

La Grande Evening Observer

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Brotherhoods and Railroads Disagree: Strikes Are Feared

ALLIES ARE TO MAKE BIG DRIVE IN THE WEST

ARTILLERY PREPARATIONS INDICATE EFFORT MADE TO PIERCE GERMAN FRONT.

CHALLENGE OF HINDENBERG FOR WINTER BATTLES TAKEN

Efforts of President Wilson, Central Powers and Switzerland for Peace Fail—Germans Take Offensive and Claim a Victory—Resistance of Russians and Roumanians Broken.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN
Berlin, (Via Sayville), Dec. 29.—(Wireless to United Press)—Judging from reports from the front and diplomatic comment, efforts of Pres. Wilson, the central powers, and Switzerland now making for peace will not succeed in bring the war to an end immediately.

That war will not end without the allies making a gigantic effort to break the German front is indicated by artillery preparations now being made.

England in the west, the allies in Greece, Russia and Roumania expect to accept the challenge of Hindenburg's winter battles.

When these battles commence the peace talk will probably subside to await the outcome.

Germans Take Offensive.

Paris, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—A sudden German offensive following a violent

(Continued on Page Five)

ITALY LEARNS WAR GAME IN TWO YEARS

Last of the Allies to Join the War, At First the Italians Were Like Schoolboys But Now They Are Fighting Like Scientific Demons—War Is Costing the Nation \$8,000,000 a Day

BY JOHN H. HEARLEY,
United Press Correspondent.

Rome, Dec. 29.—(By Mail)—Last of the Allies to enter the war, Italy has learned the lesson of military, naval, political, economic and social unity for successful prosecution of that war more quickly than her fellow nations in the entente. The year 1915 was the year in which she showed how well she had learned those lessons.

Italy joined the Allies in May, 1915. Her army and navy had a theoretical training for modern war. But for months after she threw her lot with the Allies Italy had to suffer the hard schooling of the present-day battleground before she was actually prepared.

"Until January 1, 1916, we were like schoolboys, studying strange lessons—but learning them well, was the way

Grocery Stores Will Close on New Year's

Housewives of La Grande had better make their purchases early this week as all grocery stores will remain closed on New Year's. Practically all other places of business will also close. This, however, does not include the drug stores which will remain open most of the day. Most of them will be closed in the afternoon from one until five.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH CARRANZA?

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—(United Press)—The American government found itself in a quandary over the diplomatic features of the Mexican situation. It had to decide whether to stay game and tell Carranza the American-Mexican conference had ended or whether to relax recently firm position or yield to his further appeal for a modification of the agreement.

Members of the joint commission will meet in Lane's office Tuesday it is announced.

Villa on Rampage.

El Paso, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Villa severed two railway lines leading north and east, isolating Tampico, Saltillo and Monterey and communications south, it is authentically reported to the United States authorities. Federalists state this presages immediate movement against Saltillo and Monterey by Villa.

Confess to Murder.

Shreveport, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—John Long and Henry Waler two whites, arrested at Minden, confessed to the murder of John Reeves, three sons and his wife. Two negroes also confessed.

Mystery Is Not Solved.

Eureka, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Despite coroner's verdict of accidental death in the case of Lawrence Whitesides, whose body was found in the snow at a ranch in Humboldt county, the mystery is not wholly cleared. A bullet hole was found in his temple.

Sherwood Williams Favors Better Service

Sherwood Williams, cashier of the Bank of Imbler, is very much in favor of the movement for better transportation service between La Grande and Elgin and Imbler. As it is, it is very inconvenient for business men to come to La Grande to transact business at the courthouse or other business, and he suggests that La Grande join in and make an effort to get better train or motor car service between these points.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Bandits Rob Bank of \$6000 and Escape in Automobile.
Denison, Texas, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Six bandits dynamited the Bank of Hagerman, eighteen miles west of here and escaped with six thousand dollars. A posse exchanged shots with the robbers who dashed out of town in an automobile.

Three Hundred, Mostly Chinese Laborers, Perish on Ship.
Tokio, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Three hundred, mostly Chinese laborers, perished in the wrecked Sankoku Maru according to estimates. Some killed were Chinese pirates boarding the grounded ship.

Postmaster General Casegrain Dead at Ottawa, Canada.
Ottawa, Canada, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Postmaster General Casegrain died today.

American Ambassador Makes First Call on Lloyd George.
London, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Ambassador Page visited Premier Lloyd George for the first time since the latter became premier. A great deal of speculation ensued as to the nature of the visit. It is announced that the visit was merely to pay his respects.

Turkey's Answer to President's Peace Note Is Received.
Washington, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Turkey's answer to President Wilson's peace note has been received.

Villa Levies Tribute on Torreon and Marches Onward.
El Paso, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—After levying a loan of a hundred thousand pesos, Villa evacuated Torreon and is marching toward Saltillo, according to reports at Carranza headquarters. Murguia reoccupied Torreon. While at Torreon Villa was careful not to harm foreigners or their property.

Elks to Present Show "Night in Bohemia"

The B. P. O. Elks will present a musical comedy, "A Night in Bohemia" soon. Director Love is ready to begin rehearsals. A contract was closed last night with Rufus K. Love, the well known director of Elks shows. Mr. Love has a very fine musical farce comedy entitled "A Night in Bohemia."

There will be about 79 in the cast. The play is chuck full of good clean fun and a lot of new and popular songs. Many of our best local amateur artists will take prominent parts. There is a special number for a lot of high school girls and one great big comical song and dance for 25 little girls from 14 to 16 years of age. A lot of special dances will also be given if Director Love can get the material.

SIZES UP BILLY SUNDAY

New York, Dec. 29.—Dr. Appleton Morgan, Shakespearean scholar and author, has weighed the "movie" against Billy Sunday and "the movies" win.

Dr. Morgan is heartily in favor of Sunday motion picture shows, but he wants "such sacrilegious performances" as Billy Sunday's meetings confined to week days, "that the Sabbath may be kept holy."

AMENDMENT WOULD LIMIT IMPORTATION OF BOOZE INTO COLORADO

(By United Press)
Denver, Colo., Dec. 29.—One quart of whiskey and a half case of beer will be the total amount of intoxicants permitted a family in Colorado for one month's consumption if the dry forces of the state succeed in putting through a proposed amendment to the prohibition law at the coming session of the state legislature.
A permit to import intoxicants would have to be obtained from the county clerk and placed on record, under the proposed amendment.
Under the present law, unlimited quantities of liquor may be imported for personal use.

UNION PACIFIC WINS BATTLE WITH THE SNOW

Cold Snap Hits Baker, Pendleton and La Grande—Temperature Here Four Degrees Above Zero Last Night—Rotary Plows Keep This Division Open.

The Union Pacific has won its battle with the snow and blizzards in Wyoming.

A telegram was received this morning that the line was open and that the trains which were held between Laramie and Rawlin in Wyoming were now coming through.

No Eastern mail has been received in La Grande since the 26th, except a small bunch that came through this morning on a stub from Salt Lake.

Movement of Trains.

The movement of trains which were delayed in Wyoming are as follows:

No. 5 train of Dec. 28 will reach Huntington at 3:30 p. m. and La Grande at 6:55 p. m.

No. 19, of Dec. 27 and 28 have been consolidated and will reach Huntington at 3:45 p. m. and La Grande about 8:05 p. m.

The first section of No. 19, No. 17's train of Dec. 27 will reach Huntington about 7:30 p. m. and La Grande about 11:40 p. m.

The second section of No. 19, No. 17's train of Dec. 28, will reach Huntington about 8:15 p. m. and La Grande about 2:25 a. m.

The first section of No. 5, No. 50's train of today, will reach Huntington about 9:15 p. m. and La Grande about 12:45 p. m.

The second section of No. 5, No. 19's train of today, will reach Huntington about 12, midnight, and La Grande about 3:25 a. m.

All of the east-bound trains are on time.

The rotaries have been at work in this division in the neighborhood of Telocaset and Mencham, and so far have had no difficulty in keeping this division open.

Cold Snap Hits Eastern Oregon.
The cold snap has hit Baker and Pendleton and La Grande. Last night the lowest temperature registered here was 4 degrees above zero.

RAILROAD MEN REFUSE TO ACCEPT COMPROMISE AS DID SWITCHMEN

Who Will Be The New City Manager?

Who will be city manager? City Manager J. E. Foley announced this morning that he was not a candidate. The selection will be made next Tuesday, the day assigned by the charter for the selection.

Commissioner J. D. McKean, it is understood, was a candidate, and also J. F. Laffy who, it is reported, has made a verbal application for the position.

Mr. Foley desires to retire, having merely accepted the position as a temporary appointment.

UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION SERIOUS

Buenos Aires, Dec. 1.—(By Mail)—(United Press)—Unemployment is so serious in Argentina today that tramps are roaming the country in small armies. Beyond seizing a number of freight trains to get from one district to another, the vagrants have committed no serious acts of violence but anxiety is felt lest grave trouble develop in the provinces at any time.

The governor of the state of Cordoba has already held a conference concerning the situation with the leaders of the various parties in the provincial legislature but without deciding on any definite plan. In the meantime President Irigoyen, at his own expense, is feeding all applicants for food in Buenos Aires.

Mrs. J.E. Foley Receives Gift of 1100 Acre Farm

Mrs. J. E. Foley received a very handsome Christmas present from her mother, Mrs. ohanna Gangloff, in the gift of 1100 acres of land lying adjacent to the city and west of the hospital.

LAWSON IS INVITED TO GO WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Chairman Henry wired Thomas W. Lawson an invitation to come to Washington immediately at conference so that Lawson can give information regarding the Wall street leak on Wilson's note.

PEACE WILL BE THEME FOR THE YEAR 1917

State Department Will Be Occupied With Diplomatic Negotiations—Submarine Problems, German Deportation of Belgians, English Blacklisting, and Interference With Mails, English Embargoes, Etc.

BY CARL D. GROAT

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Washington, Dec. 29.—Peace promises to be the transcendent theme of the state department the coming year, in sharp contrast to the almost warlike moments of some months last year.

Intermittent peace talk took definite form in the last weeks of December, after Germany had proposed peace to the Allies. From now on, it will be the enormous subject before the state department in view of the fact that this government seems destined to play a big part in what ever peace negotiations are undertaken.

Yet while peace talk passes back and forth between the chancelleries of Europe and in the granite halls and mahogany chambers of the American state department, other international matters of grave moment,

New York, Dec. 29.—(United Press)—Disagreement between the railroads and the brotherhoods may result in separate strikes by different brotherhoods on different roads in the country, according to brotherhood heads, following their refusal to accept a compromise similar to the switchmen's. A special circular will be issued soon outlining the entire matter to brotherhood members.

Conference Discontinued.

New York, Dec. 29.—(Special)—The conferences of representatives of railroads and the four brotherhoods of railway employees, at which were discussed the possibility of settlement of the eight-hour controversy, were discontinued abruptly yesterday when it became apparent an agreement could not be reached. Both sides announced there will be no more meetings until after the supreme court decides the pending case involving the constitutionality of the Adamson law.

The break came when the railroads refused to concede the demands of the brotherhood chiefs for an agreement enforcing the new wage schedule as fixed by the Adamson law, which is scheduled to become effective January 1. The brotherhoods held the employees should draw wages according to the Adamson law scale irrespective of the suits testing the validity of the law. The railroads contended for the present scale but if the Adamson law is upheld they will give employees back pay from January 1.

Must Be Settled.

These questions, serious at times almost to the point of ruptured relations, are direct heirlooms of the war, affect America as a neutral and are destined to have their standing when international law is rewritten after the war.

Many Issues Involved.

In addition to possible complications with Mexico, the main issues of the last year still are pregnant with difficulties which American diplomacy is seeking to smooth out, at the same time protecting adequately and honorably the rights of America and Americans.

These Issues are:

Submarine problems between Germany and the United States.
German deportation of Belgians.
English interference with mails.
English blacklisting of American

(Continued on Page Four)