor, stepped from a restaurant at that point, and started sweeping the sidewalk. A high-binder fired from a dark doorway and Yin fell. The gunman placed the revolver against Yin's temple, fired again and then fled.

Taxi Gave Chase. A taxidriver gave chase. Three blocks away the fleeing tongman

NO FAVORS FOR SALE.

Admission to Charity Ball only Cost in Connection.

That it may be generally understood, sponsors for the annual charity ball to be given at Rex Hall Friday night, have announced that there will be no other charges than at the door. Last year favors and refreshments were sold, but this year different policies have been adopted. The ticket price of \$2.50 constitutes the only charges attached to guests. That a generous attendance will be present early indications point to with clear hands. The funds go to charity through the Salvation Army channels.

HOLMES FAMILY JOINS.

Hawaiian Junket Attracts Second Family From La Grande.

The Hawaiian voyage to be conducted in April by the Rosarians of Portland, on which Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Richardson have previously made application for state rooms, has so many apparent features that Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Holmes couldn't resist the temptation. They too are going, hence La Grande's Commercial club will have at least four representatives aboard the boat.

ASSESSMENT BEGINS SOON

Meeting of all the Deputies to be Held on March 3rd.

Within a short time deputy assessors will begin the work of listing taxable effects within Union county for the year 1916. As a preliminary to this Assessor Couch has appointed a meeting of all his deputies, which

meeting will be held in La Grande on the 3rd day of March. This is for the general purpose of instructions and to provide a line-up whereby uniformity in the work may be established. The names of those who will assist the county assessor in the year's work will be made public after that date. After this meeting has been held the work of assessing will start without delay.

Factory Site Broken.

Grants Pass, O., Feb. 22.—Yesterday ground was broken for the new sugar beet factory to be erected in this city. Several hundred citizens went to the factory site to witness the operations. Owing to the fact that additional land for raising sugar beets is being signed up from day to day, the factory will be much larger than at first planned. Yesterday afternoon an expert beet culturist, of Utah, addressed the citizens and farmers on the raising of sugar beets, and he will visit the different communities in the county that have signed up for beet raising, and give instructions on the culture of beets.

Plan to Drain Malheur Lake.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 22.—Proceeding under the Thompson law, passed by the 1913 legislature, C. B. McConnell of Burns, has asked the state land board for a contract to drain and reclaim Malheur lake, comprising approximately 30,000 acres. The board has asked the attorney general to investigate the title and determine whether it rests in the state or the federal government, and also to map out the necessary procedure for entering into the contract should the title be in the state.

WAGE INCREASE IS ORDERED

Notice has been given to several hundred employees of The George Palmer Lumber company of this city, that commencing March 1st, wages will be increased 11 per cent. The advance applies to all employees of company including its officials and office force.

Increase Voluntary One.

This is the first notice of an increase in wages in the lumber industry in Eastern Oregon, and is entirely voluntary on the part of the company. On September 1, 1914, unfavorable condition of the lumber market compelled the Lumber Company to make a ten per cent reduction in wages, which was readily accepted by its employees on being advised of the then prevailing conditions of business.

Past Sixty Days Promising.

George Palmer, president of the Lumber company, after making the announcement, stated: "The issuance of this notice of an increase in wages to our men gives me great pleasure. For months I have impatiently watched the horizon of the business world waiting for a ray of light that would warrant such action. Conditions have been slowly improving during the past sixty days, and now all indications point to an early return to the normal. One of the pleasant features of the matter is that our men were very patient and we were able to make the raise without being requested to do so."

In this connection it may be stated that a large number of the mills of the Northwest were compelled to either close down or run on short time during the recent depression of the lumber market, while the La Grande Plant has been running full time.

SIX JEWISH PATRIARCHS, WHOSE AGES TOTAL 455 YEARS, PRAY FOR PEACE.



From left to right—Mr. Levin, aged 80 years; Mr. Paley, aged 80; Mr. Rosenbaum, aged 85; Mr. Rabinowitz, aged 75; Mr. Stafran, aged 80, and Mr. Korenblath, aged 85. These aged Jewish patriarchs meet daily in the Home of the Daughter of Jacob in the Ghetto of New York City to pray for peace. They have been praying since the beginning of the war.

AMBASSADORS OFFERED BY THE SENATE

Washington, Feb. 24.—With Borah of Idaho and Smith dissenting the senate foreign relations committee recommended confirmation of Henry Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico. The State department has asked Russia if ex-Governor David Francis of Missouri is acceptable as ambassador to Russia.

SHOWED COLORED MOVIES.

Sherry's Delights Crowd With New Production.

Sherry's theatre last night showed colored movies which have long been talked and dreamed of by the moving picture makers. The show was a long one occupying the entire evening and the coloring of the film was excellent. "Thus, step by step perfection comes," said a La Grande man who has lived three score and more years, "when the one lung auto came out we all went wild over it, but look at the auto now. It is the same with the movies. Progression is the watchword. Nothing can stand still, and these colored pictures show a marked step in the picture making field."

LONG VIGIL PROVES VAIN

BLACKMAILER LEADER WISELY KEEPS FROM HOME.

Sheriff's Office Waits all Night to Arrest Blackmailer.

Seattle, Feb. 23.—Sheriff watched outside the home of the alleged leader of the blackmailers' gang who worked the badger game on many northwest millionaires, but the man didn't return home last night. He is a former financial agent and a lawyer, and is alleged to have worked in collusion with a score of attractive young women and a firm of attorneys, getting photographs of victims in compromising situations.

He operated the camera in almost every instance and developed the negatives which sold for fabulous sums. Lillian Peterson of Billings, mysteriously disappeared from there Sunday.

UNION CASE HEARD.

Action to Recover on Feed Bill Heard in Court Today.

Although the Knowles fire delayed matters a trifle this afternoon, circuit court is hearing the evidence concerning the suit against Harlan T. Stewart by Mary Kimball of Union. It is the outgrowth of other trouble, but in this case Mrs. Kimball sues for several hundred dollars alleged to be due for feeding some horses.

BIG LOAN TO CZAR.

New Yorkers Willing to Let Russia Have \$100,000,000.

New York, Feb. 23.—Negotiations practically have been concluded for the flotation of a Russian loan, which may run as high as \$100,000,000. Its minimum amount will be \$50,000,000. The loan will be a banking transaction, a group of financial institutions advancing the money and accepting in return Russian railway bonds as collateral.

As in the past, the funds will remain here for the purchase of supplies. Of the proceeds of the loan, \$15,000,000 will be paid to the White Motor company for automobile trucks. The remainder will be used for war munitions.

It is expected that the loan will run for three years, the interest rate being 6 per cent, and a bonus, which probably will make the total rate about 7 per cent. Practically all the leading institutions in Wall Street will participate.

HARD SMASHES BENDING LINES ABOUT VERDUN

SIX MILES OF TRENCHES REPORTED TAKEN BY GERMAN ASSAULTERS.

GENERAL OFFENSIVE HARD AND ALONG BIG FRONT

French Admit Some Losses, Claiming on Other Hand That They Have Retaken Ground Lost Yesterday—French Salient North of Beaumont Also Reported Cracked.

Berlin, Feb. 23.—Six miles of French trenches north of Verdun have been captured, headquarters for war have claimed. The gain was made in the vicinity of Conserveville Assones. Three thousand prisoners and much booty were taken.

General Offensive Under Way. With particularly fierce attacks at various points the Germans broke the French salient north of Beaumont and 10 miles northeast of Verdun. A general offensive has been designed to throw back the entire French line on the Verdun front.

Paris, Feb. 23.—Germans are staging a strong offensive at Verdun, it is officially admitted. The infantry is attacking along a 15 mile front. German prisoners said whole battalions have been annihilated. The French have admitted evacuating Haumont forest but claimed reoccupation of Cuers Woods, evacuated yesterday.

Fierce attacks continue in the Bois-Givenech region. French recaptured several trenches.

WASHINGTON AS A FARMER.

Gov. Withycombe Addresses Members of Barlow Grange.

Salem, Ore., Feb. 22.—Addressing an audience under the auspices of the Twentieth Century grange, at Barlow today, Governor Withycombe said that George Washington was both a practical and theoretical farmer, and that he found more enjoyment in farming than in statesmanship.

"This being Washington's birthday it is appropriate to remind you that George Washington himself was a farmer, and a real one," said the Governor, in part. "Till he reached manhood he never saw a town of 500 inhabitants, having been born and brought up in the country. He was, too, both a practical and theoretical farmer—theoretical in the very best sense of the term, which means that he was willing to try experiments and to go at farming scientifically, just as any other business must be handled to make a real success. Away back in 1760 Washington cultivated alfalfa, and was performing agricultural experiments. He is credited with being the first American to raise mules. In fact, this side of Washington's character strikes me as a splendid one for our young people growing up on American farms to study. I can nowhere find so great satisfaction as in the innocent and useful pursuits of farming," said Washington, and a survey of this life and utterances leads me to believe that down in his heart Washington found more pleasure on the farm than on the field of battle or in occupying the chair of statesmanship."

INVESTMENTS OVERLOOKED

City Sends out Money That Might Have Remained at Home.

That La Grande people with sums of money to invest overlooked splendid opportunities in not taking up improvement bonds, is recalled by the number of interest checks being sent out by the city, of late. The \$300,000.00 or so represented in improvements carried out the past six years, call for heavy interest payments, and, no doubt, had local investors kept tabs of small issues put on the market from time to time during the improvement era, several thousand dollars in interest now going east, would remain here. Frequently there are odds and ends in bond issues which run for denominations less than the maximum units of \$500.00 suited for small investors. Of late two La Grangers have taken up substantial pieces of bonds, but on the whole this source of six percent interest has been entirely overlooked. The city itself has full well realized the opportunity to thus invest and keep money at home by putting some Beaver Creek sinking fund moneys into that channel. The city has taken up all unsold bonds in that way of late and none are on the market now.