

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XVI

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1916.

NUMBER 156.

BRITISH JOLT TO PEACE HAS RANK OF BLUFF

GERMANY SO ACCEPTS ALLIED ATTITUDE ON MOVE GER-MANY INSTITUTED

AMERICA INTERESTED IN FUTURE PEACE PHASES

Understood Germany Would Not Welcome American Interference, Nor Is President Wilson Willing to Be Understood As Doing So, But Retains Interest in Future Peace.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—(United Press)—Germany regards the entente attitude on peace as a bluff. She believes the allies are really anxious for peace and are pessimistic, despite London, Petrograd and Paris announcements that allies are determined to continue fighting.

Officials believe belligerents will not ask neutrals to start negotiations and Germany won't welcome American interference.

The Lokal Anzeiger said today: "If Lloyd George wants to postpone peace until the allies conquer, the war will be eternal."

The Verwaerts said: "Lloyd George condemns himself when he says anybody that prolongs war is a criminal."

Disarmament Theme Mutual.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—(United Press)—It is officially stated the United States will "be interested" in disarmament discussions and world peace guarantees. The state department has not revealed whether the government will actively participate, but it is assumed the United States will not act until it is definitely ascertained whether the belligerents will welcome interference.

President Wilson wants it clearly understood the United States is not interested in various cases of European war, but merely wants assurances of permanent peace. The president believes the methods of establishing permanent peace is vital to America.

With British Army, Dec. 20.—(United Press)—The British believe most German troops are ignorant of the Kaiser's peace proposals. Several prisoners here said they had not heard of the negotiations.

General Hindenberg is dissatisfied with the western front situation. The continued bombardment is affecting the German spirits. Hindenberg has ordered aviators to stop British aeroplanes continually sweeping the German trenches, raiding far behind the lines. German artillery and aeroplaning are increasing.

Berlin, Dec. 20.—(United Press via Sayville)—It is announced Russian attacks on the east bank of the Golden Bistritz have failed. Artillery is livelier on the Macedonian front. Isolated patrol clashes and cannonading occurred on the western front.

Newspapers have declared French General Berthelot, commander of the Roumanian allies armies, has asked for a recall. A majority of British officers attached to the Roumanian general staff have already started Englandward.

Paris, Dec. 20.—(United Press)—There is great artillerying at Louvemont-Chambrettes.

PRISON SENTENCE FOR

FOOD BARRONS URGED
Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Senator Poinsett has introduced a bill providing for imprisonment of men found cornering foodstuffs. It specifies a three-year penitentiary sentence.

SMALLPOX NO BAR

TO PORTLAND THIEVES
Portland, Ore., Dec. 20.—(United Press)—Disregarding a smallpox quarantine sign, two burglars entered M. S. Miller's home and held up Mrs. Miller with a revolver and stole \$200 worth of diamonds. Mr. Miller, wife and two children were recovering from an attack of smallpox.

Parcels Post Will Be Carried Sunday

No City Delivery on Christmas Day But Rural Routes Will Go Out on Monday—City Carrier Windows Open Monday.

Arrangements of mail delivery which will prevail during the Christmas holidays have been promulgated by the postoffice officials. On Sunday, the day before Christmas, city carriers will deliver parcels post but no letters. On Monday there will be no city delivery of any kind but the rural routes will be carried. For city routes the general and carrier windows will open at 9 o'clock and remain open a reasonable time. Patrons are reminded that the Sunday delivery is for parcels post matter and not for letters.

M. I. A. TEAM SHIFTS LINEUP

Entire Team Changed About for the Game With Y. M. C. A. Tonight.

A complete shakeup in the arrangement of players in the M. I. A. squad is announced for tonight's game with the Y. M. C. A., when the first battle for the championship of Eastern Oregon begins. Earl Rosenbaum goes in at center, John Schofield (Captain) and Larsen guards, A. Bean and J. Rosenbaum forwards. Ray Baum and Arnold Ferrin will take utility seats. The game begins at 8 o'clock.

PRESIDENT VISITS SENATOR

John Sharpe Williams Recipient of "Mysterious" Call by Wilson.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—(United Press)—President Wilson mysteriously visited the residence of Senator John Sharpe Williams, of Mississippi, today. Mr. Williams later refused to divulge the reasons, but explained his illness prevented him accompanying the Mississippi delegation to the White house. Mr. Wilson called for the purpose of conferring on important matters.

Combined Choirs to Sing.

This evening at 7:30 o'clock the choir of the Ministerial association churches meet at the Y. M. C. A. to practice the carols for Christmas eve at the public Christmas tree at Adams and Depot streets.

Sixteen Boys Save \$130 In Two Months

Members of Two Scout Patrols Honored By Bankers and Others at Reception Last Evening in the Y. M. C. A.

Thrift is one of the cardinal principles of Boy Scouts, and last evening there were appropriate speeches and ceremonies at the Y. M. C. A. to commemorate splendid thrift displayed by the two patrols of Troop 3, of this city, of which Rev. G. L. Clark is scout master. For two months each of the two patrols has been in a race to learn which group of eight could earn and save the most money. The Eagles, a name designating one patrol of eight scouts, of which Harry Mohr is patrol leader, won the highest honors. The Coyotes, with Fred Kivette as patrol leader, won the second prize. The total amount saved by these 16 boys, not only saved but earned in two months, is \$130.40. This splendid evidence of thrift brought out bankers, friends generally and parents at the reception last evening. N. K. West & Co. gave as first prize a most beautiful and fully equipped flag—a large one—which becomes the permanent property of the Eagles. Fifteen dollars in money was given to the winners of second place.

Scout Master Clark spoke to the assembled friends who had come out to give honor to the boys who really have exemplified the principle of thrift, reviewing the origin of Scouts, telling their principles, their duties, what they are and what they are not. Among these "nots" are listed militarism, politics and religious sects, although each boy is required to attend some church. The address was right to the point.

Scout Master Robert Eakin of Troop 2 then presented to the winners the beautiful national emblem. With very appropriate words he described something of the Scout ways of saluting the flag, but emphasizing that reverence for a flag, for religion or for oneself must come from within. As the flag was presented and Leader Mohr accepted it, the audience sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

F. J. Holmes, president of the La Grande National bank, then dwelt upon the relation between the boy and the bank, giving the boys some very sound advice about thrift.

John H. Rudd, an esteemed citizen of La Grande, also greeted the assembly. At the conclusion of the program Mrs. Clark and the Boy Scouts served refreshments and an informal reception was held. A noteworthy fact brought out was that the troop has earned \$500 since July 1, although that sum was not saved but spent for useful purposes. Several business and professional men contributed to the second-prize gift. They included T. J. Scroggins of the U. S. National, F. J. Holmes, Dr. C. T. Bacon, Attorney John S. Hodgins, Dr. R. E. L. Holt and F. L. Lilly.

COUNTY LEVY IS FIXED BY COURT AT 12.5 MILLS

TOTAL IN LA GRANDE, FOR ALL PURPOSES, AMOUNTS TO 39.5 MILLS

STATE TAX REQUIRES A LEVY OF NEARLY 3 MILLS

With Naming of County Levy Late Yesterday Afternoon Taxpayers Now Acquainted With Complete Levy in All Cities, Towns and School Districts—Call Warrants Levy of 1.3.

Property owners of La Grande have to meet a total levy for all purposes of 39.5 mills. Late yesterday evening the county court and commissioners fixed the county levy at 11.2 mills, which with an additional call for warrants levy of 1.3, makes a total of 12.5 mills for all county purposes. This includes, of course, the state tax requirements which are considerably higher than last year. The county court fixed the county levy as follows:

General fund	5.71
School fund	2.11
High school	.54
Library	.03
Indigent soldiers	.05
State	2.76

Total 11.2
Call warrants 1.3
The various cities and school districts of the county have various levies for local needs. In La Grande, for instance, the city levy is 15 mills even, and the school levy 12, which makes a total in La Grande of 39.5 mills.

Young Man Meets A Sudden Death

Wilbur McCully, Former Yale Athlete, and Joseph Banker, Succumb After Prolonged Illness.

Wilbur McCully, erstwhile banker at Joseph, son of the pioneer merchant, F. D. McCully of Joseph, and a Yale athlete of prominence for a time, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at 4:20. The deceased has been in ill health for about four years, but his death came as a sharp surprise. He was compelled to give up his position as cashier of the First National bank of Joseph, a position he had filled creditably, when a general breakdown overtook him. Since then he has been able to be about some but never fully recovered.

He is survived by the widow, Mrs. McCully, who is a daughter of Mrs. Cahoon of this city.

The funeral will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 from the Elks' auditorium, of which order he was a member, and the funeral will take place in the Masonic cemetery.

He was 34 years old and of fine physique. The casket will not be opened at the auditorium, but friends may view the remains at 1308 Pennsylvania, the family residence.

Eye Witness to Salem Murders is Quizzed

Girl Tells How Her Companion First Shot Marion Hotel Clerk and Then Committed Suicide in Her Room.

Salem, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—The Salem police today quizzed Lillian Knightlinger, of Salem, who is the only eye witness to the murder of Thomas W. Cummings in the Marion hotel yesterday, and the subsequent suicide, by Myrtle White of Portland. Cummings was the night clerk at the hotel.

Mrs. Knightlinger said she had gone to her bath room when Cummings knocked at the door of the bed room the two girls occupied. Clad only in her nightgown Myrtle went to the door and shot Cummings and then suicided.

Miss Knightlinger said Myrtle had arranged five cartridges around the clock the night before the shooting and that when Lillian asked the reason Myrtle only laughed. Cummings' uncle from Corvallis, and a cousin from Eugene, have arrived and other relatives in Montana have been notified. The police believe Cummings' cooling affection caused the tragedy. The police also found that he had been writing letters to four other girls.

(Continued on page 8.)

SECOND HEAVY SNOWFALL HITS THIS SECTION

WHILE TRAINS ARE DELAYED SNOW NOT REAL CONTRIBUTING CAUSE OF FACT.

SILVER THAW AVERTED BY LACK OF HEAVY FROSTS

Wires Bend Under Load of Soggy Snow But Kind Wind Eventually Shakes Loose the Burden and Communication and Light Wires Are Saved—All Trains Behind Time This Morning.

Although about seven inches of fresh and unusually wet and heavy snow fell in the valley last night, with correspondingly greater volume in the mountains, it was not the snow that crippled railroad traffic last night or this morning.

Street cleaning departments had a busy time getting the walks and streets opened up. This is the second big snowfall in the past few weeks.

Silver Thaw Narrowly Averted. Last midnight the soggy snow fastened itself to wires about the city and glistened under the arc lights, while the wires sagged threateningly. Happily for telegraph, telephone and electric light companies, a wind came up and blew off the snow before a freeze set in. Portland's famous silver thaw would have been repeated locally, compared to what would have happened here in the event of a sharp frost this morning.

Mail Carriers Suffer. Lugging great sacks of mail and packages, the city mail carriers tramped through the snow this morning under handicaps and impediments. Like all good workmen, they stayed with the job until the walks were cleared off.

Railroading Is On Slow Basis. Considerable congestion in transcontinental passenger traffic has been prevalent in Eastern Oregon the past night and this morning. In the first place, all trains from the east are very late, due to bad weather along the route, and in the second place, two freight cars off the track at Mencham in such a way that both the siding and main line were blocked, helped tie up transportation several hours.

Last night's No. 19, due at midnight, arrived here several hours late and was held three hours in the local yards, due to the Mencham trouble, where great abundance of snow retarded the rerailling work. The train proceeded westward at 8:30 this morning. Number 4, the morning train from Portland, was held on the other side of the two box cars, arriving here a few minutes ahead of No. 6, the noon train.

Stop Running on Time. Tonight's trains from the east are again late. A stub running as No. 19 is due to arrive on time, but the regular No. 5 is seven hours late and regular No. 19 is two hours late. The fast mail due here last evening arrived this forenoon as first No. 17, being about three hours more than 12 hours late. The second section followed in rather closely. The second section is the regular morning No. 17.

Eight mail and express cars on the first No. 17 were packed tight. Express and mail departments, as well as baggage men, were flooded with work for two hours just before noon handling the over-abundance of trains.

Both rotaries were out on the hill keeping the heavy snow off the tracks. Absence of wind and the softness of the snow made the snow plows merely precautionary.

RUMORED RAIDS LEAD

TO FRESH BORDER AID
Ajo, Ariz., Dec. 20.—(United Press)—Two companies of the Fourteenth infantry have arrived at Yuma to patrol the district between Ajo and the border, on account of threatened Villista raids. The troops were deployed southward as the border is 28 miles distant. It is understood the troops will remain several months. The arrival here followed a department of justice investigation of conditions.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Fair, except unsettled and probably rain in Western Oregon. Eastern Oregon colder with south to west winds.

County Office On Its Last Legs Now

County Recorder Proctor's Office Soon to Be Merged With That of the County Clerk—Details Voluminous.

January first the office now held by H. D. Proctor—that of county recorder of conveyances, becomes a matter of history, the office having been abolished by the last legislature, effective January 1. While the records and books generally will remain where they now are, the work will be directed by the county clerk's office, and some of the records of the clerk's office will be moved into what are now archives of the county recorder. There is considerable detail to be worked out by County Clerk-elect McCormick. Just how the duties will be distributed, he is not ready to announce. Who will be the chief deputy in the recording department of the clerk's office is not made public at this time either. But the voluminous amount of business that has been added to the clerk's office necessarily will require much detailed re-arrangement.

RIVERIA PARENTS TO MEET

Thursday Evening Program to Be Rendered As Pre-holiday Event.

Thursday evening, beginning at 8 o'clock, the Parent-Teachers' association of the Riviera school district will meet and listen to a program of the following complexion:

Recitation, "Hiawatha," Garnet Sreenblock.
Play, "Ring Out the Joy Bells," Fifth grade.
Recitation, "The Night Before Christmas," Bessie Swalberg.
Address, Rev. G. L. Clark.

DRESSED HOG FOR XMAS

Rev. Roberts of Methodist Church South Recipient of Generous Gift.

This morning Rev. Roberts of the Methodist church, South, received a dressed hog from friends in Imbler, by express. The pastor was not slow in getting the 175-pound porker to his home, where feasting commenced in due course of time. Rev. Roberts and family are much gratified over the Christmas package.

Post Office Records Shattered This Week

Great Crush of Business Is Being Handled With Difficulty, As Force Is Curtailed by Sickness.

The present week promises to smash all records in postoffice money-order business. Day before yesterday the sale of orders in the La Grande office was the greatest in any one day in the history of the post office. Most of the orders were domestic, few going out of the country.

With Miss Snook, a clerk, in the hospital, and Postmaster Bragg himself "under the weather," the force at the postoffice is combating the terrific Christmas crush with fortitude and good success, in spite of handicaps. Every afternoon sees a big lineup of package bearers waiting for stamps at the windows. The parcels post business is heavy, and the records will show La Grandeers are generous givers.

Haines Pastor "Speaks Out."

Haines, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—The citizens of Haines received a scathing denunciation from the Baptist pulpit Sunday morning, when the pastor charged that gambling and bootlegging were going on in Haines right along, that minors were being given liquor, a condition that should be remedied immediately, and he proposed a petition that everyone in the house was asked to sign. This petition will be presented to the city council.

Huntington Club Nearly Ready.

Huntington, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—The construction work on the new railroad clubhouse is rapidly taking on form, the contractor N. C. Sears reporting that the weather permits he will surely have it completed by January 1. It will have a natty appearance and will cost approximately \$3600 when finished.

NORTH POWDER CASE TO

BE DECIDED BY COURT

Salem, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—The Supreme court today decided the Violet Parker et al vs. Grace Kelsey et al (appellants), appealed from Union county. It was a suit to quiet title. Justice Barnett affirmed Circuit Judge Knowles' opinion. The suit was brought to establish the plaintiffs' right to land through oral agreement which Kelsey used in his lifetime. The litigants reside at North Powder.

CONTROL CLOVER SICKNESS

The results so far obtained in experiments in clover-sick regions, being carried on by the department in cooperation with the Indiana and Wisconsin experiment stations, indicate that in the cases investigated the incorporation of certain green manures, accomplishes a control of this trouble.

GUN PLAY AT BAKER'S HIGH SCHOOL PARTY

JANITOR SHOOTS AT BOYS WHO WERE DISTURBING PARTY TEACHERS ATTENDED

SUPT. STRANGE PURSUES BUT CAN'T IDENTIFY THEM

Sheriff Investigating Situation Today—Believed Possible That One of the Band of Boys Was Injured When Janitor Fired Shotgun at the Group and Dispersed Them.

Baker, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—Chief of Police today is investigating a disturbance at the Baker high school last night. A number of boys disturbed a teachers' party and Janitor A. D. Beasley fired a shotgun, dispersing them. School Superintendent Strange pursued the boys but was unable to identify any. It is believed that possibly one was slightly injured.

Shooting Affair Deplored.

Baker, Ore., Dec. 20.—(Special)—The trouble is said to have arisen when several young men students visited the high school building, where a party was being given by the young ladies of the faculty. It was a fancy dress or costume affair, to which no masculine guests were invited. When the boys appeared at the building, the teachers present phoned both to Beasley and Professor Strange, the former arriving first. It was at this juncture that the shots were fired, several of the boys being hit as noted above. A moment later Professor Strange arrived, hearing the shots shortly before he got there. He said that he heard three or four shots, possibly more, and saw the boys running. As they halted, he himself gave chase and the boys disappeared, he seeing them no more and unable to identify any by name. He then met Beasley, but said he saw no weapon in the latter's possession, nor did he actually see the shots fired, although he heard several of them, the first when he was approaching and again when the boys had been driven off the first time, presumably by Beasley. Professor Strange did not desire to be quoted on his conversation with Beasley or others as to the affair. He was at home when the call came for help from the young ladies and went to their rescue, arriving as stated, just after the first shots were fired.

Professor Strange deeply regretted the affair and while gratified that none of the boys were seriously hurt, expressed opinion that they were responsible for the trouble by visiting the high school building for the purpose of mischief-making. Nevertheless, he deplored the shooting and will aid the authorities in every way possible to get to the bottom of the affair.

BEAVERTON POSTOFFICE

ROBBED OF VALUABLES
Beaverton, Ore., Dec. 20.—(United Press)—A burglar rifled the registered mail and the postoffice till of \$600 worth of Christmas presents. He jimmied the rear door. A posse is pursuing.

Governor a Moose.

Salem, Dec. 20.—(Special)—The governor of every state in the union is a member of the Moose lodge, according to Dictator Benjamin Brick, including the governor of Oregon. Governor Withycombe was the last to join. Therefore, in order to make the chain complete, Governor Withycombe was induced to sign an application for membership into the Loyal Order of Moose and he was properly initiated on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Send the Christmas Observer to Your Friends

A limited number of the Christmas Edition of The Observer will be sold at 10 cents, including mailing and postage.

Those who desire to send them away need only phone The Observer, Main 37, the addresses and The Observer will do the rest.