

La Grande Evening Observer

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DOUAMONT, BIG VERDUN FORT IN KAISER'S HANDS

STRONG BREACH MADE IN LINE OF DEFENSE ABOUT VERDUN FORTRESS

SEEMS CERTAIN GERMAN FORCES THREATEN POINT

Paris Hasn't Denied With Much Vigor the Report from Paris that Powerful Fort Near Verdun Has Fallen—Russians Make Important Capture in Persia.

London, Feb. 26.—Germans have captured the strong fortress of Douamont, four miles northeast of Verdun, Berlin headquarters announced. Paris didn't confirm this claim.

If Douamont is captured it means the first breach has been made in the Verdun front, and indicates the Teuton offensive seriously threatens the French stronghold.

It is believed the entire French force dealing with Verdun from the north and northwest has been backed into the fortress under the most terrible stroke from the Germans since the offensive started.

Cote Duvivier, the key to the cities in the north defense, has been regarded as impregnable, but reports indicate French fronts have collapsed there and at Pepper Heights.

Paris has admitted that Germans assailed armored trenches and redoubts at those points. A communiqué said the French have taken new positions on Meuse hill but did not state the definite location.

Berlin Corrects Report. London, Feb. 26.—A Berlin statement has reported German positions south and east of Lovement, and admitted yesterday's report of the capture of Camneville was incorrect. The statement indicated that although the French right was retiring, the left is resting along the Meuse heights and has been maintained despite German onslaughts. The English attacked east of Moss and Armenieres last night. Berlin has claimed they were repulsed.

Portugal in Trouble. London, Feb. 26.—Berlin newspapers are urging prompt demand upon Portugal for release of interned German ships already seized, through von Jagow at Berlin lacks confirmation of the seizure. A Madrid dispatch says Portuguese authorities frankly admit they expect Germany to declare war on Portugal.

Russians Make Big Capture. Petrograd, Feb. 26.—Russians have captured Kermansah, Persia, delayed dispatches state. The victors expect an early junction with the British at Kutelamara, 150 miles away. Kermansah is second in importance only to Erzerum.

British Steamers Sunk. London, Feb. 26.—British steamers Denaby and Tumher have been sunk with a probable loss of nine lives.

LOOT IN CUSTODY

Police Have Goods Believed to Have Been Stolen Elsewhere

Three men giving their names as H. B. Clark, Emmet and R. Russell, claiming to have come here from Pendleton, were rounded up last night while disposing of a motley and costly collection of pipes and other goods. A \$4.50 pipe had been sold for 50 cents, a fine pair of trousers had been let go for a song, and some valuable pipes, five or six of them, were still in possession of the men when taken into custody. Where the goods came from is not known.

The only mark of identification is on the prize marks. One pipe carries the mark "G. D. D.—\$4.50" being a Frances Edler make.

A pair of auto gauntlets, about as fine as can be bought is included in the loot which the police department has on its records, waiting word from surrounding towns.

Wets and Dries Battle

Albany, N. Y. Feb. 26.—Legislative lobbyists, representing the prohibitionists and the anti-prohibitionists, are at it here today. The measure, providing for state prohibition and pending in the legislature, is the bone of contention. The anti-declare the passage of the bill would lose the state nearly \$20,000,000 in annual revenue from excise taxes. The pro-reply that its passage would save the state far more than \$20,000,000 in annual expenditures for prisons, almshouses and insane asylums.

GRAND JURORS RETURN BILLS

SEVERAL ARRAIGNMENTS MADE THIS MORNING.

Grand Jury Excused for the Present—Trials Will Continue.

A verdict in favor of the railroad company was returned by the jury this afternoon in the suit for damages brought by F. E. Buck for the death of a horse and alleged personal injuries in a street crossing accident.

Having returned several true bills, some of which are public, the grand jury has been excused from further action at this time. Several arraignments were made this morning. Adolph Newlin a druggist was arraigned on an indictment charging violation of the prohibition law. He will plead Monday.

ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY.

Court Jurors Will Be Given an Over Sunday Vacation.

A compromise was reached in the case set in the circuit court this morning—the case of the La Grande Grocery Co. vs. Berry & Son. On this account the jurors were excused from further duty until Monday.

Cases are set for all of next week and it is stated that there are still others not yet placed on the calendar. At any rate the expectations are for a continuation of the February term well along into the month of March.

The jury in the damage case of Buck vs. O. W. R. & N. retired for deliberation this morning.

CHINAMAN ARRAIGNED

Monday Set for Time to Plead to Tong War Fracas

Lem Quong has been indicted by the grand jury in connection with the recent tong war troubles here, and was arraigned this morning. He has been given until Monday to plead.

This morning Walter C. Evans, alleged bad check artist, was arraigned and he too was given until Monday to plead.

Rio De Janeiro Mardi Gras Costly

Rio De Janeiro, Feb. 25.—All Brazil is preparing for the three day Mardi Gras carnival, early in March. The annual carnival celebrated in Rio De Janeiro as a gorgeous spectacle claims to far overshadow that of Venice. It is estimated that \$1,000,000 was spent on siphons of perfume alone last year. The perfume siphons are used by the crowds on the streets. They are called "lanes of perfume" and the battle of perfume lasts for three entire days and nights. Pageants, masques, balls and every other conceivable form of amusement contribute to the riot of fun. "Momo, the King of Fun," as they call the carnival god, is already summoning his votaries.

Patriots Form Union.

Beaver Falls, Feb. 26.—As an answer to the wide-spread plea for preparedness an organization was under way here today for a company of men all native-born Americans over 45 for duty at home in case their services are needed. They intend to call themselves "Territorials" as their duty will be in their own territory. The first company will be formed at New Brighton and other branches of the organization will be taken up in other valley towns. The companies will not be identified with army organizations but will prepare to take up the work of the younger men in case they are called away. An entire regiment of "territorials" will be formed in the country.

Remodeling Residence

Contractor Chas. D. Goodnough has been at work for several weeks making complete changes in C. H. Finn's residence on O Avenue. The changes include enlargement of the basement, the addition of furnace heat and all other accessories of a modern home. At least two weeks further time will be required to complete the improvements.

Mrs. Hannah Rogers Improving

Mrs. Hannah Rogers, who sustained an injury of the hip in a fall at Pendleton several weeks ago, is gradually improving. She is now able to be about the house with the aid of crutches. For several weeks she was not able to be up, but now the improvement in her condition is more rapid.

DEMURRER OVERRULED.

Contentions That Ordinance Is Invalid Overruled by Judge.

Holding that the city ordinance which requires a heavy license for peddling wares or soliciting orders about town is constitutional, the opposite having been contended by defendant counsel, Municipal Judge Eakin this afternoon called the case against T. Driscoll. Driscoll is charged with having, as an agent, solicited orders for the Towne photograph gallery. The demurrer was filed recently and this afternoon overruled.

GERMANS PIN FAITH IN CONGRESS TO SWAY THE PRESIDENT'S ATTITUDE

POSSIBLE RECALL OF BERNSTORFF SHAKES BERLIN—OFFICIALS DECLINE TO COMMENT ON THE SITUATION IN ANY DETAIL. NEWS AGENCIES SWAMPED WITH INQUIRIES.

ONE ALLIED NATION WOULD REMOVE ARMAMENT

Washington Less Excited Today Than Yesterday—Offer of Allied Relief Wouldn't Relieve Stress Between Germany and England is Report.

Washington, Feb. 26.—One of the allied nations has proposed that, for the sake of humanity, armament be removed from merchantmen. What the message stated, whence it came, the administration has refused to announce. However, the proposal cannot affect the American difficulty with Germany over the decree of war on armed merchantmen.

Washington is less excited than for several days, due largely to the administration's restrictions upon congress. Discussion of international affairs is being kept from the floors of both houses.

Secretary Lansing and Representative Flood have conferred over the probability of a compromise warning measure, but refused to comment on the situation.

Officials are surprised because only one allied reply came. They expected a joint answer.

It is believed France was the nation answering. It is expected she would say the proposals didn't interest her because she hasn't any armed ships.

Germans Rely on Congress

Berlin, Feb. 26.—Germany counts upon congress to force President Wilson to retreat from his position in the German-American situation. The United States has been reliably informed. Officials declined to comment on the rumor, but the general feeling here is that if armed the merchantmen decree is referred to congress, it will pass a resolution warning Americans from traveling on armed ships. Dispatches suggesting the possibility of Wilson demanding the recall of Ambassador von Bernstorff, has caused great surprise. The United Press office was besieged today with telephone calls from officials inquiring into the truth of the reports.

BIG CIRCUIT BOOMED

Salt Lake and La Grande Would Be Terminals of Fair Slate

Formation of a fair circuit that would bring fast race horses to this territory, the prospective lineup being Salt Lake, Logan, Boise, Baker and La Grande, is being fostered by fair people in the territory mentioned. Such an arrangement would tend to insure a fast racing program all along the line. The question of dates is still bothering fair promoters. A Baker dispatch says in this connection:

"Secretary Mechem of the Baker County Fair association has written twice to the secretary of the North Pacific Fair association relative to the scheduling of the Baker and Walla Walla fairs the same week, but as yet has received no reply. Protest was made by the local association against doubling up the dates of the Baker and Walla Walla fairs, for the reason that it would work hardship on both associations and hurt the race meeting at each place, as practically the same stable owners have entered at each place for several years past.

"A tentative plan is under consideration to form a circuit consisting of Salt Lake, Logan, Boise, possibly Rexburg, Baker and La Grande, and from some standpoints it is believed that this circuit would be more advantageous for Baker than membership in the North Pacific circuit."

BEAUTIFUL HUNGARIAN ACTRESS SHOT AS SPY.



Sair Petrass, the beautiful Hungarian actress, has been shot in Budapest as a British spy, according to cable dispatches received by residents of Cleveland who knew her.

Miss Petrass was put to death, the dispatches said, almost immediately after the court martial found her guilty of luring military secrets from high army officials and communicating them to the British War Office by means of smuggled letters.

Until she was executed the public was unaware that Miss Petrass was

WHOLESALE FIRM WILL ERECT HOME

22,000 FEET OF FLOOR SPACE TO BE SUPPLIED.

La Grande Grocery Company to Have Plans Drawn at Once.

A new building to house the La Grande Grocery company, wholesalers, will be built early this spring. G. L. Harrison, manager of the Allen-Lewis interests which control the company here, has returned from Portland with full instructions as to the building of the warehouse. Plans haven't been drawn, the cost hasn't been determined, and neither has the exact location been picked. Architects will ascertain the first two items within two or three weeks.

The definite part of the plan is that there will be 22,000 feet of floor space. A refrigerator in the basement, an electric elevator, a plate glass front, and other modern conveniences are contemplated and construction will be pushed.

The new facilities will afford about half again as much room as is now available for the company in the present location in the wholesale district.

WALLOWA PEOPLE HURT

Coasting Party Brings Pain and Injury to Two People

Wallowa, Feb. 26.—The Sun stated last evening that while coming swiftly down a steep hill in Sproston's Addition to Wallowa on Sunday afternoon was a toboggan with six young people on it—Kenneth Hall, Rosa Hood, May Rudd, Stanley Shell, Olive Tulley and Scott McCrae. They had gone but a comparatively short distance before they struck a ditch in jumping which for a few seconds they feared they would be upset. However the toboggan righted itself and gaining in momentum rushed on, but out of the regular course. An attempt was made to steer it back into the course or away from danger but the speed gained and the weight carried were too great to do so.

The first four of the number got off or were thrown off the toboggan before she struck the corner post of the fence encircling the land of L. Couch. The last two blinded by the flying snow rushed on. Another toboggan was loading at the top of the incline only waiting to see the first one down safe when they would start. Instead they came down on foot.

Scott McCrae broke his left leg a little above the knee and Olive Tulley broke both of her ankles. The rest although badly shaken up are able to be about with only minor bruises. Donald McDaniel who was standing on the rock post decidedly felt the shock when the toboggan struck.

Miss Tulley, a graduate of Wallowa high school has been in the employ of Dr. Roberts for some time and Scott is a Senior in Wallowa high school. Both are favorites among the young people and have the sympathy of all in their misfortune.

WHEAT DROPS AGAIN.

Many Causes, Including Bear Raid, Forced Wheat Down Hard.

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Wheat has dropped five and a half cents, closing at \$1.13 1-2, a new low mark for this crop. A determined bear raid, lower cables, nervousness over the international situation are the probable causes.

"RAGGING" IS BARRED.

Enterprise Council Passes Stringent Ordinance for Dance Halls.

Enterprise, Feb. 26.—The city council passed its dance ordinance Monday night. It is modeled after similar ordinances passed in other cities, the purpose being to prevent objectionable dances. The proprietors of the halls in which the dances are held are heartily in favor of the new measure, as it is believed it will keep the public gatherings on a higher plane, and will meet with the approval of the great majority of their patrons. Such dances as "ragging," the "grizzly bear hug," the "bunny hug," the "turkey trot," and back steps are forbidden. Smoking in dance halls is prohibited. Authority to enforce the ordinance is given to any city or county peace officer, or to the person in charge of the dance hall. Any person who indulges in the forbidden steps shall be ejected from the hall, and any lessee, proprietor or manager of a hall who knowingly permits a violation of the ordinance is subject to a fine.

State President Coming to Wallowa.

On Monday, Feb. 28, the state president of the Rebekah Assembly, Mrs. Rose Palmer of Baker, will visit the local lodge says the Wallowa Sun. The regular meeting will begin at 7 p. m. and at 9 an open meeting will be held for Odd Fellows and their wives, Rebekahs and their husbands. All Rebekahs are urged to be present at seven sharp on Monday and also to come out to the regular meeting on Friday evening to help complete the plans for Monday.

COMMITTEE PRUNES ARMY BILL FIGURE

145,000-MAN ARMY TO BE RECOMMENDED BY HOUSE COMMITTEE.

FERTILIZER-MUNITIONS PLANT PROVIDED FOR

Wood's Scheme of Over 200,000

Regular Army Falls in Discard When Committee Takes Vote—Plant to be Leased to Private Concerns in Time of Peace.

Washington, Feb. 26.—The house military committee has voted to recommend a regular army of 145,000. This was done after defeating the Wilson plan for an army of 220,000 as General Wood advocated.

The bill authorizes an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to build a nitrate plant, to be devoted to the manufacture of fertilizer during peace, and for munitions manufacture in war times.

It is the plan of the committee that this plant be leased to a private concern during peace times.

Chester Clark the Same.

Apparently there is little change in the condition of Chester Clark who is critically ill.

HEAR REPORT MONDAY.

Cannery Committee to Make its Findings Known to Club.

Next Monday evening the Commercial club will hold an important meeting at the Y. M. C. A. at which time the committee named some time ago to look into the proposition of a cannery, will make its preliminary report.

To Portland Hospital

W. B. Denny, who has been in charge of the railroad freight house for a long period, has been indisposed for the past few days and on account of no noticeable improvement he and Mrs. Denny will leave tonight for Portland where he will go to a hospital.

Buys Grain for Feed.

Fred Taal was down from his up-river ranch today. He says there is still a depth of 22 inches of snow in his neighborhood, but it is soft and will disappear rapidly with warmer temperature. Mr. Taal has had sufficient feed so far, but in order to be on the safe side he has purchased a considerable quantity of rolled barley to mix with the other feed. The grain is shipped by rail to Hilgard and transferred from that point to the Taal place by team.

Looks for Early Grass.

Adolph Peebler, of Ladd Canyon, says all the stock in that section have passed through the winter in good shape. This is due largely to the fact that the Ladd Canyon country produces plenty of hay and farmers are usually well supplied. The indications, Mr. Peebler believes, are for early grass since it will start growing even under a covering of snow when there is plenty of moisture and warm weather.

Would Burn Five Children.

Portland, Feb. 26.—Accused of attempting to burn a house where five children were asleep, Vito Colacola, an Italian laborer, was arrested this morning. It is alleged he wanted to destroy the family of Joseph Batanagin, for a fancied wrong.

Merchant Faces Charge.

Oakland, Cal., Feb. 26.—Adolph Uhl, a wealthy merchant was arraigned today on a charge of manslaughter and released on \$10,000 bail. He is accused of running down and killing Bessie Smith, a court house stenographer, while driving his automobile Thursday night.

One Progressive Registers.

Hood River, Ore., Feb. 24.—"I am still a Roosevelt supporter," declares George T. Prather, formerly a local Progressive leader. "But I am going to register as a Republican this year, and I think I will have the privilege of supporting Teddy on that ticket." As compared with 122 before the general election of four years ago, Hood River county up to date has but one registered Progressive—Paul M. Blowers, a young business man of the city.