

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

VOLUME XVI.

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GERMAN PLOT IS DISCOVERED

SECRET ALLIANCE WITH MEXICO AND JAPAN SOUGHT

JAPAN REMAINS FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES

JAPANESE EMBASSY ISSUES AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT SAYING JAPAN WILL NOT ENTERTAIN GERMANY'S PROPOSAL.

HOUSE WILL AGT AT ONCE ON THE PRESIDENT'S ARMED NEUTRALITY BILL

President Will Refuse to Sign Any Bill Not Giving Him Full Authority. Senator Thomas Demands an Extra Session of Congress. Senator Norris May Force Full Discussion of All Appropriation Bills.

Washington, March 1.—(United Press)—The House adopted a rule providing immediate consideration of the armed neutrality bill. It is understood President Wilson favors the bill granting all the powers. He will refuse to sign any measure not granting the authority asked. The House bill limits his powers to arming ships.

The Senate Foreign Committee agreed to report the Lodge resolution asking details of the alleged German-Mexican plot. It eliminated the LaFollette amendment asking how long the government possessed German Foreign Secretary Zimmermann's letter.

The Japanese embassy issued an official statement pledging Japan's continued friendship to the United States. It declared Japan "under no circumstances" would entertain the German proposition.

Senator Thomas demanded an extra session of Congress. He said: "This may be the greatest crisis the country ever faced. It is congress' duty to be here." Senator Norris announced his intention of demanding a full discussion of all appropriation bills. This would force an extra session.

U. S. AGENTS LEARN GERMANS ARE FINANCING VILLA.

El Paso, March 1.—(United Press)—The United States government agents learned that Germans were advising and financing Villa. It is reported that both Mexican factions gave special privileges to two hundred Germans in Northern Mexico.

Pneumonia Epidemic Breaks Out On Border.

El Paso, Mar. 1.—(United Press)—Thirty thousand regulars and militia-men are quarantined on account of a pneumonia epidemic.

British Are Pursuing the Turks.

London, March 1.—(United Press)—It is announced that British cavalry and gunboats are chasing the Turks beyond Kut. They captured six guns, three mortars, eight mine throwers, thirty pontoons, and one river vessel.

Moose Roll Call Is Big Event Last Night

Large Number Gather for the Big Annual Meeting—Large Class Is Initiated.

Last night about 80 members of the Loyal Order of Moose gathered at the hall for the annual roll call of La Grande No. 850, Loyal Order of Moose. Dictator George Young presided and there were present about 80 members of this large and growing order.

As Secretary Harry Swart called the roll of members, it was discovered that the members of this order are now scattered over this entire continent. Some of the boys who had enrolled under the banner of the Loyal Order of Moose are at this time in

CAPITAL IS READY FOR THE INAUGURAL

Washington, D. C., March 1.—(United Press)—Washington—the nation's hostess city—again today is Mecca for the quadrennial inaugural pilgrimage. The pilgrims—hundreds of thousands of them—have been arriving, pouring in, literally deluging the city, for the past ten days.

At all times called upon to receive hospitably the nation's guests, the capital, at inaugural times, virtually "keeps open house." Hotels doubled-up, every citizen takes in some visiting acquaintance, and the public buildings, halls and even churches, are filled with cots and beds to house the throngs.

For ten days the town is turned helter-skelter, scrambled, and left,—at the close of the national jamboree—prostrate.

HOUSE STARTS DEBATE ON BILL

Washington, March 1.—(United Press)—The house started debating the Flood bill empowering the president to arm merchantmen. Flood declared that the United States wanted to protect steamers peacefully if possible. He said we were ready to use armaments if necessary to secure freedom of the seas.

Representative Campbell asserted that congress had no right to empower the president to make war. He urged congress to remain in session during the emergency. Representative Henry urged unity. Representative Emerson warned that serious difficulty was possible if the United States did not protect its rights.

Plans Made for Stoddard Funeral.

Prof. L. D. Edwards of the Latter Day Saints choir in Baker will arrive in La Grande Saturday morning to arrange for the music at the George E. Stoddard funeral Sunday afternoon. Fifteen of Prof. Edwards' Baker choir will be here and will join with 25 of the members of the local Latter Day Saints tabernacle choir. This morning nothing definite had been heard as to the exact date of arrival of Mr. Stoddard's body. Tentative plans are being considered to have the five sons and one nephew of Mr. Stoddard act as pallbearers. The man who is to deliver the funeral sermon has not yet been chosen.

Fuel Situation Gets Better.

Another carload of coal received today by the Sawyer-Holmes company and carloads promised the other dealers for tonight and tomorrow has alleviated local anxiety as to the fuel problem.

whole is solid behind "Daddy" Burt and is extending to this able organizer its heartiest cooperation. At the close of his speech, the lodge rose en masse and cheered him for several minutes. Interesting talks were also heard from other members.

Thereafter a large class was initiated and counting the old members present together with the new members it was found, when the banquet was set that there were just 99 present. It was suggested that the fold was incomplete unless some new member was added to make the full quota 100, thereupon "Daddy" Burt, like the shepherd of biblical fame, stated that before he went to bed, he would bring in another member to make the full quota of 100. True to his word, immediately after the lodge had partaken of a sumptuous banquet, "Daddy" Burt went out and before he went to bed last night, had signed up L. Huntley's application and brought him up to the lodge room before the session was dismissed. All in all this annual roll call was a most delightful and successful event and fully enjoyed by all the member who attended.

The lodge is rapidly growing and large classes are being initiated each week.

GERMANS ARE RETREATING TO NEW LINES

London, March 1.—(United Press)—The British occupied positions half a mile northeast of Gommecourt. They are advancing on a thirteen mile front. The press dispatches said Germans surrendered at Gommecourt without resistance. The Germans are believed to be evacuating Bapaume.

It is announced that a German aeroplane raided Broad Stairs. One woman was injured.

Berlin, via Sayville, March 1.—(United Press)—It is announced that the Germans have evacuated their advanced positions on both sides of the Ancre on account of "special reasons." Troops entered the newly prepared defenses. The rear guards hindered the British advance by capturing 180 prisoners and four machine guns.

London, March 1.—(United Press)—Financial Secretary Forster told the Commons the British believe the German retreat is a strength-saving plan preceding the "Great Blow." Forster said: "As a result of the Ancre pressure, the enemy retired on a twelve-mile front. The British advanced two miles and gained ten villages and many important positions. The retreat will unfavorably affect the German troops and people."

Berlin, via Sayville, March 1.—(United Press)—It is definitely learned that Germany will blame the United States for starting war if America uses the Laconia sinking as cause. German contends her barred zone announcement relieves the measure of all responsibility for neutral ship sinking therein.

THE WEATHER

Portland, March 1.—(United Press)—The weather forecast: "Fair, Northeast winds."

G. M. Richey Will Continue In Business

Pioneer Piano Dealer Will Soon Have New Location in La Grande.

G. M. Richey, a pioneer piano dealer of La Grande, is not going to leave the city and he is not going out of business.

A rumor to that effect had been started owing to the fact that Mr. Richey has sold his building at the corner of Depot and Washington streets to C. C. Penington.

Mr. Richey does not give possession to Mr. Penington for sixty days, and in the meantime Mr. Richey is arranging for a new store building, of not such large floor space. This will necessitate an immediate stock reduction sale which will be announced in the near future.

Mr. Richey has been in La Grande thirty-three years next month; he has built up a good business and his name is identified as one of the substantial business men of the city. This has always been Mr. Richey's home and he has no intention of changing his residence at this or any other time.

THREE STORY ADDITION PLANNED FOR SCHOOL

Work will start within a short time on a three story addition to St. Francis school. The addition will include three class rooms, a boys' refectory and a girls' refectory. The plans have been drawn by C. B. Miller, George Sutherland, Walla Walla plumbing and electrical contractor, is in La Grande today and will study the plans preparatory to making a bid on his part of the work.

Thompson's Appointment Pleases Union.

The appointment of W. L. Thompson of Pendleton as a member of the state highway commission this week by Governor Withycombe was pleasant news to La Grande and Union and Wallawa county people. Mr. Thompson is recognized here as an able man. S. Benson of Portland and E. J. Adams of Eugene are the other members of the commission.

GERMANY SOUGHT A MEXICAN ALLIANCE

PROPOSED TO MAKE OFFENSIVE ALLIANCE AND WAR AGAINST UNITED STATES IF U. S. DID NOT STAY NEUTRAL.

GERMAN FOREIGN SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN PROMISED FINANCIAL AID TO MEXICO

Mexico Was Urged to Communicate With Japan. Also Was Urged to Make Effort to Reconquer Lost Provinces of New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. Zimmerman Said Employment of Ruthless Submarine Warfare Would Compel England to Make Peace in a Few Months.

Washington, March 1.—(United Press)—President Wilson authorized Senator Swanson to inform Congress that Germany attempted a plot to unite Japan and Mexico into a conspiracy against the United States.

American Steamer Passes Safely Through Blockade.

Bordeaux, March 1.—(United Press)—The American steamer, Rochester, arrived safely at the mouth of the Gironde River.

Washington, March 1.—(United Press)—Senator Swanson told the Senate, "President Wilson authorizes me to say that German Foreign Secretary Zimmermann's letter to the German embassy in Mexico, proposing an alliance with Japan and Mexico, is substantially correct."

"The statement followed Senator Lodge's resolution asking for confirmation.

Senator Lodge said: "I ask this because the matter is serious. If it's false the country should know and allay excitement. If true, congress certainly should know."

Senator Works said President Wilson should give Congress "all the information" in his possession.

Senator Stone asked the Senate to refer the matter to the foreign relations committee "for further investigation before ill advised action is taken." He said every possible agency was being used to excite public opinion.

Japanese Ambassador Sato denied all knowledge of the alleged Japanese implication in the Mexican-German plot. He admitted the report is probably true. He declared Japan would never join Mexico and the Germans against the United States.

Washington March 1.—(Special)—Germany in planning unrestricted submarine warfare and counting its consequences, proposed an alliance with Mexico and Japan to make war on the United States, if this country should not remain neutral.

Japan, through Mexican mediation, was to be urged to abandon her allies and join in the attack on the United States.

Mexico, for her reward, was to receive general financial support from Germany, reconquer Texas, New Mexico and Arizona—lost provinces—and share in the victorious peace terms Germany contemplated.

Details were left to German Minister von Eckhardt, in Mexico City, who by instructions signed by German Foreign Minister Zimmermann, at Berlin, January 19, 1917, was directed to propose the alliance with Mexico to General Carranza and suggest that Mexico seek to bring Japan into the plot.

BERNSTORFF TRANSMITS ORDER

These instructions were transmitted to Von Eckhardt through Count von Bernstorff, ex-German Ambassador here, now on his way home to Germany under a safe conduct obtained from his enemies by the country against which he was plotting war.

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