

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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GERMAN CRISIS IS GRAVE. 3 SHIPS SUNK RAILROAD WORKERS WIN BIG VICTORY THE ADAMSON EIGHT HOUR LAW NOW IN EFFECT SUPREME COURT DECLARES LAW CONSTITUTIONAL SUPREME COURT HOLDS 8 HOUR LAW CONSTITUTIONAL

Justices This Afternoon Decide That Congress Has Authority--"Begotten Of Public Interest"--To Legislate on Wages.

Washington, March 19.—(United Press)—The supreme court this afternoon held the Adamson eight-hour law constitutional. The decision was six to three. Justices Day, Pitney and Vandeventer dissented.

The opinion said Congress had "authority begotten of public interest" to sustain its action in passing the law.

The supreme court held Congress has the right to legislate on wages and formally reversed Judge Hook's decision.

Chief Justice White, Justices Holmes, McReynolds, Brandeis, Clarke and McKenna signed the majority opinion.

RAILROADS YIELD BEFORE SUPREME COURT DECISION.

New York, March 19.—(United Press)—The railroads met the fullest demands of the Adamson eight-hour law, thus definitely averting the threatened strike. This decision was announced early this morning, much in advance of the supreme court decision sustaining the Adamson law which came this afternoon.

Swayed by patriotism through the sinking of American vessels, the managers' committee announced their acceptance of the trainmen's demands rather than hamper the efficient operation of the railroads during the crisis.

The mediators issued the following statement this morning:

"We desire to express our appreciation of the patriotic action of the railroad managers' committee, putting beyond peradventure or possibility a nation-wide railroad strike. The railroads met the demands of the Adamson law. This concession was secured as the culmination of two days' negotiations."

The statement said after the postponement for 48 hours was secured no proposition seemed acceptable to both sides until the railroads expressed a willingness to place the whole matter in the hands of their committee, which decided to make the Adamson law the basis of the settlement. It does not matter, therefore, whether the supreme court decides the law unconstitutional.

The National Conference Committee of Railways handed the following letter to the Council on National Defense at one o'clock this morning.

"In the National crisis precipitated by event of which we learned this afternoon the National Conference Committee of Railways joins with you in the conviction that neither at home nor abroad should there be a fear or hope that the efficient operation of the railways of the country will be hampered or imperiled, therefore you are authorized to assure the Nation that there will be no strike and as a basis for such assurance we hereby authorize the Committee of the Council on National Defense to grant to the employees who are about to strike whatever adjustment your Committee deems necessary to guarantee the uninterrupted and efficient operation of the Railways as an indispensable arm of National defense."

Freight Embargoes On Southern Pacific Lifted.

San Francisco, March 19.—(United Press)—All Southern Pacific freight embargoes announced when the strike seemed imminent were lifted today, Freight Traffic Manager Luce announced.

AMERICAN CAPTAIN AND SEAMEN MAY BE SUBMARINE PRISONERS

Washington, March 19.—A cable from Consul Frost, of Queenstown, conveyed the fear that Captain Bortum and nine seamen of the American freighter Memphis are prisoners aboard the German submarine.

The Captain's boat was found at eleven this morning with evidences of hasty abandonment. The ship's papers were found in a biscuit tin aboard the boat.

MUSTERING OUT OF MILITIA DISCONTINUED.

Chicago, March 19.—(United Press)—Mustering out Militiamen throughout the Central Military department was ordered discontinued today, so headquarters admitted.

Demobilization of Militia Will Continue.
Washington, March 19.—(United Press)—The demobilization of the militia will continue despite international developments, the war department announced. Halting the mustering out at several points is due to local conditions.

GERMANS ARE RETREATING IN 13-MILE FRONT

BY HENRY WOOD.

With the French Armies Advancing From Roye, March 19.—(United Press)—A German retreat over a thirteen mile front from Chaulnes to Oise is precipitate.

German retirement here compares with the retreat from Marne.

Only mitrailleuse squads and bicycle troops remain behind covering the retreat. Many prisoners were taken.

Joseph News Notes

Joseph and Enterprise Basketball Teams Split Even on Games—Willamette University Glee Club to Sing—Miss Uma Coleman Is Bride of Harry Hamblen.

Joseph, Ore., March 19.—(Special)—Mrs. George Young, of La Grande, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Frank Bowman.

Work was started the first of the week on C. F. Johnson's new bungalow on Barton Heights. The Knowlton brothers will supervise the work.

A birthday party, given by the freshman class of the Joseph high school to one of their number, Miss Rue Whitmore, was enjoyed by about 30 guests. The party met at the Hotel Jennings and went from there in sleighs to Miss Whitmore's home which is about three miles out of town.

Joseph's local paper, "The Joseph Herald," has changed hands again. W. C. Black has sold his interests in the paper to Messrs. W. L. Flower and J. M. Lowry and these gentlemen will hereafter edit the Herald.

The many friends of Mrs. Affie B. Hanna will be glad to learn that she was able to leave the hospital this week and return to her home fully recovered from the operation which she recently had.

The two games of basketball which

Business Men Will Meet At Luncheon

Mr. S. D. Crowe will be chairman of the day at the business men's luncheon at the Foley hotel tomorrow. Those who intend to go should notify Mr. Crowe at once. Mr. S. O. Correll, of Baker, secretary of the Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers' convention which meets in La Grande April 24 and 25, will be the speaker. No donations or subscriptions will be solicited at the luncheon.

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY
You will notice that you get all the big news stories in the Observer. If you live in La Grande and are not a subscriber to the Observer, you are not getting the news of the world the day it happens. If you will phone Main 37, the Observer will send you the paper on trial.

were played on the Joseph floor Friday night resulted in a victory for each town. The first game resulted in a score of 27 to 39 in favor of Joseph. The playing in the second game was very even and when the first half ended the score stood 15 to 15. At the end of the second half the score was 26 to 25. After the game H. O. Woodson, manager of the hall, held a St. Patrick's day dance.

Professor Paul Irvine, high school principal and formerly of Willamette university announced this week that through quite strenuous efforts he was able to obtain a date for Joseph with the Willamette Glee club on March 24. This club makes a tour of Oregon every year and Joseph promises them a good "house."

A business meeting of the Silver Lake chapter of the Odd Fellows lodge was held Saturday night.

On Saturday, St. Patrick's day, almost every one in the student body of the Joseph high school turned out and solicited for subscriptions to the Jo-Hi, the high school annual. With each annual fifty votes were given for carnival queen, each class had selected a candidate and the one which will be queen was selected in this way. The name of the lucky candidate will be announced later.

On April 2 a city election for the city of Joseph will be held for the purpose of amending the city charter which has grown out of date. All citizens are requested to be present

(Continued on Page 8.)

GERMANY SINKS THREE AMERICAN STEAMERS

Washington Is Wondering What Action President Will Take. May Call Congress Together or Take Vigorous Action Through Navy Department.

SINKING OF THREE AMERICAN SHIPS IS ANNOUNCED.

London, March 19.—(Special)—The sinking of the American steamships City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia was announced yesterday. Fourteen men from the Vigilancia are missing, as are some of the men from the City of Memphis. The crew of the Illinois landed safely.

The City of Memphis, in ballast from Cardiff for New York, was sunk by gunfire. The second officer and 15 men of the crew have been landed. A patrol boat has gone in search of the other members of the crew.

The Illinois, from London for Port Arthur, Tex., in ballast, was sunk at 8 o'clock this morning.

The Vigilancia was torpedoed without warning. The submarine did not appear. The captain, first and second mate, first, second and third engineers and 23 men of the crew have been landed at the Sicily Islands. The fourth engineer and 13 men are missing.

CONSUL FROST REPORTS.

Washington, March 19.—(Special)—Consul Frost, at Queenstown, reported to the state department last night the sinking by a German submarine of the American steamer City of Memphis, saying 49 survivors had been picked up and that an Admiralty vessel was searching for eight missing.

The Consul's dispatch follows:
"American steamer City of Memphis, Cardiff to New York, reported sunk by German submarine 4 p. m., March 17, 35 miles south of Fastnet. Fifteen survivors landed at Schull at 7 p. m. today. Thirty-four survivors on Admiralty vessel, which continues search for eight missing. Will land Baltimore (on Irish coast) probably today."

BY ROBERT J. BENDER

(United Press Correspondent)

Washington, March 19.—Officials predicted that President Wilson will immediately announce the course of action he intends to take as result of Germany's latest affront on the high seas, the sinking of three American steamers.

Some believed the President would call Congress immediately for consultation.

Others though he might empower the navy department to use its emergency fund and pursue a more aggressive policy to protect our shipping.

Secretary Lansing conferred with the President this morning, over Consul Frost's reports of the sinking of American steamers.

"The situation is too serious to discuss," Secretary Lansing said.

PRESIDENT AUTHORIZES SECRETARY DANIELS TO SPEED UP.

Washington, March 19.—(United Press)—President Wilson authorized Secretary Daniels to use one hundred and fifteen million dollars appropriation to speed up the ship-building program. After an hour's conference between the President and Secretary Daniels it was indicated that the navy department may commandeer munitions factories.

German Destroyers Sank a British Destroyer.

London, March 19.—(United Press)—German destroyers sank a British destroyer in the Straits of Dover yesterday, and torpedoed a second British destroyer but not seriously, the admiralty announced.