

War Clouds Practically Dissipated By Carranza

Washington, July 5.—The Carranza note answering the American communications, was sent to Secretary of State Lansing today. The tone is completely pacificatory, as forecasted. The reply is brief. It emphasizes the significance of immediate release of the Carranza prisoners, indicating Carranza's desire for peace. The note says Mexico is favorable to mediation, and lets the United States decide whether mediation or direct negotiations shall be used.

Embarrassment resulting from presence of U. S. troops in Mexico is emphasized, but the demand for withdrawal is not renewed. It concludes: "In the meantime this government will employ efforts to avoid recurrence of incidents which may complicate or aggravate the situation. At the same time the American government may use efforts to prevent new acts of military and civil authorities along the frontier that may cause complications."

Lansing announced the United States is willing to continue negotiations with Carranza and handed the note to President Wilson.

Diplomats confidently think Carranza's reply paves the way for a peaceful readjustment.

Columbus, July 5.—Military men here believe orders will be given shortly to withdraw the American expedition, providing Carranza makes no hostile move. However, no preliminary withdrawal steps have been taken here. Roads are still being repaired and supplies are being piled into American camps. Unofficially it is reported Gen. Pershing personally favors withdrawal if there is no intervention. Establishment of a heavy border garrison and patrol will probably follow withdrawal, the militia to be held indefinitely.

Spy Caught, Released.
Washington, July 5.—The justice department has reported capturing a Mexican spy on the border, with a copy of a communication to the Mexican commander, giving details of disposition of American forces along the border. Later it was announced the spy was released because Uncle Sam lacked proper laws to prosecute him.

Militiamen May Return Early.
Washington, July 5.—Unless untoward events develop, militiamen stationed at the border will be back in their homes within four months. However, the President and his staff are seriously wondering how to fill their places. When the glamor of prospective war wanes, militiamen will avoid camp drudgery and return home.

Policing the border is considered a man's job and therefore Pershing's forces will doubtlessly return to the border shortly, for there is no reason for keeping them in Mexico longer, it is privately admitted.

Mexicans Move South.
Eagle Pass, July 5.—General Murguia has moved several thousand Carranzistas from Piedras Negras to Allendo, 40 miles south. No motive is known.

Young Child Is Painfully Hurt.

Baker, July 5.—The little son of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Radabaugh was very painfully injured yesterday afternoon. The little fellow was on the street with his parents, blowing a tin horn. Caught in the crowd, the sharp end of the horn was pushed into the roof of the youngster's mouth, lacerating it badly. He was taken to a doctor's office at once and given attention.

REPAIRING MOUNTAIN ROAD. Improvements Made on the Old Thomas & Ruckles Highway.

J. L. Woodell has charge of a force which ranges from seven to 15 men in the work of repairing the old Thomas & Ruckles road over the Blue mountains north from Summerville. In the very early days this was a toll road but it was finally abandoned and now citizens of Summerville are donating work to place the highway again in condition for travel and the county is putting in an amount equal to that subscribed by the citizens. The amount of voluntary work at this time is 187 days and Mr. Woodell's force has been at work several days and will probably be through this week. They are making new grades and fills and otherwise fixing the road in condition for travel.

This old road is one of the best routes for vehicles across the Blue Mountains and the grade, especially from this side to the summit, is an easy one. The Thomas & Ruckles road is also noted for the elegance of the scenery. Not far beyond the summit westward the road strikes the Umatilla river and passes by the famous old Warm Springs, now known as Bingham Springs.

This route is the easiest and most direct between Grande Ronde and the Walla Walla section. When the present work is completed the former toll road from Summerville will be a favorite for touring parties. The improvement will also be of much value to residents on this side as it will give a better means of reaching the mountains for getting wood and timber supplies for home use. Mr. Woodell came to La Grande this morning to submit to the July term of court the report of his work.

VEHRS ON THE JOB.

With One Eye Like Unto Uncooked Beefsteak, Speeder Is Out. Ernest Vehrs, secretary of the La Grande Motor club, is able to be out and to see again following the severe spill he indulged in on the Speed 'Em Up oval last Sunday. His right eye is frightfully black, his right arm a mass of abrasions, his left eye slightly discolored and his body carries various bruises, but outside of that his skin is whole and sound. But one black eye doesn't keep him from his regular place of business in the Silverthorn Drug store.

AVIATOR COMING
At three thirty this afternoon Roscoe Neal closed a deal at Baker with the aviator who flew at Baker yesterday, contracting the birdman to come to La Grande next Sunday to race with his big Curtiss engine bi-plane against Tracy Hollister on a motorcycle at the Speed 'Em Up oval.

MRS. FITZSIMMONS COMING.
Wife of Great Prizefighter Will Lecture Friday Night.

Having already appeared in Elgin, Union, Baker, Pendleton and other eastern Oregon towns, Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons, wife of the famed prizefighter, will deliver a lecture in the First Methodist church next Friday evening under auspices of the protestant churches of La Grande. She has been lecturing upon her impressions of the prize ring with which she was infatuated, and also upon the fact of her recent conversion.

Bank Statements Called.
Washington, July 5.—The comptroller of the currency has called for statements of condition of banks at the close of business June 30th.

SUBMERGED LETTER BACK
Interesting Echo of the Empress of Ireland Horror Seen Here

In May, 1914, George Huckin, now employed at the Jay Van Buren cigar store, wrote a letter from Canada to a friend in London. The letter was destined to be tied up with another lot of London letters and unceremoniously dumped into the late Empress of Ireland, which readers will recall, went to the bottom at mouth of the St. Lawrence in a fog with a ghastly load of human freight. That portion of this tale is history but the strange incident is that Mr. Huckin's letter was eventually salvaged from the ill-fated craft. In December of the same year the letter was recovered from its watery grave, and sent to the dead letter office and from there returned to Mr. Huckin. The letter is unmarked by its connection with the historical catastrophe.

Offset from another letter, presumably wrapped tightly in a package with the Huckin letter, is the address on the back of this epistle of a lady in London. The fate of the other letter was probably the same as the one which reached here—sent back to the sender.

Says He Used Pitchfork.
Vancouver, Wash., July 4.—Victim of an unexpected attack, Michael Sovega was found lying beside the road, near Proebstel yesterday, insensible. After regaining consciousness, Sogewa, who drives a milk route wagon from Hockinson to Proebstel, alleged that Joe Fiegel, a resident of that neighborhood, had attacked him with rocks and a pitchfork.

OFFICER WHO FOUND TROOPERS WITH REPORT OF BATTLE AT CARRIZAL.



Lieut. Meyer of the Tenth cavalry led the cavalrymen who picked up, on the desert some distance from the American column, three troopers sent by Capt. Moray with a report of the engagement. Moray and his men fought Mexicans at Carrizal.

599,868 ACRES IN LA GRANDE LAND DISTRICT

DECREASE IN PAST FOUR YEARS WAS SWIFT BUT ADJUSTMENTS MADE.

PAST YEAR WITNESSED BIG ADDITION TO ENTRY

While Over 12,000 Acres Were Filed on in a Year, Over 28,000 Were Added by Restoration to Entry—Union County's Portion Least of Any.

There remain surveyed and unsurveyed public lands in the La Grande district of the United States land office July 1st this year, 599,868 acres of land available for public entry. These figures are shown by data compiled for the general land office by Receiver Nolan Skiff and Register F. C. Bramwell of the La Grande office. Union county is shown to have the least number of acres, Baker the greatest. The timber is described in the official report for each separate county as follows:

Baker—Timber, mountainous, grazing, farming, fruit and mineral. Grant—Timbered, farming, grazing, mineral. Morrow—Timbered, farming and grazing. Umatilla—Arid, farming, timbered and grazing. Union—Timbered, farming and grazing. Wallawa—Generally rolling, farming, grazing, fruit and timbered.

The land available to entry in the district by counties, July 1st, 1916, is:

Surveyed	Unsur.	Total
Baker	302,560	4,899,307,459
Grant	114,480	114,480
Morrow	20,160	20,160
Umatilla	65,400	291,65,691
Union	16,240	16,240
Wallawa	65,040	10,798,75,838

Total 583,880 15,988 599,868
In 1915 the total acreage available was 622,410; in 1914 728,622; in 1913, 810,949; in 1912, 961,920. Consequently, the decrease in available acres in the La Grande district has dwindled 362,052 acres since 1912.

Figures shown in this table are slightly misleading in that the amount of land "on hand" last year has been very materially increased by the restoration to entry recently of 24,000 acres of Thief Valley project land, and 3,800 forest reserve land in Wallawa and parts of Union counties. Therefore, while the public filed on 12,542 acres nearly 28,000 acres were added to the available tracts.

While busy getting out annual reports, the land office has been doing a tremendous business. A score of

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CITIZENS MEET TONIGHT.

Formation of a Citizens' drill company, which is not affiliated with or a part of any guard or militia, will take place at the old Elks' hall this evening. When all such as are interested, will meet to elect officers. Drilling has been under way for several days and keen interest has been evinced. The meeting is open and everyone is cordially invited. The purpose of the company will be to develop rifle clubs, have recreation and exercise, along military lines with military discipline and tactics.

BOY FALLS FROM SWING.

Tossed Fully 30 Feet Before Striking Ground at Park.
While swinging high at the park at a late hour last night the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lilly, who live on X avenue, slipped from the stand board and scooted at least 30 feet into a nearby clump of bushes. He was slightly stunned by the fall but recovered quickly and by the time he had been hauled to town by Sidney Happersett in the latter's machine, the boy was in good condition.

JULY FOURTH PLEASANT DAY

MANY ATTRACTIONS FAR AND NEAR DRAW.

Eagles' Three-Day Celebration Coming to Close Tonight.

Pleasingly free from accidents of any sort, ideal weather prevailing with the exception of a slight shower late in the day, July 4th was ideally spent by hundreds of La Grande people yesterday. To the North, with Wallawa Lake as the destination, Pendleton where a tennis tournament and celebration attracted, to Baker where an aviator held forth, to remote watering places, to alluring fishing streams and to parks—that is where the populace hied to.

Eagles Entertain at Home.
Yesterday morning, afternoon and evening the La Grande lodge of Eagles entertained for those who desired to remain at home. The ceremony fitting to the Fourth, booked for 11 o'clock was carried out in fine form, being an interesting and impressive service. Last night the fun curtains were rung up and frivolity continued until a late hour.

Carnival Closes Tonight.
Tonight winds up the show of the big three-day attraction. Phoney money and phoney beer will be on tap again for the entertainment of the people. Dancing will be provided in Zuber hall which is the center of festivities.

Park Big Mecca
More than a thousand souls spent yesterday at Riverside park, many coming out to join those who remained in camp for the day after having been present at chautauqua sessions. It was an ideal day—comfortably warm, yet not hot; no dust, no undue excitement—just a sane, restful celebration. In the afternoon an impromptu program was arranged, and at night various groups of people gathered around camp fires and fire works on the two banks of the Grande Ronde.

During the meeting of the membership of the Chautauqua at noon, it was suggested that a program committee be named to arrange for a fitting afternoon program. Criers were sent through the grounds calling in the people for a patriotic program. In a jiffy the following numbers had been assembled, each being given with fine credit to all concerned:

First two verses of America; reading by M. L. Carter from Ezra Hocking's famous works; reading by Mrs. Thomas Walsinger; history of the flag given by George T. Cochran; readings by Naoma Williamson; 20-minute speech by Walter M. Pierce; singing last two verses of America.

In spite of the impromptu nature of the various numbers, they were exceptionally good and over 300 people gathered in the pavilion to hear them. Thus the day was given over to rest, visiting, eating drinking and merriness, and not without a patriotic color. To many the park under such conditions affords far greater national birthday celebration than any other means would.

Drill Produces Recruit

During the several evenings that citizens have been participating in drills conducted for the Citizens' Drill company, a young man whose name was never learned, appeared nightly. At first he was a raw sort of a recruit but he learned rapidly and quickly acquired some of the notion of things. Yesterday morning Ed Coolidge who was one of the drill masters, had noticed the man's rapid progress, spoke to the fellow as he was boarding a train. Mr. Coolidge asked him where he was going and he shouted back as the train was leaving: "Off for Boise to enlist."

KAISER HAS PULLED MEN FROM VERDUN

DEMAND FOR REINFORCEMENTS COMPELS TRANSFER OF MANY TROOPS.

ALLIES ELATED OVER LATEST WAR REPORTS

If Cablegrams Be Soudly Based, Kaiser Is Pulling Men From Verdun Smash to Relieve Stress Upon His Third Lines Farther Northward.

London, July 5.—The Allies offensive entered the second phase with British and French artillery preparing the way for another infantry rush. Guns which cleared the path in Saturday's attacks were moved up today and are terrifically cannonading the German third lines. Opposite the British front Germans are replying more strongly, reinforcements continually arriving.

German units from Verdun have appeared against the British north of Somme, transferred there within the last few hours. A counter attack at Thierval this morning was repulsed. French also announced further gains today.

News that the Kaiser is withdrawing troops from Verdun to meet the Allies' offensive is considered vastly more important than official statements reporting further gains. Shifting of troops is believed to indicate a shortage of German reserves and realization of the grave menace in the present offensive.

German, British and French official statements agreed the Allies' drive was renewed on a great scale last night. At two this afternoon General Haig reported the British had captured further important positions between Ancre and Somme. German attacks at Thivale are reported. Berlin issued a brief statement of the Allied offensive announcing violent fighting continues. Gen. Haig issued a supplementary statement at five this afternoon saying close fighting continued and also announcing capture of 500 prisoners.

Band to Visit Imbler

Imbler, July 3.—(Special).—The La Grande band boys are coming down next Friday evening to hold a concert and dance.

SAFETY FIRST TRAIN COMING. Government Co-Operates With Railroad in Exhibiting Appliances.

The U. S. government "Safety First" special train, showing the life-saving and property-saving activities of the federal government in behalf of the people of the United States, will soon visit La Grande, the car being now headed this way. This is the first time the United States authorities have ever sent such an exhibit around over the country. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, has authorized the expedition and exhibits will be made by the treasury, war, navy, interior and agriculture departments, by the interstate commerce commission and by the American Red Cross Society. The exhibits in the train of ten steel cars will be shown without cost. V. H. Manning, director of the bureau of mines, will be the executive officer in charge of the train.

Two Initiative Petitions

There are two important petitions being circulated to secure legislation by initiative of the voters. One is for what is usually designated as a rural credits measure and the other is for a statute preventing the levying of a tax of more than six per cent of the preceding year. Both measures have the endorsement and active support of many of the leading citizens.

FUNDS ARE NEEDED.

House Provided Measures That Will Cover Mobilization.

Washington, July 5.—The House has adopted the Shirey amendment bill permitting the secretary of war to levy a tax on grantees of 50-year waterproof permits along navigable rivers. The size of the tax depends on local circumstances. The Adamson bill provides means for raising revenue to defray the preparedness expenses. It was favorably reported in the House today.