

La Grande Evening Observer

PHONE OBSERVER YOUR WANT ADS. MAIN 37

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

PHONE THE OBSERVER YOUR NEWS. MAIN 37

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PRESIDENT WILSON SPEAKS TO CONGRESS ASKS THAT HE BE GIVEN FULL POWER TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES DECLARES WAR WOULD COME ONLY THROUGH GERMANY'S ACT

MR. WILSON ASKS AUTHORITY TO ARM OUR MERCHANTMEN

DID NOT ASK WAR DECLARATION BUT MERELY ARMED NEUTRALITY. SAYS SUBMARINING OF THE LAW WAS RUTHLESS ACT.

GERMAN OFFENSES INDICATE THAT THE KAISER WILL NOT CHANGE POLICY

Mr. Wilson Says He Devoutly Hopes It Would Not Be Necessary To Put Armed Forces Into Action. Says He Is a Friend of Peace and Will Preserve Peace So Long As He Is Able.

Washington, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—President Wilson asked the joint session of Congress to give him authority to arm American merchantmen and to take other means necessary to protect American lives and interests on the high seas. He wants a patriotic union of all opposing forces to present a united front to Germany.

He did not ask a war declaration, merely armed neutrality.

He said German offenses against the United States indicated the Kaiser's determination to continue ruthless submarining. He declared submarining the American ship law disclosed "a ruthless method, deserving grave condemnation."

President Wilson said the United States must protect American lives in the midst of the present trying circumstances.

Diplomatic means had failed to preserve neutral rights against Germany's unwarranted infringements.

He devoutly hoped it would be unnecessary, "to put armed forces anywhere into action."

He said: "I am not proposing war or any steps that may be leading toward war. I am a friend of peace. I mean to preserve peace so long as I am able."

He said war would only come through Germany's act. He asked sufficient credit to enable him to provide adequate means for protection.

Chairman Flood immediately called a meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which will consider the bill giving the President necessary powers.

ONE CARLOAD COAL IN CITY; NONE IN SIGHT

RAILROAD HAS FORTY-EIGHT
HOURS SUPPLY—WILL BURN
CRUDE OIL.

SNOW ALONG O. S. L. BLAMED FOR SITUATION

American Express Company Sends
Local Office One Ton by Express—
Dealers Say Big Coal Consumers
Have Little Fuel on Hand—No Relief in Sight.

An inventory of the available coal for public consumption in La Grande today is one carload. That was received Saturday night by J. D. Lynch

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House and Senate Foreign Committees Meet

Washington, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—The House and Senate Foreign Committees were hurriedly convened this afternoon to discuss President Wilson's proposals. It is understood that Chairman Flood proposed a tentative resolution, empowering the President to arm merchantmen and appropriating one hundred million dollars as an emergency fund.

Business Men's Luncheon Tomorrow

Ed E. Kiddle will be the speaker of the day tomorrow at the business men's luncheon at the Sommer hotel. J. G. King of the Y. M. C. A. will preside. Those who wish to attend should notify Mr. King at once. Phone Main 81.

Pendleton Pure Food Show.

Pendleton, Ore., Feb. 26.—(Special)—Pendleton is to hold a "Pure Food Show" March 1 and 2. It will be put on by Manager Ray Crystal of the Peoples' Warehouse with the assistance of wholesalers and jobbers.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Washington, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—It is announced that President Wilson will address the joint session of Congress at one o'clock this afternoon to ask power to protect American life and property on the high seas.

Borah Introduces Bill To Relieve Food Situation.

Washington, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—Senator Borah introduced a bill appropriating six million dollars to relieve the food situation. The bill provides the President direct the expenditures.

American Freighter Orleans Will Dock Tomorrow.

PARIS, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—The American freighter Orleans entered the Gironde River. She will dock at Bordeaux tomorrow.

Gerard Wants Warship to Escort Him Home.

Washington, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—It is officially stated that Ambassador Gerard asked the state department to assign a United States warship to convoy him en route homeward on account of the threatened German war. No action was taken.

BRITISH RECAPTURE GARRISON OF KUT-EL-AMARA FROM TURKS

Turkish Troops Are in Full Retreat—General Haig's Forces Threaten Bapaume Following Great Gain.

London, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—Bonar-Law told the Commons the British had recaptured Kut-El-Amara. The Turkish garrison is in full retreat. The British captured the entire enemy positions at San-Ai-Yat.

General Haig's forces are imminently threatening Bapaume following the German evacuation of the trenches in that sector.

The British achieved the greatest gain since the battle of Marne. Practically no losses were suffered.

Carson announced that a German destroyer shelled Margate and Broad Stairs Sunday night. One woman and one child were killed, two children were hurt.

Bonar-Law said the British "win-the-war" loan totaled over seven billion five hundred million dollars new money.

BRITISH AND GERMAN SHIPS MEET IN BATTLE

London, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—It is announced that British and German destroyer squadrons fought Sunday at midnight in the North Sea. After a heavy engagement with guns and torpedoes the British remained undamaged. "The extent of the enemy damage is unknown," said the official bulletin.

Boy O.-W. Truck Rider Killed This Morning

Parts of Body Found From Kamela to Rieth—Fancy Riding Saddle May Bear Clue.

Parts of the body of a boy believed to be between 18 and 20 years of age were found this morning along the O.W. line between Kamela and Rieth. It is thought the accident happened on number 5 early this morning. In a sack on the truck where part of the body was found when the train reached Rieth was a fancy riding saddle with the inscription, "J. E. A., Silverton, R. F. D., Box 6. Born March 18, 1898."

Fined for Being Drunk.
Pendleton, Ore., Feb. 26.—(Special)—The first case of drunkenness under the bone-dry law, which is now a state offense, was brought when Herman Peters was arrested, pleaded guilty and was fined. He was trying to drive an auto.

Haines Man Electro- cuted in Cove Saturday

Cove, Ore., Feb. 26.—(Special)—Albert C. Springer of Haines was electrocuted Saturday afternoon while repairing electric transmission wires three miles east of here. The dead man had been visiting at the home of John Rutter, electrician, and when Mr. Rutter was called to town Saturday afternoon Springer volunteered to repair the wires which had broken and fallen to the ground. Two and a half hours after leaving Springer, Rutter and a friend, Mr. Evans of Baker, who was accompanying Mr. Rutter home to spend the night, found Springer's lifeless body in the road where it had evidently fallen. The remains were sent to Haines yesterday afternoon for interment.

Mr. Springer was a single man and lived with his parents in Haines.

Pendleton to Have Style Show.

Pendleton, Ore., Feb. 26.—(Special)—Pendleton is to have a community style show at the Temple theater next Thursday and Friday. It will put on by A. H. Allen and the local merchants. Two New York models and Pendleton girls and young men will appear in the latest styles.

GERMANY SAID TO BE PLAN- NING FOOD RAID IN HOLLAND

Troops Are Mysteriously Massed On The Northern Border. Several Dutch Ships Are Torpedoed But Not Sunk.

(By ED. L. KEEN, United Press Correspondent.)
London, Feb. 26.—It is believed that Germany deliberately plotted the torpedoing of seven Dutch ships last week. It is believed she wants to force a war raid on Dutch food supplies.

Large German forces are mysteriously massed on the Northlands border.

It is reliably learned that the Dutch steamers Minodo, Bandoeng, Zaandijk and Eemland were not sunk. They were badly damaged by torpedoes and towed into port. The crews returned to Falmouth after telling the Dutch Consul all the circumstances.

Berlin Announces British Attacks Fail.
Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—It is announced that British reconnoitering advances ailed in several sectors between Armentieres and Ancre. Several surprise attacks were attempted.

CUNARD LINER LACONIA SUNK OFF IRISH COAST

THIS IS THE BIGGEST VICTIM OF
GERMANY'S SUBMARINE
CAMPAIGN.

NEW YORK OFFICE SAYS SIX AMERICANS ABOARD

Eighteen Thousand Ton Liner Started on February 18 from New York to England—Reports Are That No Warning Was Given—Survivors Are on Way to Queenstown.

London, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—The 18,000 ton Cunard liner Laconia was submerged off the Irish coast Sunday night.

This is the biggest victim since submarining started February 1. The Laconia was en route from New York to England.

She carried American mails. Consul Frost at Queenstown reported 4278 survivors were en route to Queenstown from Bantry, Ireland.

The Cunard offices declared that the Laconia was torpedoed without warning. They stated no Americans were aboard the vessel.

New York, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—A cablegram to the local Cunard offices said one life was lost in the Laconia torpedoing.

A LENTEN PASTORAL; FIND- ING ONE'S SOUL--REV. GIBBS

My Dear Parishioners and Friends:—Letters received from England show the effects of the strain and anxiety from the war. But at the same time an optimistic spirit is manifest, which perceives the silver lining to the black cloud overshadowing the land. For the throes of war are proving those presaging a new birth, a great spiritual awakening and moral regeneration. Write one: "Owing to the war

The office declared six Americans were aboard. The Laconia carried a contraband cargo. She started on her voyage February 18.

Queenstown, Ireland, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—Fifteen of the Laconia survivors landed. They reported several injured. The Laconia's crew included twenty Americans. Cunard officials said the vessel carried unloaded ammunition. No explosives.

New York, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—Late this afternoon the Cunard Offices issued the list of names of eight American Laconia passengers, including Floyd Gibson, the war correspondent of the Chicago Tribune.

Mr. and Mrs. Bragg's Son-In-Law Is Dead

Word was received yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Bragg that their son-in-law Frank C. Spinning had died suddenly Saturday night in Los Angeles. Miss Bragg and Mr. Spinning were married last December and the news of his death comes as a distinct shock to their friends. The cause of his death is not known. The funeral will be held in Los Angeles tomorrow. Mrs. Spinning will arrive in La Grande probably within the next ten days.

THE WEATHER

Portland, Feb. 26.—(United Press)—The weather forecast: "Unsettled. Probably rain and snow east."

O.-W. Trains Are Late.
Number five is one hour and 20 minutes late today and number 19, two hours late.

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