

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.

LA GRANDE, OREGON. TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1917.

NUMBER 255.

GERMANY FIRES FIRST SHOT AND MISSES

GERMANY SAID TO BE TRYING FOR SEPARATE PEACE WITH RUSSIA

Report From Christiana States That Scandinavian Countries Are the Center of the Latest German Peace Maneuvers.

STATEMENT IS EXPECTED SOON

Neutrals Will Be Notified of Terms Upon Which Germany Will End the War—It Is Believed Terms Are Unmodified—German Diplomacy Is Aiming To Alienate Russia From the Allies.

Christiana, April 17.—(United Press)—Germany soon will issue to neutrals a statement of peace terms according to rumors in diplomatic circles.

Reports came from sources known to be closely identified with the German official plans.

Germany's proposition is unknown.

Diplomats believe the terms are unchanged from the December peace offer.

Scandinavia is the center of Germany's peace efforts, which are aimed at Russia.

Teutonic officials are bending every effort toward a separate Russian peace, it is learned here.

Count von Bernstorff has been named German Ambassador to Sweden to help the peace move.

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PARTY IS FORMED

Amsterdam, April 17.—(United Press)—An official promise of government reforms without any steps toward fulfillment resulted in the formation of an anti-government party in Germany. A new group, an offshoot from the regular Socialist party called the Independent Socialist Democratic party, has been formed.

AEROPLANE FLIES OVER NAVY YARD

Boston, April 17.—(United Press)—Another aeroplane was sighted flying over the Portsmouth navy yard. It is rumored an aeroplane base is located in New Hampshire woods.

BRITISH AND FRENCH BEGIN THEIR GREAT OFFENSIVE DRIVE

London, April 17.—(United Press)—The greatest offensive of the greatest war is on today.

Over a front of one hundred and seventy miles the Franco-British forces are driving with all the strength of the energy conserved through the months of winter preparation.

Wins Union Stock Show Slogan

Lulu McDermott Smith, of Baker, won the prize for sending in the best slogan to the Union Stock show association. The slogan is "The best we'll breed for America's need."

RUSSIA SOON TO HAVE NEW CONSTITUTION

At Congress of the Council of Workers It Is Urged That Assembly Be Called

Petrograd, April 17.—(United Press)—At a congress of the council of workers, the soldiers adopted a report providing for the election of a Constituent assembly for Russia as soon as possible. It recommended the election be held under the supervision of the Duma; all above twenty to be given the privilege of voting, women to be included.

CARRANZA IS OPPOSED BY HIS DEPUTIES

Only Eight Members of Mexican House Are in Favor of His Neutrality Policy

El Paso, April 17.—(United Press)—Only eight members of the entire Mexican House of Deputies favor Carranza's neutrality plan, announced in his message Sunday. It is reported unofficially that scenes of the wildest disorder occurred when the discussion of Carranza's message began. Several deputies openly urged an alliance with Germany.

The French movement began with a brilliant victory despite the most desperate German resistance.

Laon, one of the most important Germany supply stations, is menaced. General Haig today jammed his forces a mile closer to Lacattelle on the main line of communication between Cambria and St. Quentin.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND PARTICIPATE IN A GREAT PATRIOTIC WORK FILL OUT THIS BLANK AND MAIL TO THE OBSERVER.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Make all Checks Payable to
La Grande Chap. AMERICAN RED CROSS

LA GRANDE CHAPTER, LA GRANDE, OREGON.

Date

I hereby apply for membership in the class checked below and enclose the sum of Dollars (\$.....) therefor.

Please check class desired and be sure to write name legibly.

Annual Member	\$1	Name
*Subscribing Member, annually..2		Home address
*Contributing Member, annually 5		City and State
*Sustaining Member, annually 10		
*Life Member, one payment..25		
*Patron Member, one payment 100		

IMPORTANT— Membership in classes starred (*) above include annual subscription to the American Red Cross Magazine, handsomely illustrated, published monthly.

CHAPTER OF RED CROSS IS ORGANIZED

DR. M. K. HALL ELECTED CHAIRMAN—CAMPAIGN ON FOR FIVE HUNDRED MEMBERS IN UNION COUNTY.

La Grande Chapter American Red Cross was organized last night at a meeting of representative citizens held at the city hall.

The following officers were elected: Dr. M. K. Hall, chairman; Mrs. E. P. Mossman, vice chairman; Vincent Palmer, second vice chairman; Mrs. Para L. Thornton, third vice chairman; Mrs. Thomas Goodhue, secretary; U. S. National Bank, treasurer.

This morning Dr. Hall appointed the following chairmen of committees: J. G. King, chairman of the military committee; F. L. Meyers, chairman of finance committee; Mrs. George T. Cochran, chairman of membership committee; Clarke Leiter, chairman of publicity committee. The chairman of the civil committee is yet to be appointed.

Another meeting will be held tonight at the city hall to discuss the membership campaign. It is desired to secure 500 members in Union county and to start auxiliary chapters to the La Grande chapter which will have jurisdiction over Union county.

Mr. W. G. Hush, field agent of the American Red Cross was introduced by Mrs. R. W. Logan, president of the Neighborhood club and was the principal speaker of the evening. Mr. Hush presented in a very clear and able way the fact about the Red Cross organization and the requirements for forming a Red Cross Chapter.

He presented fully the facts which can only be referred to briefly here: First that the Red Cross is a national as well as an international organization.

Second, that it works both in peace and war to alleviate human distress and suffering, whether brought on by war or by plagues, epidemics or national disasters.

Third, that the American Red Cross is chartered by Congress and that it is the only agency that handles relief work for the Army and Navy in time of war.

Mr. Hush urged it as a patriotic duty for every one, man, woman or child, to join the Red Cross and for each locality to maintain an active chapter, whether in times of peace or war. Mr. Hush stated that before the war the United States had 28,000 members and an endowment of \$1,500,000; Japan with a population of 40,000,000 had 1,800,000 members and an endowment of \$26,000,000, while Germany with a population of 70,000,000 had 1,400,000 members and an endowment of \$40,000,000.

Thus it will be seen how nations like Japan and Germany appreciated the value of Red Cross work and support it, while the work in the United States has lagged behind. The campaign is on now to get 1,000,000 members for the American Red Cross. The dues for an annual member are \$1 a year.

There was great interest and enthusiasm last night, and it is believed that under the able leadership of Dr. Hall that an effective organization

PATRIOTISM TO BE SHOWN AT HOME

Speakers at Business Men's Luncheon Tell of Practical Work That Can Be Done

Patriotism was the theme at the Business Men's luncheon today. The theme was the patriotism that can be shown by those at home, by the clubs and organizations, by the public schools system and above all the industrial and agricultural work that can and is being done by the boys and girls of Oregon.

George Gilbert, acting as chairman, opened the program with the announcement that F. J. Holmes will be chairman at the next meeting two weeks from today.

Various other activities make it necessary to postpone the next luncheon one week. Mr. Gilbert urged that all be present at the meeting of the newly organized Red Cross society tonight in the city hall. He announced the subject of today's luncheon as "Practical Patriotism," and Mrs. Ray Logan, president of the Neighborhood club began the program with a stirring talk, telling of the phases of the work the Neighborhood club will participate in.

Briefly outlined, the work of their civic committee will be a clean-up campaign. The city will be divided into districts each with a chairman of the committee to oversee the work. Streets will be cleaned up, vacant lots cultivated and planted with vegetables, growing of flowers especially La Grande's pride the "aster" is to be encouraged. The work outlined by this club will be one of the greatest in making a better and a more beautiful city.

City Superintendent of Schools Mc-

(Continued On Page 5.)

can be built up.

Those who signed the charter roll last night were:

J. Garfield King, Dr. Harry Bouvey, Dr. Dora J. Underwood, Mrs. M. K. Hall, Mrs. Thomas Goodhue, J. D. Slater, Mrs. J. D. Slater, Mrs. M. C. Baker, Miss Emma Woods, George Gilbert, Mrs. George Gilbert, Mrs. D. B. Fisk, George H. Currey, Mrs. G. H. Currey, H. C. Vinacke, Mrs. H. C. Vinacke, L. McCullough, Mrs. L. D. Butler, W. D. McMillan, J. J. Broughton, Mrs. J. J. Broughton, Mrs. M. B. Gardener, Miss Ora D. Anderson, Vincent Palmer, Mrs. Sadie Given, Clarke Leiter, Mrs. A. C. Hampton, Dr. M. K. Hall, Mrs. W. A. Smith, Mrs. F. B. Currey, F. B. Currey, T. H. Goodhue, A. C. Hampton, Mrs. E. T. Andrews, Mrs. George Cochran, Mrs. R. W. Logan, F. E. Oxner, C. O. Oxner, J. T. Williamson, Mrs. J. T. Williamson, Mrs. C. Eberhard, L. D. Butler, Mrs. O. E. Silverthorn, Mrs. A. T. Hill, Mrs. E. Polack, Mrs. M. B. Donohue, Mrs. E. E. Kiddle, Mrs. C. H. Bidwell, Mrs. W. W. Wade, Mrs. J. Quinlan, Mrs. A. V. Andrews, Miss I. Atherton, Lucy Stanchfield, Elsa Newquist, T. J. Scroggin, F. L. Meyers and Colon R. Eberhard.

AMERICAN SUBMARINE CHASER IS ATTACKED BY A SUBMARINE

Turks Steadily Retreat Before British

London, April 17.—(United Press)—Turkish troops in Mesopotamia are steadily retreating before General Maude's advancing forces, it is officially stated. The enemy fell back without offering opposition.

German Ship Fires a Torpedo At the Destroyer Smith and Misses By Thirty Yards—The Smith Chased the Submarine and the Latter Submerged and Escaped.

REPORT CONFIRMED BY NAVY DEPT

First Clash in the German-American War Results in No Loss of Life—Navy Department Believes That It Will Arouse the People Against Germany's Design to Carry the War to Our Own Shores.

GEN. STRIKE IN BERLIN IS REPORTED

From Amsterdam Comes the News of Labor Troubles Which Are Semi-Officially Denied

Amsterdam, April 17.—(United Press)—Berlin's general strike is crippling the output of metal and wood, and blocking the transportation system, according to dispatches here.

Reported disorders in Berlin are unconfirmed. Details are meagre.

The general strike has long been expected.

Extreme socialists announced the move as a protest against the reduction of bread rations.

It is semi-officially declared the strike affected very few industries and was without general support.

BIDS FOR STATE BONDS BELOW PAR

Salem, April 17.—(United Press)—Because all bids received were below par the State Land Board rejected all bids for two hundred and fifty thousand dollar rural credits bond issue and instructed the clerk of the board to wire immediately to their attorneys in each county to cease taking loan applications. The board decided to advertise immediately.

(Continued on Page Eight.)

WHEREABOUTS OF BRITISH ENVOYS TO U. S. IS A MYSTERY

Washington, April 17.—(United Press)—Where Great Britain's commissioners are, when they will arrive in Washington is a mystery to the state department today.

It is stated officially that the department had "absolutely no word" concerning their whereabouts.

Definite information before night is sought.

The French Commissioners are not expected to arrive before the British.

Washington, April 17.—(United Press)—Germany fired the first shot in the war against the United States and missed.

The navy department officially confirmed the report that the U. S. destroyer Smith was fired upon by a submarine at three-thirty this morning.

The torpedo missed.

The Smith chased the submarine.

The enemy ship submerged and escaped.

The navy department believes the Smith affair will arouse the country, showing war at our own shores.

The submarine is the first definite evidence that German underwater boats are plying off American coasts.

Boston, April 17.—(United Press)—An engagement between a submarine and the submarine chaser Smith, was officially reported.

The message came from Fire Island Station to the Charleston Navy Yard, as follows:

"At three-thirty this morning, April 17th, the Smith apparently sighted a submarine. It fired a torpedo. It missed the Smith thirty yards. The wake was seen plainly crossing the bow. The submarine disappeared."

New York, April 17.—(United Press)—Beliefs that Germany may have obtained information concerning the departure of the Allies' Commissioners were expressed this afternoon.

It is recalled that Germany learned of Kitchener's departure. A submarine off the American coast may be waiting the arrival of the ships bearing the officials.