

La Grande Evening Observer

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

PHONE THE OBSERVER YOUR NEWS. MAIN 37

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LA CONIA SINKING MAY BE OVERT ACT Two American Women Among The Dead PRESIDENT WILSON FACES A NEW CRISIS

HIGH OFFICIALS BELIEVE LA CONIA IS CLEAR-CUT CASE

Official Cables Confirm Press Versions. The Case Is Entirely in The President's Hands. Most Critical Situation Since Sinking of the Lusitania.

(By Robert J. Bender, United Press Correspondent)
Washington, Feb. 27.—Following the conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing the administration representatives declared that high officials believed the Laconia sinking was a "clear cut case."

It was strongly intimated that the administration considers the sinking an overt act. No investigation is regarded necessary.

Official cables confirmed the press versions. The case is entirely in President Wilson's hands. It was flatly stated that President Wilson must make the decision. The country is facing the most critical situation since the sinking of the Lusitania.

House Foreign Committee Splits

(By CARL GROAT, United Press Correspondent)
Washington, Feb. 27.—The House foreign committee split over President Wilson's request for power to protect Americans. It failed to report the Flood bill giving the President authority. Several members attempted to inject amendments. The committee voted to submit the amendments to President Wilson's consideration this afternoon. It will reconvene at four o'clock.

The minority fought against empowering the President to arm American ships carrying munitions. The Senate foreign committee minority raised some objection. No decision was reached.

House Committee Chairman Flood made an appointment to meet the President, who will probably inform him of the Laconia developments and urge the passage of the resolution giving him full power to act.

The minority did not object to arming food ships, but declared the passage of the resolution empowering the President to use other instrumentalities, "besides armed merchantmen gives President Wilson war-making power." Minority members said such an act was "unthinkable."

GERMANS ARE RETREATING TO MAKE STAND AT BAPAUME

Rear Guard and British Scouts Are Constantly Fighting. New Fortress As Strong as Gibraltar.

(By William Phillip Simms, United Press Correspondent)
With the British Army, Feb. 27.—The German retreat is breaking many war records. It is believed it will continue the retirement to the Arras and Combrai line. The British are rapidly pursuing. They are steadily pressing their advance toward Bapaume. The German rear guards and British scouts are constantly fighting.

The Germans mounted heavy guns on railway trucks. They offer a stiff resistance but quickly flee at the psychological moment. The Germans dynamited their strongest defenses.

The British established a new line far beyond the old Teuton first line. It is learned that thousands of soldiers and civilians are working to prepare the German defenses at Arras and Combrai. It is reported the Germans made Bapaume a modern Gibraltar. They plan to make their strongest stand there.

The Weather.

Portland, Feb. 27.—(United Press)
—The weather forecast: Probably fair, south winds.

Reception Tomorrow.

La Grande people are invited by the

Women's Missionary society of the Presbyterian church to a reception at the home of Mrs. E. P. Mossman tomorrow afternoon to meet Mrs. Tamaree, the Alaskan native missionary. Mrs. Tamaree, is Mrs. Mossman's house guest.

SEASON'S SNOW- FALL NOW MORE THAN 84 INCHES

IF 5.5 MORE INCHES FALL THIS
WINTER WILL HOLD
RECORD.

1912 IS ONLY YEAR
IN 16 NOT PASSED

But Three Nights in Three Months
Not Below Freezing—Most Days
Are Cloudy—Valley Residents Say
Drifts Are Big—Cougar Reported
at John Malloy's, Two Miles From
City—Deer Become Used to Hu-
mans in Ladd Canyon.

Today's snowfall brought the total this season to 84 inches. But one season in the past 16 surpasses: 1912, when there was a total snowfall of 89.5 inches. With a week or two still to live, the snow season of 1916-1917 may surpass even 1912's record.

Since December 3 there have been but three nights that the thermometer did not drop below the freezing point, 32 degrees. Those nights were December 17, January 6 and February 5. December 17 climbed out of the "freeze" column by two points. The other two "skinned" over with but one point to spare. Since December 1 there have been 105 cloudy days and 12 clear days. "Cloudy" includes those days when the sun peeped for just a short time.

The 84 inches of snow so far this season are distributed as follows: November, one inch; December, 28 1-4 inches; January, 37 1-2 inches; February (27) days, 17 3-8 inches.

The snowfall the past few days has been: February 23, 1 inch; February 24, 4 inches; February 25, 1 inch; February 26, 2 inches, and February 27, 3-8 of an inch.

The weather records are kept at the fire station by Chief Mackey and assistants.

E. L. Larn of Hot Lake, while in the city today, said the snow was worse than he had known it in the 30 years he has lived here. He said there was 20 feet in his orchard. He said deer at the mouth of Ladd canyon were becoming very tame. They have been in the canyon so long on account of the rigorous weather that they have become used to seeing human beings.

This morning a cougar was reported at John Malloy's, two miles from La Grande. As Mrs. Malloy reported the matter over the phone to the chief she said she could hear the animal's cries. The Malloys live close to Morgan Lake. Government Hunter Elmer Mires of Union with his dogs started at 8:30 this morning for Malloy's to kill the cougar.

"GOOD ROADS" WAS THEME OF TODAY'S LUNCH

ED KIDDLE EXPLAINS NEED OF
REAL HIGHWAYS TO
COMMUNITY.

DR. E. E. CONKLIN OF
U. OF O. IS A GUEST

Value of Get-together Affairs Be-
coming Apparent to City's Busi-
ness Men—Sixty-one Are Present
Today—J. G. King Is Chairman—
George T. Cochran, Bryan of the
Local Bar, Will Preside Next Tues-
day.

"These luncheons are a fine thing," said one business man as he stood in the lobby of the Sommer this afternoon after the regular Tuesday noon community-meal. He had just eaten with 61 La Grande men and heard Ed Kiddle of Island City give a splendid talk on good roads. Dr. E. E. Conklin, head of the department of psychology of the University of Oregon, was a speaker.

J. G. King was chairman of today's luncheon which ended at 1 o'clock sharp. Mr. King appointed George T. Cochran as chairman of next Tuesday's luncheon.

Those present who signed their names to the slips were:

J. G. King, Ed E. Kiddle, Rev. S. M. Roberts, Rev. A. J. Armstrong, R. Niles, Chas. H. Reynolds, A. C. Hampton, Wm. Miller, L. H. Russell, S. D. Crowe, R. F. Murphy, L. D. Butler, J. W. Knowles, A. W. Nelson, W. D. McCarthy, F. B. Currey, Mr. Andrews, R. C. Bean, S. A. Wheatley, Pat Foley, E. P. Mossman, Harry Bouvy, L. McCullough, C. J. Black, J. T. Williamson, H. R. Hanna, Robert S. Eakin.

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CONSUL FROST CONFIRMS LOSS OF TWO AMERICAN LIVES

Another American, Cedric B. Ivatt, May Be Among The Dead. Total Loss Is Thirteen. Survivors Number 267. Ship Sank in 45 Minutes.

(By ED L. KEEN, United Press Correspondent)
London, Feb. 27.—Consul Frost cabled that the deaths of two American women, Mrs. Mary Hoy and Elizabeth Hoy, Laconia passengers had been positively confirmed. He added Cedric B. Ivatt, probably an American, had apparently been lost.

Four other Americans were saved. The women died of exposure in a boat after the torpedoing. They were buried at sea.

The submarine commander approached the life boats following the sinking and inquired concerning the cargo. He did not attempt to aid survivors.

Thirteen are the total dead.

Two hundred and sixty-seven survivors landed at Queenstown, fourteen reached Bantry. The survivors reported that two torpedoes hit the Laconia. Doctor Hawke, of San Francisco, said the lights were extinguished immediately. Admirable discipline prevailed.

The ship sank in forty-five minutes. The Germans launched a second torpedo twenty minutes after the first. The Laconia fired rockets and worked the wireless until the last. Swells twelve feet high scattered the boats.

SIX AMERICAN SAILORS BELIEVED LOST.
New York, Feb. 27.—(United Press)—The Cunard Line officials believe six American Laconia sailors have perished. Twenty-one American seamen were listed. Consul Frost reported fifteen saved.

EIGHT CORPSES TAKEN TO BANTRY.
Queenstown, Feb. 27.—(United Press)—Fourteen Laconia survivors entered Bantry carrying eight corpses. They had died from exposure in open boats. Fifteen American negroes were in the crew. Six survivors were taken to the hospital. One probably will die.

HOLLWEG SPEAKS AND CRITICISES "BRUSQUE" RECALL OF GERARD

German Chancellor Says No Peace Will Be Accepted Which Does Not Give A Strong Germany. President Wilson criticised.

Berlin, via Sayville, Feb. 27.—(United Press)—Chancellor Hollweg told the Reichstag Germany's peace conditions were based upon reparation for all wrongs suffered and guarantees for the existence of a strong Germany. He said: "While our soldiers stand trench fire, our death defying submarines hasten through the seas."

"Home stayers must produce cannon, ammunition and food. Our necessity dominates all questions. It's a fight to gain victory."

He said the Reichstag's vote granting new war credits indicated Germany's determination to fight until the Allies were ready for peace. He refused to make any promises. He said predictions were precarious and unproductive.

He discussed the barred zone and said neutrals eventually would thank Germany for establishing the freedom of the seas. He declared the United States had "brusquely broken off relations. This manner of breaking off relations between great nations was probably unprecedented."

Chancellor Hollweg compared President Wilson's German attitude to his Mexican attitude. He dilated upon the countless "war materials the United States had shipped to the Allies. He criticised Ambassador Gerard's abrupt recall.

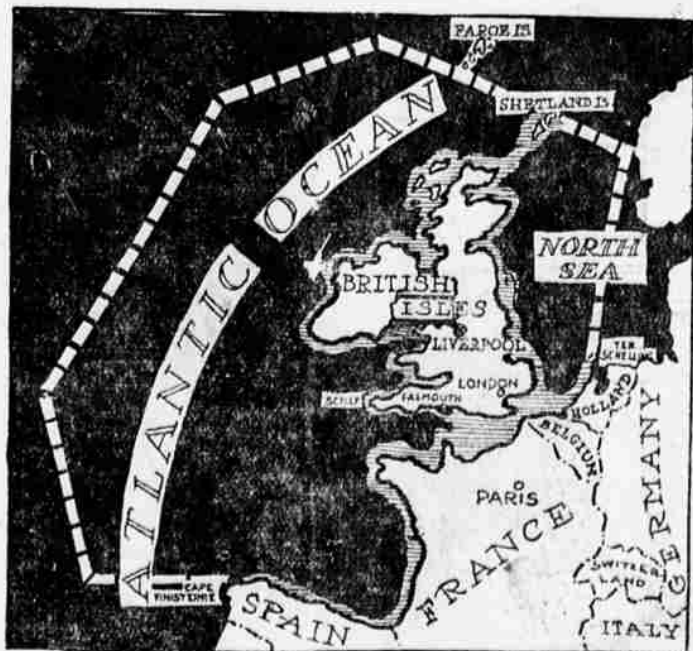
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GIVE GOOD PROGRAM

The following program was given by members of the high school elocution class yesterday afternoon in the high school auditorium:

Vocal solo, Marie Love; reading, Genevieve Stoddard; reading, Gladys Black; fifteen-minute farce, "The Women's Business Meeting". Cast:

Miss Giffora Smith (Eleanor Williamson), Miss Selina Gray (Genevieve Stoddard), Mrs. Sampson Hoyt (Gladys Taylor), Mrs. Mercy Brown (Leta Kiddle), Mrs. Crowler (Gladys Black), Mrs. Henderson (Helen Ransom), Mrs. Lowell (Faye McKinnis), Miss Araminta Sharp (Amy Miller), Miss Keene (Marie Love), Miss White (Helen Poston).

WHERE LA CONIA WAS SUNK



White Cross Marks Spot where Big Liner Went Down when Hit by Submarine's Torpedo. Two American Passengers Were Certainly Lost.