

La Grande Evening Observer

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

VOLUME XVI

LA GRANDE, OREGON. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY, 2, 1917.

NUMBER 103

CABINET MEETS ON CRISIS

Germany Sinks Six of The Allies' Ships

DIPLOMATIC TROUBLES WITH JAPAN ARE GROWING ACUTE

Washington, D. C., Feb. 2. -- The Cabinet is holding an important meeting this afternoon to discuss the answer of President Wilson to Germany's warning that unrestricted submarine warfare will be conducted in the forbidden zones surrounding the Allies' territory. Germany today sank six of the Allies' ships. Three lives are reported lost. The American liner, Philadelphia, with Americans on board, is nearing the forbidden zone. The Japanese situation is also growing acute. Secretary Lansing told Senator Borah today Japan was displeased with the proposed Idaho anti-alien law. The Panama canal is being closely guarded. Today's cabinet meeting is regarded as the most important since the Spanish-American war.

ANSWER TO GERMANY IS UNDER DISCUSSION

LANSING REFUSES TO GIVE OUT STATEMENT. CABINET MEETING ENDS. SITUATION GRAVE

Washington, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The cabinet meeting adjourned after the longest session since the Lusitania sunk. President Wilson immediately went to the capitol to confer with Senator Stone. The members were very grave.

(By Robert Bender, United Press Correspondent.)
Washington, Feb. 2.—The state department announced: "Nothing has been sent to Germany yet."

It was hinted officially that a definite announcement would be forthcoming within twenty-four hours. Every indication is that President Wilson is still undecided.

The most important cabinet meeting since the Spanish War started at two-thirty this afternoon. It is expected to last until evening.

Preceding the meeting the President conferred with Chairman Stone, of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Army officials ordered extra precautions to be taken guarding the Panama canal. It was learned that the locks have been closely watched since Tuesday.

Special preparations were taken throughout the country to prevent German plots. Secret service men are watching possible conspiracies.

Senator Poindexter presented a bill asking for a hundred submarines in addition to the eighteen already provided. It provides eighty coast and twenty big sea-going submarines and appropriates four million dollars to equip government yards for their manufacture. Thirty-one will be built on the Pacific coast.

The navy department this afternoon refused to divulge locations of warships which were heretofore published daily.

Three More Allies' Ships Are Sunk Today.

London, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The Admiralty announced the following additional sinkings this afternoon: British steamer Ewonite, Spanish steamer Algorta, Belgian steam trawler Marcell. Total of six today.

Germany Believes United States Will Not Declare War.

(By Carl W. Ackerman, United Press Correspondent.)
Berlin, Feb. 2.—Few Germans believe that America will declare war. They think the German blockade will force Great Britain to accept peace. People are unitedly backing the government. All forces are co-operating. Prominent men said: "The submarine will cut the Allies' blood vessels."

American Liner, Philadelphia Is Nearing Forbidden Zone.

New York, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The American liner Philadelphia, en route to Liverpool, is nearing the barred zone. Many Americans are aboard. Captain Candy wirelessed that the steamer, nine hundred miles west of Fastnet at noon yesterday, was making fifteen knots an hour, despite a broken shaft.

Four Steamers Sunk And Three Lives Are Lost.

London, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The Norwegian

steamers Portia, Heckla, and the British steamer Ravenbourne, were sunk by a German submarine. Three on the Ravenbourne perished.

Vessels Cannot Leave Without Clearance Papers.

Philadelphia, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—A torpedo boat destroyer from League Island navy yard arrived in the Delaware river under orders to prevent any vessels leaving without clearance papers.

Massachusetts Militia Is Ready In Case of Call.

Boston, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—Adjutant General Pearson announced that the Massachusetts militia was preparing an answer to possible call of duty in connection with the submarine crisis. He sent instructions to all state commanders to prepare their units for service.

German Ships Are Inspected In Portland.

Portland, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The collector of the port boarded and inspected the German ships Dylbek and Arnoldus, under orders from Washington. He expected also to inspect the Kurt at Astoria.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE

House Leak Committee To Leave New York.

New York, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The House leak committee temporarily ends its New York work this afternoon. It will meet tomorrow morning at Washington to hear the testimony of George A. Ellis, Jr., member of the Hutton firm, who signed the message in connection with Secretary Lansing's statement.

Germany Establishes Martial Law In Brussels.

The Hague, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The exchange telegraph learned today that Germany has decided to establish martial law in Brussels. New deportation orders affecting sixty thousand Belgian workmen have been issued.

Forty Are Killed in Chicago Tenement Fire.

Chicago, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—Five were rescued alive from a burned tenement house in the crowded Ghetto district this morning. One woman was found under the icy debris among the corpses. Forty are believed dead.

House Passes Bill for Recall of School Directors.

Salem, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—The House passed the Eddy bill providing for the recall of school directors. Thirteen negative votes were cast. Smith's bill providing that taxpayers only may vote in school elections was sent back to the educational committee.

The House adopted the minority report favoring Stott's bill providing that the public service commission regulate irrigation projects. The bill was passed to the third reading.

The Senate passed Senator Pierce's bill prescribing the method for submitting the proposition levying taxes in excess of six per cent limitation to popular vote.

Meet Tomorrow to Form Farm Loan Association

Tomorrow is the day assigned for the organization of Union county's first Farm Loan association. That is, this will happen if the attitude and today's hopes of Union county's agricultural and other business population are continued. Farmers called yesterday at The Observer office and at County Agriculturalist Seilman's office to learn more about the farm loan act. Letters have been received asking for information and urging immediate action in formation of an association. More than enough men have already signed the applications for loans. There is nothing, today, that is known which can prevent the perfection of the organization started last Saturday.

The meeting is called for 10 o'clock tomorrow morning in the city hall.

IDAHO'S ANTI-ALIEN LAND LAW DISPLEASES JAPAN

SECRETARY LANSING SO TELLS SENATOR BORAH. OREGON'S BILL IS WITHDRAWN

Washington, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—Secretary Lansing told Senator Borah that the proposed Idaho anti-alien law "will not meet Japan's approval."

Senator Borah explained the measure was directed against all aliens.

The threatened diplomatic Japanese-American difficulties are nearer.

Senator Wilbur Withdraws His Anti-Alien Land Bill.

Salem, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—Senator Wilbur withdrew the anti-alien land bill. He said, since Germany changed its submarine policy, he is unwilling to impose further burdens on the administration.

German Attack Fails, Dunkirk Shelled.

Paris, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—It is announced that the German attack on Lorraine failed. Artillerying is taking place in the Louvrement Sector near Verdun. Enemy aircraft shelled Dunkirk and did small damage. No casualties.

German Troops Are Massing on the Dutch Border.

Rotterdam, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—More German troops are reported massing this afternoon on the Dutch border at points near Weilen and Venebrugga. Holland is generally apprehensive.

Germans Eject British From German Trenches.

Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 2.—(United Press)—It is announced that a counter attack ejected the British from German trenches at Guedecourt, on the Besulencourt road. Several prisoners were taken. Seven enemy aeroplanes were destroyed. The Crown Prince captured twenty prisoners. Flyers are active.

WINTER'S WORST STORM TIES UP THE RAILROADS

All Trains Annulled This Morning—Main Line, 12 Hours.

Derailment of an engine and rotary plow at Union Junction at 7:30 this morning will tie up the O-W. R. & N. main line for at least 12 hours. Heavy snow drifts on the Joseph branch will tie that line up indefinitely. Railroad officials this morning said the Joseph branch probably would not be opened for at least four or five days. All trains on the main and branch lines have been discontinued until further notice. Number 6, eastbound, was

(Continued on Page Eight.)

Buckley Transferred; J. F. Corbett Promoted

Effective Yesterday Are Changes Made in This Division Office:—Corbett Is Assistant Superintendent.

Effective yesterday were the following changes in La Grande division, O-W. R. & N. company, officials: A. Buckley, assistant superintendent, to be assistant superintendent at Portland; J. F. Corbett, chief dispatcher, to be assistant superintendent of the La Grande division with offices here; C. F. Roberts, night chief dispatcher, to be chief dispatcher, La Grande. Superintendent Bollons and Assistant Superintendent Corbett are conferring upon the man to be placed as night chief operator. Assistant Chief Corbett said today that in all probability a La Grande man would be named night chief dispatcher.

J. F. Corbett has been in La Grande with the O-W. R. & N. company most

(Continued on Page Eight.)