

# La Grande Evening Observer

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## America Nearer Verge of War

### CANADA AND ENGLAND INDIGNANT AT WILSON

Washington, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Secretary of State Lansing said today a desire for a complete show-down by belligerents was the real purpose behind President Wilson's peace not which last evening startled the whole world. Mr. Lansing declared frankly the United States is drawing nearer to the verge of war and that the present situation cannot continue. He authorized the following statement:

"Our rights have been invaded. The situation is becoming intolerable. Belligerents on both sides are invading American rights more and more. The situation is increasingly critical. "I mean the United States is drawing nearer to the verge of war and therefore is entitled to know what the belligerents want so we can regulate our future conduct."

Mr. Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal to Premier Lloyd George was not connected with the sending of Mr. Wilson's note. He declared the President does not intend to suggest peace

but wants to render the neutrals' positions less intolerable. Lansing's whole talk emphasized the idea America must "do something" in the event her rights are further invaded.

British, Italian, Japanese, German, Bulgarian, Russian, and Turkish ambassadors visited Secretary Lansing this morning and received copies of the note forwarded to their governments. Mr. Lansing said Pres. Wilson finally decided to send the note Monday, and forwarded it that night and Tuesday.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, in Special Article for The Observer Points Out Why New and Powerful Navy Cannot Be Had if Congress Legalizes Oil Freebooters.

(Editor's Note)—Up to date the department of justice has been unable to protect the government's oil lands, reserved for naval use, from the operations of trespassers. The Phelan bill pending in congress seeks to uphold the trespassers. What our navy department thinks of the situation is set out in the following article by Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt.)

By FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT Assistant Secretary of the Navy Washington, Dec. 21.—It seems a pity that the issue of petroleum reserves for the United States navy has, to a certain extent, been clouded by legal or other claims which do not in any way affect the broad proposition. The chief consideration must be that of the good of the country from the point of view of its national defense.

### PASSING THE PHELAN BILL NATIONAL SUICIDE

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Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The very life and future existence of the United States navy is at stake. This may be easily proved by the following simple statement:

First, oil-burning naval vessels possess great advantage over coal-

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### LIVESTOCK MEN TO MEET IN LA GRANDE

FIRST MEETING HELD TO ARRANGE PLANS FOR BIG CONVENTION APRIL 24-25.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO HANDLE THE DETAILS

Cattle and Horsemen of Union Pledge Their Hearty Co-operation—Wallowa Stockmen to Be Invited to Attend the Big Affair and Join Association.

Livestock men of Union and Wallowa and the business men of La Grande will play a leading part in the entertainment of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, when it meets in annual session in La Grande April 24 and 25.

Gathered at the Foley hotel last night, at a banquet in honor of S. O. Correll, of Baker, secretary of the association, and William Doby, of Baker, treasurer of the association, steps were taken by La Grande businessmen and Union stockmen to form an executive committee to arrange for the entertainment and reception of the 600 guests who will attend the big convention.

A motion was passed that J. G. Snodgrass, president of the Commercial association, head the executive committee and that he appoint the members, which he did as follows:

FRED J. HOLMES.  
T. J. SCROGGIN.  
G. L. LARISON.  
W. M. PIERCE.  
W. R. LEDBETTER.  
ALBERT HUNTER.  
FRED B. GURNEY.  
F. E. STILWELL.  
J. E. REYNOLDS.  
ANDREW BLOCKLAND.  
W. J. TOWNLEY.  
P. H. SPILLMAN.  
C. D. EMAHISER.  
GEORGE T. COCHRAN.  
Bone and Sineu of State.

"You people of La Grande and Union and Wallowa counties ought to feel honored that you are going to entertain the Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of the Northwest," said Mr. Correll, secretary of the association. "They are the bone and sinew of the state and represent our most important industry. You will find them the brightest, liveliest, and best crown of men and woman that La Grande has ever entertained. One of the reasons that La Grande was chosen as the meeting place of this convention was to give the livestock men of Wallowa county an opportunity to meet with us and to become acquainted with the important work of this association.

"Of course, you know that the association is organized to promote the interests of horse raisers and cattle raisers. It publishes a brand book, it maintains a brand inspector at the stock yards in Portland, it looks after legislation that affects the stock industry, it sends out notices to members of strays, and acts in general to promote its members' interests. It offers rewards in certain cases for the arrest and prosecution of cattle thieves and employs special counsel to aid district attorneys in their prosecution. Starting in Pendleton three years ago, there were 40 present at the first meeting. The next year at Prineville there were 300, at Baker last year 600, and since the

### PEACE NOTE IS IN PLAIN WORDS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—(Special)—Wilson has appealed to all belligerents to discuss terms of peace. Without actually proposing peace or offering mediation, the President has sent a formal note to the governments of the warring nations, suggesting "that an early occasion be sought to call out from the nations a war such as avowed of their respective views as to the terms upon which the war might be concluded and arrangements which would be deemed satisfactory as a guarantee against its renewal or kindling of any similar conflict in the future as would make it possible frankly to compare them."

Summarized in the president's own words as contained in the notes, which were dispatched Monday night, his attitude is as follows: The President is not proposing peace. He is merely offering mediation. He is more than proposing that soundings be taken in order that we may learn, neutrals as well as belligerents, how near the heaven of peace may be for which all mankind longs with intense and increasing longing. He believes the spirit in which he speaks and the objects which he seeks will be understood by all concerned, and he confidently hopes for a response which will bring a new light into the affairs of the world.

The President specifically says in his notes that he is somewhat embarrassed in making suggestions at this particular time, "because it may now seem to have been prompted by a desire to play a part in connection with the recent overtures of the central powers." To the central powers the President says his action is in no way "suggested" by the Teutonic proposals, while to the entente his note says: "It is in no way associated with them." To both sets of belligerents he says he "would have delayed offering it until those overtures had been answered but for the fact that it also concerns the question of peace, and may thus be considered in connection with other proposals which have the same end in view."

The President in his notes, after saying his action has long been in mind, added, "The President can only beg that this suggestion be considered entirely on its merits and as if it had been made in other circumstances." The President looks forward in the notes to the part neutrals shall take in assuring the future peace of the world. He expresses justification in "suggesting immediate opportunity for comparison of views as to terms which must precede those ultimate arrangements for the peace of the world, which all desire, and in which neutral nations as well as those at war are ready to play their full responsible part."

Part of the objects which the belligerents have in mind, the President pointed out, are virtually the same as in the general terms to their people and to the world, but as yet the concrete objects of the war have never been definitely stated: "Never yet," he says, "have the authoritative spokesmen of either side avowed the precise objects which would, if attained, be satisfactory to them. The world has been left to conjecture what definite results, what actual exchange of guarantees, what political or territorial changes or readjustments, what stage of military success, even, would bring the war to an end. It may be that peace is nearer than we know, that the terms which the belligerents on one side and the other would deem it necessary to insist upon are not so irreconcilable we assume has been feared, that an interchange of views would clear the way for a conference and make the permanent concord of na-

### NOTE STARTS WILDEST CRASH IN MANY YEARS

New York, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The stock exchange prices crashed today, following Secretary Lansing's explanation of the president's note. Despite big banking interests support 3,175,000 shares were dumped. This has been the wildest day since the Northern panic of 1901.

### Commission Declares Brownton Elected

### H. S. Brown to Take Office January Second—Light Distribution is Again Deferred.

To officially declare the results of the recent municipal election was one of the duties falling to the City Commission at its meeting last evening. All members were present. The arc light distribution was once more laid over. The canvass of the municipal election was read and H. S. Brownton officially declared elected. He will take office the first Tuesday in January.

Bills were allowed.

Lee Warnick's official resignation was handed in and accepted.

### La Grande, Ore., Dec. 20, 1916. General Manager's Report for the Week Ending December 16, 1916.

To the Commission of the City of La Grande, Oregon:

Fire chief reports no fires.

City Treasurer's report for the week as follows:

Receipts—Water rents, \$348.38; installments on assessments, \$1216.14; interest on assessments, \$527.24; county taxes, \$18.07; electrical permits, 50 cents. Disbursements—General fund warrants, \$499.22; interest on same, \$57.50; water fund warrants, \$437.04; District 27 warrants, \$354.60; interest on same, \$109.04; improvement bond interest, \$330.

City Recorder's report for the week as follows:

District No. 27, No. 2nd St., \$81.13; interest on same, \$3.30; Sewer Dist. No. 3, Sec. 5, \$74.48. Warrants issued as follows: For bills allowed, \$1303.34; for judges and clerks of election, \$126; for two labor certificates, \$32.50.

Street Superintendent's Report for the week as follows:

Spent \$9.50 for team and driver; \$9.37 for white-wing; took care of water and slush on Main St.; and filled some holes in New Sewer Dist.

Water Superintendent's report for the week as follows:

Spent \$121.10 on 12-inch sewer at Second street crossing, and \$3.35 on the shut-off list.

Chief of Police report for the week as follows:

Number of arrests, 1; one conviction; number of special officers, 1.

Respectfully submitted,  
J. E. FOLEY,  
City Manager.

### FORD PLANT TO CLOSE 10 DAYS

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 21.—(United Press)—General Manager Kline-Smith has announced the Ford plant will close tomorrow until January 3, for the purpose of relieving the rail road congestion. Forty-two thousand employees will receive no pay during the suspension. It means a wage loss of \$2,000,000. The factory will sacrifice profits on approximately 25,000 cars, as it makes 2500 daily.

### O-W. Embargo Details Arrive.

Effective January 26 and lasting until January 7, the recent O-W. embargo will be in full effect on many classes of shipments. It is not believed the indirect results of the embargo will seriously curtail the payroll here, as westbound freight will continue to move, and there will be liberal local business, of course. The embargo reaches out to shipments headed for St. Louis and Chicago. The order says:

"On account of embargoes issued by various lines east of Chicago and St. Louis and their inability to handle anything except livestock, perishable freight and foodstuffs (foodstuffs do not include grain and flour), we will be obliged to refuse to accept any freight except as designated, destined to points east of Chicago and St. Louis in Central Freight Association and Trunk Lines territory, except that copper bullion and concentrates for all destinations may be accepted. Any freight accepted for Chicago, St. Louis and west thereof can not have the privilege of reconignment to points in eastern territory that is embargoed.

"Just as fast as the eastern lines give us advice that they can take freight that is embargoed as above mentioned, we will immediately modify our order to same extent."

### War Bulletins

Paris, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Four German aeroplanes were destroyed near the Somme. Snow and rain have hindered the Saloniki front fighting.

Huge Liner Split in Two.  
Marseilles, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Toulon has reported the French cruiser Ernest Renen collided with an Italian steamer. Fifteen perished. A warship rescued 115. The impact split the liner.

Another Steamer is Sunk.  
New York, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The American consul at Malta has informed the state department a British steamer, the Saint Ursula, with six Americans aboard, was torpedoed without warning. The Americans were saved.

Violent Battles Raging.  
Berlin, Dec. 21.—(United Press via Sayville)—Germans have ejected the British from positions north of Arras. Germans successfully raided West Villers and Carboneul. Artillerying is most violent on both sides of the Somme.

NEW AUSTRIAN CABINET HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED  
Copenhagen, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Vienna has reported Clem Martiniz has organized a new Austrian cabinet. Von Spitzmuller failed to form a ministry.

WEATHER FORECAST.  
Rain west; rain and snow east. South winds.

Luther Burbank Marries.  
Santa Rosa, Cal., Dec. 21.—Luther Burbank and his secretary, Miss Elizabeth Waters, were married today.

### DEPUTY SHERIFFS ARE NAMED

Elgin and Union Men Will Assist Lee Warnick in Administering Laws of the State Next Year.

Wayne Graham, of Elgin, and Dexter McElroy, of Union, have been appointed deputies to Sheriff-elect Lee Warnick, who takes office January 2. The two men are well known in their respective communities.

Just which arrangement will be made is not known, just yet. "I shall arrange which of the two men will take the outside work and which the book work, as soon as we take over the office," declared Mr. Warnick today.

### AMERICA NOT TO ABANDON NEUTRALITY

Washington, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Secretary of State Lansing late this afternoon issued a supplementary statement to his communication of this morning, in which he says the United States does not intend to abandon its neutrality. He said he had learned that his earlier statement has been subjected to "various constructions other than what he meant to convey."

### CAMPBELL GIVEN ARIZONA GOVERNORSHIP BY OFFICIALS

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 21.—(United Press)—State Secretary Osborn has issued a certificate of election to Tom Campbell, Republican, over Governor Hunt, Democrat. He claimed the victory by 36 votes. Hunt immediately renewed his contest.

### CHRISTMAS MORNING TO SEE TREE FOR "KIDDIES"

The Eagles will have their Christmas tree for the children of La Grande at 10 a. m. Christmas morning, and all children are welcome.

The committee has been working energetically to make their annual event to their little friends a pleasant one. Their final plans will be fully outlined after the "Happy March" on Friday night.

To avoid inconvenience to the children, the tree will be in the store next to the Foley hotel on Adams avenue.

Remember, Kiddies—all the girls and all the boys Christmas morning at 10 o'clock.

Napoleon's Advice.  
A man ought never to quarrel with a woman. He should bear her unreason in silence.—Napoleon.

### SCHOOLS PREPARE TO USHER THE HOLIDAYS FITTINGLY

Tuesday morning the students of the high school listened to a debate given by five members of the debating class. The question under discussion was: "Resolved that the state of Oregon should adopt a health insurance law embodying the essential features of the standard bill of the American Association for labor legislation."

Affirmative—Lynn Larson, Alfred Johnson and Vinton Forbes.  
Negative—Clayton Ingie and Joe Reynolds.

The boys handled the subject well though only constructive arguments were used. Mr. Hampton conducts the debating class at 8:30 and in the evenings and the boys are getting a good deal of good practice in public speaking. Later this line of work will be developed throughout the entire school.

The Entre Nous Club will entertain the high school girls Thursday afternoon in the gymnasium.

Arnold Ferrin and John Stoddard were visitors at school Tuesday.

Some new apparatus has been added to the Physics laboratory.

Rev. Mr. Edwards will address the students Friday afternoon.

The public schools of La Grande are

(Continued on Page Eight.)

### ENGLISH OPEN IN OBJECTION TO NEW MOVE

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, has moved to endorse President Wilson's note, and asked for immediate consideration. Senator Borah opposed. He declared that while the president manifested his best intentions, the senate should withhold its verdict. He suggested a better peace plan may materialize later.

### Canadians Openly Indignant.

Toronto, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Canadian officials and the press have condemned President Wilson's note urging peace. Hon. G. H. Ferguson called it "gratuitous and inopportune."

Hon. F. G. McDiarmid predicted the British will strongly resent it.

The Morning World headed the story, "Wilson Starts His Knitting."

It said the action merely safeguarded American interests. It believes the United States fears the allies will make trade deals among themselves after the war, barring neutrals who are not participating in maintenance of world liberties.

### NATIONAL PROHIBITION GIVEN ANOTHER BOOST

Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The senate judiciary committee has reported favorably on the National Prohibition bill. It provides absolute prohibition in the United States.

(Continued on page 8.)

### 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.