

La Grande Evening Observer

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UNITED STATES MAY AFFILIATE TO KEEP PEACE

SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES NOT TO BE SLIGHTED IN ANY ALLIANCE MADE

PROPOSAL REPLY IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL NEW YEAR

While No Definite News Is Out Concerning Date of Reply, Diplomats Believe Mr. Wilson's Note Has Changed Complexion of Allied Reply to German Proposals.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—Secretary of State Lansing has issued a statement indicating the United States may enter an European alliance if it enter an international agreement to enforce peace. He said the discussion is somewhat premature but held the United States naturally would join South American nations and also certain European powers in the event an alliance is necessary.

The state department believes European powers will not frame a peace answer until after Christmas. Official do not know definitely when the allies' answer to the German proposals will come but believe the allies' opinion of Pres. Wilson's note will change the answer.

WILSON'S ACTION EXPLAINED

London Globe Thinks Germany Coerced Wilson to Write Peace Note

London, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—Sources close to the foreign office have divulged the entire answer to Germany's peace proposals will probably not be delivered before 10 days. Mr. Wilson's peace note undoubtedly is partially responsible for the delay. It is stated the delay is chiefly due to the fact the allies must exchange views before framing the answer.

The Globe suggested President Wilson maybe wrote the note because Germany threatened ruthless frightfulness unless the United States made a supreme peace effort. It declared such an event would form a complete explanation of Wilson's note and "Lansing's indiscrete comment."

SANTA VISITS CARRIERS BRINGING HAND COVER

All the carrier boys who bring The Observer tonight are wearing new gloves or mittens, as the case may be. At one o'clock today the boys were called in and Santa Claus under the direction of Don Meyers and Mrs. Clarke Leiter, with the assistance of O. E. Moran, guided the carrier boys to glove stores where the carriers were given a token of appreciation of their work in delivering papers. With the compliments of the owners and editor of The Observer the boys made their selection and proceeded to break them in with the same haste boys break in boots.

After the complete surprise had been digested the youngsters met in secret conclave and passed resolutions of gratification.

LOPP CASE READY FOR JURY NEXT WEEK

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—The case of Franz Bopp, the German consul general, accused of violating neutrality, is expected to go to jury Thursday.

Bopp's cross-examination will be concluded Tuesday. Three more defense witnesses are scheduled.

NIGHT RIDERS FOUND NOT GUILTY BY JURY

Tacoma, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—A federal court jury has brought in a verdict of not guilty in the famous night riders cases against 12 Pacific county men charged with conspiracy to deprive Mrs. Margaret Ross of her homestead rights and forcibly ejecting her family from a timber claim.

FIGHTING CONTINUES WITH VILLA BANDITS

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 23.—(United Press)—Americans connected with

NO MAIL SUNDAY
Confusion seems still to prevail over the special deliveries of packages during the Christmas period. The city mail carriers go out once with parcel post Sunday and not at all Monday. The general and carrier windows will be open Monday morning—not Sunday. The rural routes go out Monday, not Sunday.

foreign enterprises escaped from Aguas Calientes before Villa captured Chihuahua. It is learned Villa took the city easily. Government forces prepared to evacuate when bandits appeared.

Following one clash the Villistas waited until the evacuation was completed and entered unopposed.

General Salazar, Villa's chief lieutenant, is occupying a strategic position south of Chihuahua.

Continuous fighting between Salazar and Murguia is reported. Another attack on Chihuahua is imminent.

Celebrates Community Christmas.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 23.—(United Press)—Fifteen thousand people are expected to pack the city auditorium tomorrow night to celebrate Denver's first community Christmas. Extensive plans have been made for the affair and the entire city will play Santa Claus to Denver's kiddies.

The program will consist of a musical and literary entertainment and the distribution of gifts to about 10,000 children and from an immense Christmas tree placed upon the stage of the auditorium.

Judge to Play Santa Claus.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 23.—(United Press)—For children whose Christmas Eve was shattered by quarreling parents, Judge Stelk of the Court of Domestic Relations tomorrow will set up a big Christmas tree decorated with cranberries and popcorn and sacks of candy in his court room. The judge will play Santa Claus to all children whose parents have been in his court with domestic troubles this year.

Christmas Carnival in Frisco.

San Francisco, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—San Francisco will officially celebrate Christmas tomorrow night with a pageant which will outlive anything that has ever been attempted here during the Yuletide. The city supervisors will be in charge of the affair, which will be staged in the Civic Center, in front of the city hall.

Senator Interrogates LaGrande Constituents

Six Per Cent Limitation Admittedly a Hard Problem to Handle, in Opinion of Senator C. A. Barrett.

State Senator C. A. Barrett, of Athena, representing Union, Umatilla and Morrow counties, spent the day in La Grande, interviewing his constituents and consulting them as to matters of legislation in which Union county is interested.

"The coming session of the legislature will be very important," said Mr. Barrett, "and also difficult. We will have to be very careful in order to keep within the six per cent limitation placed upon us by the people. I shall continue my fight to eliminate useless commissions and to eliminate useless expense. I shall be glad to hear from my constituents in Union county at all times on matters in which they are interested, which will come before the legislature."

MISSING ATHLETE SHOWS UP.

New York, Dec. 23.—(By United Press)—Les Darcy, the Australian middleweight and light heavyweight champion, arrived today aboard the Standard Oil tanker Cushing. He worked his way from Australia as a stoker. He used the name of Lester Dawson. He went immediately to a hotel. He denied evading military service, but declared he intended to join the British army after meeting several American fighters. He is most eager to meet Mike Gibbons.

Darcy recently mysteriously disappeared from Australia and was reported dodging military service.

Pittsburghers With 3 Million Spend.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 23.—(United Press)—One hundred thousand men and boys with \$3,000,000 in their pockets gave the Christmas shopping symphony a grand finale today.

They are the workers in the big steel and munitions plants of the Pittsburgh district—probably the highest-priced army of skilled and unskilled workmen in the country today.

Nearly all of them were paid within the last 24 hours, but this was the half-holiday when they were expected to cash in at the stores.

Hundreds of these who received fat envelopes are men whose earnings have been above \$3000 for the year. At a hearing in Turtle Creek recently, three workers told Justice Riddle that they had made, respectively, \$4100, \$4500, \$4800. As many of the "boys"—16 to 21—receive from \$5 to \$10 per day the man who ekes out only about \$3500 isn't such a much.

Argentine Farmers Lose.

Buenos Aires, Nov. 23.—(United Press)—"Wake up, Argentina, and build grain elevators," urged Gert T. Holm, a Swedish-Argentine and foremost cereal expert in the republic, in an appeal today to the country's farmers.

Holm estimates that these farmers lose \$200,000,000 annually to the "grain trust" through lack of storage facilities, which compels them to market their products in a hurry and on whatever terms the trust dictates.

BONUS OF ONE MONTH'S WAGE GIVEN TO MEN

O-W. EMPLOYEES UNDER \$150 MONTHLY TO GET GIFT FROM UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM

DETAILS OF INSURANCE UKASE NOT AT HAND NOW

Board of Directors Issues Order Paying to All Employees Regardless of Department Fancy Bonuses—Insurance Plan Adopted and Brief Review of Details Sent By Wire.

Although particulars have not reached division officials in La Grande an order promulgated by the board of directors of the Union Pacific yesterday is creating widespread joy in La Grande today. Several hundred employees in La Grande are to get a month's wage as a bonus, and will be put under life and sick insurance by the Union Pacific. A telegram from the board of directors to J. D. Farrell, president of the O-W. R. & N., has set out briefly what the plan is. Until division officials are officially notified, press dispatches alone are available as a source of information.

The Union Pacific railway system, which includes the O-W. R. & N. and the Oregon Short Line, has decided to carry at its own expense life, accident and sickness insurance to the extent of one year's full wages, for every employee whose compensation does not exceed \$4000 per year, regardless of age or condition of health. The minimum to be carried is \$500 and the maximum \$2500.

The plan goes into effect January 1, 1917, and includes every employee of the Union Pacific Railroad company, Oregon Short Line Railroad company and Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company who has been, or shall be by that time, one year in the service. Insurance is to be carried for each employee as long as he or she remains in the service.

The benefits of insurance will include those retired on pension after January 1, 1917.

Bonuses Are Announced.

In addition to this, all employees of all three roads, without any discrimination, receiving less than \$1800 a year and who have been in the service since January 1, 1916, are to receive as extra compensation one full month's salary each.

The insurance plan as outlined in Mr. Lovett's telegram is as follows:

"Life insurance to the amount of one year's full wages, with a minimum of \$500 and a maximum of \$2500, the benefits of this insurance to include those retired after January 1, 1917, upon pension.

"Accident insurance, covering total disability, resulting from injuries in the performance of the employee's occupation, consisting of half pay during disability, with a minimum of \$5 per week, and a maximum period of two years, and for certain permanent injuries resulting from such occupational accidents, such as loss of leg or arm, the half pay indemnity to continue in any event for periods definitely fixed—the maximum indemnity for any one accident to be \$2500.

Sickness Insurance Provided For.

"Sickness insurance, covering both illness of at least one week's duration and also injuries resulting from accidents not occurring in the performance of the duties of the employee's occupation, consisting of half pay while the employee is disabled and confined at home, with a minimum of \$5 per week and a maximum period of 52 weeks and with an additional indemnity of half wages for a further period of 52 weeks if it appears that the employee has become totally and permanently disabled for life, subject to a maximum disbursement of \$2500.

"All the foregoing insurance and benefits will be payable in monthly installments.

"The life insurance will be payable to beneficiaries designated by the employees.

"The plan contemplates an arrangement with a responsible insurance company to issue life and accident policies called for by this plan until and unless the railroad companies shall hereinafter conclude to issue certificates of insurance themselves to their employees.

Full Particulars Coming.

"Circulars giving full particulars with forms for names, ages, beneficiaries, etc., will be issued for the information of all employees as soon as the necessary details can be worked out. But in the meantime, the insurance will become effective January 1, 1917, whether the individual policies can be issued by the date or not, and the life insurance will be payable to legal representatives if death should occur before the beneficiaries are designated by the employees.

"The object which the directors ex-

Santa Claus Spurns Aeroplanes and Submarines, In Interview at North Pole This Morning; Sleighs Preferred

By GEORGE MARTIN

United Press Staff Correspondent.

At the North Pole, Dec. 23.—(Via Wireless)—It was pitch dark when the United Press man got here to see Santa Claus this year; and he had to ring the sleigh bells at the main entrance of Santa's big silver barn a long time before anybody answered. Finally a big, cheery voice inside called out:

"Hello, there! Why don't you turn on the lights?"

"Where are they?" the reporter called back.

"Why," said Santa with a chuckle, as he rolled back one of the big, black marble doors and stepped out, "they're where the Northern Lights ought to be; in this gold and silver box fastened to the North Pole over here." So saying he switched them on, and say, weren't they beauties.

Maybe you've seen the Northern Lights; great, glowing shafts of purple and crimson and white, all laced and woven with the softest hues and tints you ever saw.

"I was a bit worn out getting ready for the trip," said Santa as he turned around and shook hands, "and I was just getting a little nap. Won't you sit down?" We walked over to a big frosted snow bench in front of the barn.

Santa Makes Changes.

Things were a lot different than they were when the reporter was up here last year. The gigantic silver barn with the hundred reindeer, the heavy sets of spun gold harness and the Christmas sleigh that a regiment of soldiers could walk around in, were there. And the mountain of toys and

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SANTA CLAUS AS LITTLE LA GRANDE FOLKS SEE THE VISION TODAY.



Kris Kringle Was Interviewed at the North Pole This Morning by a United Press Correspondent Who Wirelessly His Report to The Observer—Kris Is Here Shown Rapidly Approaching Oregon—and La Grande.

New Concern Will Open Doors Jan. 1

Pure Milk and Cream Company Enters Business Field—Former Newspapermen Constitute the Company.

With the beginning of 1917, a new firm makes its debut in La Grande. It is the Pure Milk & Cream company and its organization here is similar to steps being taken in the larger cities. The name implies just what the purpose is, and to safeguard "purity" on which the firm announces special emphasis, painstaking methods have been employed. Carpenters, cement men, paper hangers, painters, plumbers and machinists are and have been busy several days rearranging the Thornton building between the Ritter studio and The Observer office, on Sixth street.

Former Newspaper Men in Firm.

The company is composed of Geo.

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ATHLETE ON HIS WAY EAST

Ray Couch Home for Few Days for First Time in Two Years

After having spent two days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. U. G. Couch of Island City, Ray Couch, first-line reserve backfield man on the champion University of Oregon football team, left this morning for St. Louis to represent the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at the national convention. He hopes to complete his mission in St. Louis in time to reach Pasadena to see the Pennsylvania-U. of O. game New Year's day. "The team is not hopeful but will fight to the last ditch," explained the half-back today noon. He declares the battle is going to be the classic of the west this year and will make a strenuous effort to see it. This is Mr. Couch's first trip home in nearly two years.

ARABIA'S STATUS EXPLAINED

Ship Germans Sank As British War Prize, Declared Was Neutral.

Washington, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—The British government has informed the state department that the steamer Arabia was not a transport and not in the admiralty service. It was an ordinary passenger liner when she was submerged without warning. It is admitted she carried a few government passengers.

SWITCHMEN'S DEMANDS PARTIALLY GRANTED

New York, Dec. 23.—(United Press)—The Federal Arbitration board has filed an award in the Federal court partially granting the demands of the Switchmen's Union of North America. Switchmen asked 13 eastern and middle western railroads to pay time and a half overtime. The board granted five cents an hour increase to conductors and helpers, from today until December 23, 1917, and an eight-hour day with pro-rata over-time.

Home From Long Trip.

E. C. Davis, a tombstone dealer, has returned from a prolonged trip to Mulkeytown, Illinois. He went to several middle-western cities and enjoyed the trip immensely.

OPEN ARMS TO GREET SANTA'S VISIT MONDAY

THREE-DAY OBSERVATION OF YULETIDE IN STORE FOR PEOPLE OF LA GRANDE

BASKETS OF FOOD ON WAY TO THE POOR

Numerous Public Christmas Trees Given By Benevolent Organizations—Civic Tree and Program on the Streets Sunday Evening—Widespread Cheer and Happiness Is Forecasted.

Prosperity having left its fat purse in the hands of most people, with promise of ample snow to make the celebrations "white," with peace and quiet within our gates, with happiness running rampant, with the community Christmas trees in place and the carolers ready, with benevolent institutions such as the Elks, Eagles, Salvation Army and various individuals ready to dispatch cheer into homes that actually need succor, with all these things Christmas looms upon La Grande with beaming face. Commencing tonight and continuing until Tuesday evening, Christmas trees, Christmas dinner baskets, Christmas programs, Christmas dinners, Christmas homecomings and Christmas spirit will find free fields to gambol upon. Every year La Grande devotes a little more effort to make every soul within her confines gladder than the year before. The present season is no exception.

Baskets Packed Last Night.

There was a great deal of work done in the Salvation Army hall last evening, while 50 baskets were being prepared with goodies to eat for as many families by the officials and members. These baskets are being sent into needy homes today. Donations from the public were liberal and Ensign Childers is much pleased with the co-operation received.

Dinner for Strangers Monday.

Next Monday at high noon 100 plates will be laid for strangers or homeless boys and men who happen to be in La Grande. Pool halls and other places of lounging for strangers will be combed by invitation bearers Monday. In addition there will be some plates for needy families who did not get baskets. During the evening of Sunday there will be the Salvation Army Christmas tree at the hall, followed by a public tree at the Elks' auditorium under Salvation Army auspices Tuesday night.

Lodges Have Trees.

Every boy and girl in La Grande can truthfully say he will have a Christmas tree for his special benefit this year—two of them, in fact. Monday morning at 10 o'clock the Eagles have their Christmas tree for members and all the little boys and girls who want to come. This function will be one of the joys of Yuletide.

During the afternoon of Monday the annual Elks' Christmas tree program will be held at the auditorium, and Santa Claus will bring his cheery presence and presents to every boy and girl in La Grande that cares to attend. This, too, will be an event for the little tots of extreme importance.

Tomorrow morning the lodge sends out about 50 Christmas packages containing a sack of flour, a sack of potatoes, sugar, corn, beans and other goods needed for a delicious dinner—and also a goose. These magnificent gifts will be distributed to places most needed. The members are especially desirous of having it understood the Christmas tree program at 2:30 Monday is open to all children.

Individuals who can afford to, have been generously beneficent during the pre-holiday period and it is doubtful if La Grande's population has ever approached Christmas with greater universal joy and gratification.

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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.