

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

VOLUME XVI.

LA GRANDE, OREGON, TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1917

NUMBER 231.

U. S. BELIEVED TO BE ON VERGE OF WAR STATE OF WAR SAID TO EXIST SINCE WEDNESDAY THE FATE OF ARMED AMERICAN LINERS TO DECIDE

WASHINGTON SAYS STATE OF WAR NOW EXISTS

Actual Declaration of War Will Depend Upon Fate Befalling Armed American Liners. President And Cabinet Consider Crisis.

BY ROBERT J. BENDER
(United Press Correspondent)

Washington, March 20.—Actual declaration of war against Germany apparently depends upon the fate befalling the first armed American liner.

President Wilson and Congress probably won't declare war as the result of sinking the three American freighters Saturday.

However it is practically taken for granted here that a state of war exists.

Many believe the President will acknowledge this soon, though it is known he is loath to take further responsibility.

This afternoon he discussed the entire problem with the cabinet.

The President strongly questions the advisability of "forcing" the present situation.

He believes everything now is being done to meet hostilities which he considers inevitable. The fact President Wilson delayed so long increased the belief the session of Congress before April 16th is unlikely. It may be two days before a further decision is reached.

German Sailors Make Break To Escape.

Philadelphia, March 20.—(United Press)—Ten German sailors from the interned German boats are believed to have escaped. Some perhaps are drowned. Fourteen made the break.

RUMORS OF GERMAN REVOLUTION CIRCULATED BUT UNCONFIRMED

RUMOR OF REVOLUTION IN GERMANY.

London, March 20.—(United Press)—An unconfirmed rumor of a revolution in Germany spread in financial circles this afternoon.

Rumors also flew about the country that the Kaiser had been assassinated. They were unconfirmed and not traceable.

Rumors Of German Revolution.

New York, March 20.—(United Press)—Rumors of a German revolution have been circulated in America for several days in financial circles. The United Press has received queries from all parts of the country.

Rumors Flying Thick and Fast.

Portland, Mar. 20.—(United Press)—So far as we know there is nothing to the report that the Kaiser has been assassinated. Rumors of all sorts are flying thick but are untraceable.

UNITED PRESS.

German Retreat On Western Front Slows Up.

London, March 20.—(United Press)—German retreat on the western front slowed perceptibly today. Press headquarters at the front attributed this to stormy weather, though possibly the Germans are preparing to make a stand. Despite the weather the British "progressed considerably" it is announced.

Captain Borum Arrives In Glasgow

New York, March 20.—(United Press)—Captain Borum, of the American steamer City of Memphis, which was submarined Saturday arrived in Glasgow.

CHINESE SIGN PERMANENT LO- CAL PEACE PACT

WORD OF PORTLAND HEADS OF
TONGS IS PLEDGED

NEITHER HOP NOR HIP
SINGS WILL FIGHT HERE

Pact, Says Attorney of Hops, Means That No Gunmen Will Be Sent Here and That Members of Both Tonges Will Not Fight Each Other Here Nor Engage in Any Chinese Controversy. In La Grande—Hips and Hop Sing Members Comprise All Known Local Tong Members.

Permanent peace between the Hip Sing and the Hop Sing Chinese tonges in La Grande has been signed by the authorized representatives of the tonges, Robert Maguire, of Portland, attorney for the Hop Sings, and Joe Hammersley, of Portland, attorney for the Hip Sings. The pact stipulates that no members of these tonges shall quarrel here, nor shall they assist any other tong in a fight here. There is one known member of the Bing Kong Bow Leong and one known member of the Suey Sing tonges here but the Bow Leong man is also a member of the Hip Sings and he is bound by the peace pact of the Hips and Hops.

Like-wise the Suey Sing member is also a member of the Hop Sings and the Hop Sing action will bind him. Under the agreement the Chinese have given the word of the Portland head of the tonges that there will be a permanent peace here and this word, coming from the attorneys of the Chinese societies is said to be good. It is said that the Chinese are scrupulous in living up to the promises they authorize their legal representatives to make.

Robert Maguire, attorney for the Hop Sing tong, said today that the action of the tonges means that no gunmen will be sent here and that the La Grande Chinese will cooperate to the fullest extent with the police in keeping any suspicious Chinese out of the city. He said that the pact would include Union county, inasmuch as there were scarcely any Chinese in the country outside of La Grande.

Sam Quon Fined Again.

Sam Quon, self-styled representative of the Chinese Peace society, but said to be a member of the Suey Sing and Hop Sing tonges, was fined \$60 and costs, \$11.35, yesterday by Justice of the Peace Williams on a state charge of carrying concealed weapons. Quon was fined \$50 on a city charge of carrying concealed weapons.

WALLOWA AND UNION MEN WORK FOR ROAD

MOTION IS PASSED AT MEETING
TO URGE JOINT CO-OPERATION
OF COUNTY COURTS—EFFORT
MADE TO GET STATE AND
FEDERAL MONEY.

Representatives from Wallowa county met with a Union county delegation last night for the purpose of discussing joint action on the part of the two county courts in looking toward the construction and improvement of the road between La Grande and Joseph. As a result of the meeting two motions were passed:

The first by those present from Union county petitioning the Union county court to appropriate \$5000 annually for the improvement of the La Grande-Joseph road, an equal amount to be requested from the State Highway commission, and the Federal government to be asked to match the county and state money; the total to be \$5000 from Union county, \$5000 from the state, and \$10,000 from the Federal government, making \$20,000. The second motion was similar except that Wallowa county was to be asked to appropriate \$5000 and the state \$5000 and the Federal government \$10,000 the total \$20,000 to be

(Continued on Page 8.)

BUSINESS MEN ARE BOOSTING BIG CONVENTION

The businessmen's luncheon today was devoted to boosting the Cattle and Horse Raisers' convention which will be held in La Grande April 24 and 25. S. D. Crowe, president, introduced the speaker of the day, S. O. Correll, secretary of the association who came from Baker to attend the luncheon.

Mr. Correll commented upon the importance of the livestock industry to Union and Wallowa counties and said that every indication pointed to a big attendance. Senator Walter M. Pierce spoke of the importance of the convention. Mr. Fred J. Holmes stated that a vigorous campaign was to be made this week to complete the financial arrangements. Mr. J. T. Serog-

(Continued on Page 8.)

CARRANZA'S PEACE PLAN FOR EMBARGO ON SHIPMENTS TO ALLIES IS REJECTED

Washington, March 20.—(United Press)—Rejecting Carranza's peace plan which proposed an embargo on all shipments to the Allies, the President today wrote Mexico renewing his suggestion for co-operation among the neutrals for the purpose of halting the war. He called attention to the break with Germany, emphasized the German-Mexican-Japan plot recently uncovered. It is believed the reason for mentioning the affair was because Carranza, despite several requests, hasn't disavowed sympathy or knowledge of the plot. The circumstances make it impossible for America to participate in Carranza's proposal for joint neutral mediation now.

CABINET OFFICERS SAY COUNTRY IS NOW AT WAR

Officials Say Declaration of War Unnecessary Now. It Is Believed President Will Notify Congress Country Has Been at War Since Wednesday.

Washington, March 20.—(United Press)—Certain members of the President's cabinet when they arrived at the white-house this afternoon, were outspoken in their view that state of war now exists with Germany. They said they believed declaration of war is unnecessary now. They indicated when the President next addressed Congress he will announce a state of war has existed with Germany since Wednesday when the Alogonquin was sunk.

French Claim To Make Slight Progress.

Paris, March 20.—(United Press)—The French made slight progress despite bad weather, and destruction of means of communication. The French have contracted the Germans throughout the Avre Aisne district. Strong German attacks near Verdun were repulsed.

Railroads Will Ask For Increased Rates.

Washington, March 20.—(United Press)—An extra session of Congress is to be asked to pass a law increasing freight and passenger rates on railroads, to reimburse them for increased wages under the Adamson law. The railroads claim the Supreme Court has decided Congress is empowered to fix wages and should have the right to legislate on railroad rates.

U. S. WILL RECOGNIZE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT

Washington, March 20.—(United Press)—America is preparing to recognize the Russian Revolutionary Government, it was learned today.

When the new regime is definitely formulated America will send greetings. Ambassador Francis reported today the entire Russian navy and army will support the new government. Minister Norris of Stockholm reported Finland's gendarmerie had been abolished and the Finns expressed confidence in the new regime.

Russia Faces Tremendous Problems.

Petrograd, March 20.—(United Press)—"The Provisional government will use every energy with the unanimous consent of the nation and will effect a speed victory," so Foreign Minister Miliukoff declared today. "Russia overturned in a few hours' power and detested by every body. This feeble power incapable of securing food for our people, or organizing for the future, was using all the country's strength.

"The problems confronting Russia are immense. We must rebuild the whole political edifice."

Two Men Missing From German Ships.

Washington, March 20.—(United Press)—Only two men are missing from the interned German ships in Philadelphia, according to the navy department. These are believed to be drowned.

Steamer Santa Ana Is Aground In Mud

Seattle, March 20.—(United Press)—The steamer Santa Ana is aground in the mud near Craig, Prince Wales

Island. The Merchants exchange so reported. She did not carry passengers and is believed in no great danger. She had just left Wrangell.

Mrs. A. R. Marker and daughter, Virginia, are guests of Mrs. C. N. Lewis, Mrs. Marker's sister, in Hull.