

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. SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917.

NUMBER 235.

GERMANY EXPECTED TO DECLARE WAR FIRING ON GERMAN SUBMARINE WILL BE RESENTED

BRAND WHITLOCK RETIRES AS U. S. MINISTER TO BELGIUM

PRESIDENT ISSUES ORDER AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES.

MEMBERS OF AMERICAN COMMISSION TO DEPART

President Says He Fully Appreciates the Seriousness of the Situation—In Washington the Move Is Regarded as Forerunner of War—Other Countries Will Look After Relief Work.

Washington, March 24.—(United Press)—Brand Whitlock has withdrawn as minister to Belgium.

America has withdrawn from Belgian relief work, which has been turned over to Holland and other neutrals, the state department announced.

Mr. Whitlock's withdrawal is regarded as the forerunner of actual warfare.

The department has considered abandoning the relief work since the destruction of relief ships by German submarines.

The official statement said, "by direction of the President, the Minister to Brussels is instructed to withdraw from Belgium to Havre. After consultation with the relief commission, Mr. Whitlock is instructed to arrange for the departure of the American members of the commission. The seriousness of the step is fully appreciated. It is taken only after a careful consideration and full consultation with all the interests involved."

BELGIAN RELIEF WORK WILL BE CONTINUED

New York, March 24.—(United Press)—Hampered but not discouraged by Brand Whitlock's withdrawal, the Belgian relief commission fight continues to work through Dutch agents. "Am very anxious no mistaken impression will be derived from the news given out at Washington," said a commission official. "The work must and will continue. The need of the Belgian people is just as great as before and must be met."

NATION NOT AROUSED TO IMMINENCE OF WAR

Washington, March 24.—(United Press)—Although the number of recruits during the week increased, it is indicated the nation has not been aroused to the imminence of war.

The total strength of the navy is sixty-one thousand. Sixteen thousand more men are needed. The heaviest enlistments were in the east. Army recruiting is increasing. The average enlistments, including holidays, are over two hundred daily, against one hundred sixty-eight average during January.

No noticeable increase has been due to the international crisis.

Pershing Says War Will Be Declared

Los Angeles, March 24.—(Special)—Major General John J. Pershing, who arrived here this morning from the border, will remain in or around Los Angeles until Sunday, when he intends to return to headquarters. He is here simply to rest up, it is said.

General Pershing said he expects to see war declared with Germany and predicted that it would bring about universal service in the United States.

Mysterious Vessel Starts Many Rumors

New Bedford, March 24.—(United Press)—Mysterious maneuvering by the water front police started rumors that a German submarine base had been found off the coast. Fishermen reported seeing a strange vessel, which put the police on their guard.

GERMANS TRY TO CHECK THE ALLIES ADVANCE

PIERCE FIGHTING DEVELOPS, ALLIES CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS.

London, March 24.—(United Press)—Having showed retreat the Germans are resorting to every effort trying to stop the movement of their pursuers on the western front as the allies approach the Hindenburg line. Fierce fighting developed.

Dispatches from the front show continued progress despite the stiff resistance. Germans opened canal sluices northeast of Tergnier inundating the country, flooding the city of Laferre. On the British front General Haig pressed forward in wintry weather, snow and sleet storms.

GERMANS ENGAGED WITH ALLIES VANGUARD

Berlin, March 24.—(United Press)—"Daily engagements are protecting troops on both sides of the Somme and Oisne against the enemies' vanguard," it is officially stated. "The enemy only gropes ahead. Our measures severely hamper the enemy. The French attacks are repulsed everywhere."

State Highway Commission Keeps Word

Funds Allotted to Match Those Set Aside by Umatilla and Union for Wenaha Forest Road.

Portland, Ore., March 24.—(Special)—On recommendation of Commissioner Thompson yesterday funds were allotted to match those set aside by the counties of Umatilla and Union and the federal government for investigation and construction of the road leading from Pendleton to La Grande via the Wenaha forest reserve. It is expected this work will start as soon as weather conditions permit.

The forest road leading from Flora to Enterprise in Walla Walla county was considered by the commission favorably, but, on account of the lack of information, no definite action was taken, awaiting further investigation.

Miss Meade Appointed.

Salem, Ore., March 24.—Miss Ella C. Meade of Albany has been appointed a member of the state board of examiners in optometry, succeeding D. Chambers of Portland. The other members of the new board are William M. Pearce, of La Grande, and W. J. Curtis of Corvallis.

Mr. and Mrs. Leone Olney, of Spokane, returned to their home last night after a visit here with Mrs. Olney's sister, Mrs. Joe Miller.

John I. Sturgill, William C. Sturgill and William L. Kirby, of Durkee, were land office visitors today.

THIRTY-NINE ARE KILLED BY TORNADO

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ARE INJURED IN SOUTHERN INDIANA DISASTER.

PROPERTY LOSS IS OVER TWO MILLION DOLLARS

Thirty-four bodies are recovered at New Albany—Devastated District Is a Half Mile Wide and Two Miles Long—Martial Law Is Declared—Looters Ordered Shot on Sight.

Indianapolis, March 24.—(United Press)—Thirty-nine are known to be dead and nearly one hundred and fifty injured, with a property loss of \$2,000,000 as the result of a tornado which swept southern Indiana last night.

Thirty-four bodies were recovered at New Albany.

The devastated district was half a mile wide and two miles long. Martial law was declared. Looters were ordered shot on sight.

Fire started in the ruins. Hospitals were overflowing. Many bodies were buried in the debris.

The Indianapolis Red Cross is organizing relief.

EX-PRESIDENT TAFT JOINS THE HOME GUARDS

New Haven, March 24.—(United Press)—Ex-President Taft joined the Connecticut home guard this afternoon with 26 other prominent men.

Firemen's Work Appreciated.

Fire Chief Claude Mackey has received a commendatory letter from "Dad" Coolidge for the work of the firemen in fighting the recent fire in Coolidge's paint store. In the letter was a check for \$10 for the volunteer fire company.

Neighborhood Club Will Give Library Benefit Tuesday Night

Tickets are selling rapidly for the big show to be given by the Neighborhood club at the high school building next Tuesday night. Any person intending to go to this affair had better call up Silverthorn's drug store and make their reserve seat reservation, because from present indications, this event will be one of the largest attended affairs held this season.

The operetta, entitled "The Wild Rose," concerns a certain Rose McCloud, a most popular young society belle of her time, who is bored with her artificial existence. An endless round of festivities and a maddening procession of adoring debutantes, newspaper interviewers, charity and reform leaders seeking her financial support, dressmakers, milliners, etc., drive her to distraction.

The part of Rose McCloud is some strenuous part and will be taken by Miss Leona Newlin and this fact alone assures the public that it will be a fine performance. The rest of the cast is high class in every respect and every one an adept in light opera roles. The cast is as follows:

Rose McCloud (society belle)—Miss Leona Newlin.
Mary Forsythe (secretary and friend)—Miss Hilda Anthony.
Mrs. Fussy (housekeeper)—Mrs. Lynn Bohnenkamp.
Lady Grey (an eccentric play-

O'NEILL TAKES CHAMPIONSHIP FROM BERG

BERG'S SPIRIT PLEASES LA GRANDE FANS.

BUT 35 1-2 MINUTES NEEDED FOR MATCH

Men May Be Re-matched Here—Y. M. C. A. Boys and Jack O'Neill, Jr., Put On Fast Preliminaries—Fred Gunderson of Palmer Junction Made Ringside Challenge To Winner.

Emahiser Praises Berg.
"In my estimation," says C. D. Emahiser, O'Neill's manager, "John Berg demonstrated that real manhood and the fact that he was a genuine sport and a man to be depended upon when he left Spokane 30 minutes after seeing his wife taken to a hospital for an operation. He came here to defend his title against O'Neill, simply as a moral obligation for he did not have a cash forfeit posted and many men would have wired for a postponement of the match. But he came on time, he wrestled well and he lost and took his defeat like a gentleman simply saying: 'O'Neill is a credit to your community. He is thoroughly science and the most determined man I have ever met on the mat.'"

Jack O'Neill defeated John Berg of Spokane, claimant of the Pacific Coast 175 pound wrestling championship, two falls, in a match last night in the Arcade theatre. A \$200 purse went with the match. O'Neill won the first fall with a toe hold in 15 minutes, 35 seconds. Berg won the second fall with a double wrist lock and leg scissors in 11 minutes, 36 seconds. O'Neill won the third fall, and the match, with a body scissors and half Nelson, in eight minutes, 21 seconds. Both men were clever, the match was clean and hard fought, and there was no stalling. Fritz Lotter refereed. C. D. Emahiser acted as announcer and Jack Pearce held the watch. Billy Pearce and Pat Foley were O'Neill's seconds; Ernie Vehrs

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FIRST SHOT FIRED AT GERMAN SUBMARINE MAY BRING ON WAR

Portlander On Board Torpedoed Steamer

Washington, March 24.—(United Press)—The sinking of the Norwegian steamer Ronald with George Goldreimer, of Portland, Oregon, aboard was reported to the state department.

SNOWSLIDE ON G. N. KILLS TWO, OTHERS MISSING

SNOWSHED IS CARRIED AWAY AND SEVERAL LABORERS ARE LOST.

Seattle, March 24.—(United Press)—John Hoff and J. Rose, laborers, are known to have been killed, telegraph operator Wolfe, with several laborers, are missing as result of a snowslide carrying away a snowshed on the Great Northern. Details are meagre.

"Til" Taylor Captures Hermiston Yeggman

FUSILLADE OF 20 SHOTS EXCHANGED BY SHERIFF WITH SECOND ROBBER.

"You sure have got a nifty sheriff. He would go through hell to get a man. I'm ready to do my time, and then I'm through with the game. You can't beat it."

This is the tribute paid Sheriff "Til" Taylor of Umatilla county, today by Frank W. Mason, one of the Hermiston postoffice robbers caught at the mouth of Juniper Canyon on the Columbia Thursday evening by Taylor and Special Deputy Sheriff Olaf Aarhus of Umatilla.

Mason was "covered" by Taylor when the officer came upon the men under a trestle near the mouth of the canyon but the other yeggman ran. The robber and Taylor exchanged 15 or 20 shots but none of the robbers' bullets hit. In his haste in leaving Pendleton Sheriff Taylor had picked up the wrong cartridges so that he could use but one magazine full against the outlaw.

Snowstorm Ties Up Wyoming Traffic

Laramie, Wyo., March 24.—(Special)—Railroad traffic in Wyoming is paralyzed by a raging snowstorm, which shows no signs of abating.

Four westbound Union Pacific trains are held in the yards here, despite the efforts of five rotary snowplows which worked all night to clear the tracks.

The snow trouble in Wyoming has made westbound trains passing La Grande from six to eight hours late the past 48 hours.

T. A. Walsh, of Spokane, chief clerk of the O.-W., traffic department there, is visiting his brother, Mike Walsh.

James McLaughlin, the 6 a. m. O.-W. operator, is in Portland for a short visit.

UNITED STATES IS NOT YET AROUSED TO NEARNESS OF WAR.

RECRUITING GOES ON BUT NOT IN GREAT NUMBERS

Navy Needs Sixteen Thousand More Men—Heaviest Enlistments Are in the East—Army Recruiting Is Increasing—Average Enlistments Are Over Two Hundred Daily.

Zurich, March 24.—(United Press)—German newspapers say Germany will declare war on America when the first armed American merchantman fires at a German submarine.

MILITIA CALLED OUT TO GUARD PLANTS

Washington, March 24.—Two regiments of Massachusetts militia will be called to act as guard for river shipbuilding plants and arsenals munitions works at other shipyards. Governor McCall conferred with Secretary of War Baker this morning and talked with the President yesterday and decided to call out the militia.

Secretary Baker this morning refused to discuss the militia plans. It is likely the militia of other states will be called.

LIMITED RUNS INTO REAR END OF A FREIGHT

THREE STOCKMEN ARE INJURED, TWO OF WHOM MAY DIE.

Tacoma, Wash., March 24.—Three stockmen in a caboose on an east-bound freight were injured, two probably fatally, when the Spokane limited collided with a freight at Kanasket in the Cascades this morning. Alex McGregory, of St. Johns, Ore., and Robert Clark, of Seattle, may die. G. F. Miles, of St. Johns, was slightly hurt. The caboose was demolished. The freight failed to make the siding before the limited arrived.

Surgeons Attempt To Replace Hand

Chicago, March 24.—(Special)—Michael Sattoni will have a new hand if experiment proves successful. Sattoni's right hand was stripped of its flesh in a roller in a rubber mill. An incision was made in his chest and the skeleton hand inserted. Within a few weeks it will be removed, looking like a mitten and after the fingers are trimmed out it is expected that the hand will heal and be as good as ever.