

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 XVII.

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1917

NUMBER 91

FOUR HUNDRED ARE KILLED IN EXPLOSION

CONGRESS WILL SOON DECLARE WAR ON AUSTRIA

RESOLUTION IS REPORTED FAVORABLY BY FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

OTHER NATIONS MAY BE INCLUDED TOO

Opening Debate in Congress Shows That Sentiment Favors Declaring War on Turkey and Bulgaria, Too.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The Foreign Relations committee favorably reported the resolution declaring war against Bulgaria and Turkey, despite the President's recommendations. Representative Miller declared the presence of British and Bulgarian representatives in Washington was a menace. He said information is daily reaching Berlin through them.

HILGARD NEWS NOTES.

Funeral of Frank Brown Held.—Mrs. William Hater III—Accident to Ed. Saling's Son.

HILGARD, Dec. 6. (Special).—School was closed Monday on account of the funeral of Frank Brown.

The funeral of Frank Brown, age 54, was held in Hilgard Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The death of Mr. Brown occurred in Pendleton last Friday from heart trouble. Mr. Brown was well known in this section of the country, having been for many years foreman for a Pendleton stock company. A few years ago he moved with his family to Colorado and had only recently returned to Oregon and was again in the employ of the Pendleton company. Mr. Brown had decided to send for his wife and daughter and intended making this his future home. The corpse was held in Pendleton until Monday morning when it was shipped to Hilgard for interment. The only member of the family present was Miss Mabel Brown, a daughter, who was teaching school at Starkey. Mrs. Brown and the two daughters in Colorado did not receive word in time to be present as the husband's death occurred very unexpectedly. Besides the members of the family already mentioned the deceased has a son in the navy, who, of course could not be notified immediately either. The body was laid to rest in the Hilgard cemetery where one daughter, Mrs. William Cantrell, had been already buried.

Mrs. William Hater is seriously ill at this writing.

Giles Hamilton and family of La Grande were visiting at the J. W. Scott home Sunday.

Ed. Saling and J. W. Scott have taken a logging contract on the William Grandy holdings east of Hilgard and have made a road to the timber preparatory to getting out the logs. The logging will be done by skidding and six teams will be used to bring the logs out to the river so they can be floated down to Perry.

The two year old son of Ed. Saling met with an accident Saturday. The child was sitting on his sister's lap and playing with a large nail when he accidentally fell to the floor. The nail was held by one hand and the point struck one side of the child's face penetrating almost an inch. The nail was removed and the doctor summoned from La Grande, who dressed the wound. If the nail had struck an inch higher on the child's neck it would probably have resulted in almost instant death.

GERMANY HAD PEACE PLAN LAST AUGUST

FOREIGN MINISTER TROTSKY PUBLISHES SECRET CORRESPONDENCE.

ARMISTICE PLANS ALSO ARE ANNOUNCED

Trotsky Says He Will Insist, if Peace Agreement is Signed, Germany Shall Not Use Troops Released Against Allies.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6.—Foreign Minister Trotsky has published secret diplomatic papers revealing that Germany was endeavoring to obtain peace through Spain last August.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 6.—Trotsky will insist if an armistice is signed with Germany that none of the Teuton troops now on the East front be transferred to the west front for use against the allies, he declared.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Representative Meyer London, a Socialist, introduced a peace resolution, favoring the immediate establishment of an international league to secure peace.

BIG DEFEAT OF ITALIANS IS ANNOUNCED

BERLIN, Dec. 6.—The Austro-Germans renewed their Italian drive and captured 11,000 Italians and 60 guns, it is officially announced.

Seven communes in the Meletta mountains were stormed and strong positions there maintained. The Germans advanced two and a half miles against the British over a six-mile front, capturing Grainscourt, Anneux, Cantigny, Noyelles and wooded heights north of Marconing.

The Germans captured in the Cambrai sector 9,000 prisoners and 148 guns and 716 machine guns.

ROME, Dec. 6.—After unprecedented and violent fighting, the Italians retired slightly before the renewed enemy drive, it is officially announced.

The Weather.

PORTLAND, Dec. 6.—The U. S. weather forecast: "Snow or rain."

S. Q. S. I. S. O. S. I.
With 200 guests expected and only 85 homes offering accommodations so far, the Y. M. C. A. Older Boys' Conference committee is sending out S. O. S. calls to all in La Grande who have room to entertain one or more delegates for the next three days.
"We're up against it," said A. W. Nelson, chairman of the committee, today. "We simply have to have accommodations for our guests. Every one who can help us is requested to phone Red 2001 or Main 81 at once."

Many Delegates Are Coming To Older Boys Conference

The following delegates have already sent their registration cards to the Y. M. C. A., the Older Boys Conference headquarters:
Pendleton—Morton, Reets, Mortimer, Parlette, Woodward, McRae, Warner.
Baker—Christley, Geddes, Palmer, Inman, Osack.
Ontario—Fraser, Maddox, Neese.
Ione—Cochran, Corson, Sperry, Schumann.
Joseph—Cook, Estes, Rudd, Shanefelt, Wilson, Cole, Morelock, Rennie.
Cove—Coons, Hetrick, Murphy, Richardson, Ryan.
Athens—Baker, Haynie, Lienatien.
North Powder—Bidwell, Hess, Lambert, Lindsey, Wicks, Hess.
Nyssa—Butler, Farley, MacDonald, McDonald, Tentsch.
Helix—Parker, Shannon, Carlstrom, Nelson, Cook, Davidson and Davidson.
Union—Davis, Dallin, Gervinson, Hibbert, Kephler, Miller, Nielson, Perkins, Rollins, Spencer, Thompson.
Echo—Coppinger and Stanfield.
Sumpter—Chaffin, Izatt, Schellenbarger.
Elgin—Kirtley, Parsons, Weiss.
Milton—Davis, Indson, Rice.
Wallawa—Bell, Behrens, Clemens, Evans, Goebel, French, Hunter, Hamilton, Johnson, McDonald, Pfeffer, Parsons.
Pilot Rock—Pardun, Edridgefelt.

ON THE TRAIL OF THE WAR PROFITEER



Five Inches Of Snow At Beaver Creek

PIPE LINE IS NOW RUNNING TO FULL CAPACITY.

City Reservoir is Full of Good Pure Water.—Leakage at the intake 320,000 Gallons Per Day.—Report of City Manager.

City Manager Curry reported to the City Commission last night that Beaver Creek was now furnishing the city ample water supply. He reported five inches of snow at Beaver Creek. Instructions were issued to the railroad company by the City Commission last night to be prepared to furnish its own water in case of necessity. The commission decided that cutting off of the railroad's supply in times of shortage would greatly relieve the city water most suitable to the local situation.

Pat Foley made application for permission to suspend an electric sign over Adams avenue. The matter was referred to the city attorney to investigate the city ordinance in regard to suspended signs.

The question of a sterilization plant was discussed and telegrams from cities where such plants were in use were read. The Commission is investigating the matter in an effort to determine the type of plant most suitable to the local situation.

The city manager's report follows: December 5, 1917.
To the Hon. Commission, City of La Grande, Ore.
Gentlemen:—Herewith I submit my report for the week ending Dec. 2, 1917.

Fire Chief reports one call for the week ending December 2nd. This was a chimney fire at the Model Restaurant and caused no damage. The Chief of Police reports two arrests.

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MRS. J. W. WHITE SERIOUSLY ILL; CONDITION VERY LOW.

Mrs. J. W. White, a prominent La Grande woman, mother of Mrs. Norman Deistler, is quite low and in unconscious. She suffered a stroke of paralysis Tuesday afternoon.

ELECTRIC EGG BEATER

A tiny electric motor drives the egg beater in the electric kitchen. This little device may also be used for making salad dressing and other culinary labor where continued stirring is required. The electric egg beater is a great convenience and saves considerable labor. It is easily attached to the lamp socket and consumes so little current that its use does not materially effect the monthly light bill.

Milton—Deany Fruit Co. to erect fruit warehouse and drier.

RED CROSS THEATER MATINEES TOMORROW

MANY PARTIES ARE BEING ARRANGED BY LADIES OF CITY.

School Children Will be Dismissed at 3:30 P. M. so That They Will be Enable to Attend.

Tomorrow (Friday) afternoon the Red Cross theatre benefits will be given at the La Grande theatres. Attractive programs have been arranged. At the Arcade Enid Bennett and Patty Arbuckle are the stars, at Sherry's Dustin Farnum and at the Star the Triangle play "Mountain Dew" and a Triangle comedy. The admission will be fifteen cents for adults and five cents for children at all of the theatres.

The women of the city are taking hold with enthusiasm and "dutch treat" parties will be given at all the theatres. Young women will act as ushers. An idea that is taking hold was developed by Mrs. G. L. Larson and Mrs. T. J. Seroggin. They are giving a theatre party for all the pupils in Master John Larson's room.

Superintendent of Schools Hampton has eliminated the afternoon recess so that the school children of the city will be able if they desire, to go to the afternoon matinees, and no doubt many "dutch treat" theatre parties will also be arranged to take the children.

Announcements will be made tonight at the theatres by the four minute men.

Indications point to large attendance. The entire proceeds of the afternoon performances go to the Red Cross.

The Importance of Tin in the War

Each day war necessities are increasing the American people to new habits of thrift. This was pointed out today by the local manager of the Standard Oil Company, Mr. Oil, when he referred to economies being made by his company to help conserve the supply of tin. Heretofore large quantities of Pearl oil thermostats have been sold in one and five gallon tin cans, but this practice is being discouraged to save tin. The name Pearl Oil thermostats sold extensively in this is carried in bulk by dealers and can be purchased from them at a small money saving as well as at a saving in tin for the nation's needs. So important is this matter of tin conservation that it is the patriotic duty of every American to conserve the supply as far as possible, and one way of doing this is to buy kerosene and like commodities in bulk instead of in tin cans.

North Bend—New machine shop and foundry building, near Farmer's wharf, nearing completion.

Fire Marshals Inspect City

FIRE DEPARTMENT IS FOUND IN GOOD SHAPE

Few Minor Changes and Improvements Suggested—Piles of Rubbish Around Buildings Must Be Cleaned Up.

Fire Chief Cayler accompanied the deputies from the State Fire Marshall's office on their rounds of inspection yesterday. The principal trouble found were the piles of rubbish in and around the buildings, and in many cases defective wiring. Residents were found willing to co-operate with the fire department and clean up where necessary to re-wire their buildings.

Later in the day Captain Stokes inspected the fire department, and also the water hydrants, which were thoroughly tested out. The water pressure was found very good and averaged over 92 pounds. A recommendation was made that the city install a few more hydrants, especially around school buildings. They also recommended that the fire department hold more drills, drilling in the open, layoff of hose, coupling up to the hydrants; also that a life net be purchased and carried on the wagon at all times, and that a cellar pipe be purchased and carried on the wagon in addition to the present cellar nozzle. The cost of these improvements would be slight, but they would be of inestimable value when the time came for their use.

Taken as a whole the fire department was found in good shape and efficient. Captain Stokes is a thoroughly experienced firefighter; he was for sixteen years with the Portland fire department, going through every grade from substitute to captain.

CALIFORNIA EXPRESS IS WRECKED NEAR SISSON

REDDING, Cal., Dec. 6.—Two unidentified hoboes were killed, one engine and seven passengers injured this morning when the California Express was wrecked two miles north of Sisson. The train's two locomotives, mail, express and baggage coaches and one tourist car were derailed.

HILGARD NEWS NOTES

Mr. Helms, who was employed in the sugar factory in Josephine county is visiting with his family for a few days.
Harry Divons came up from La Grande for Thanksgiving and returned Sunday.

AMERICAN MUNITIONS SHIP IS BLOWN UP

Heavy Fighting Around Cambrai

LONDON, Dec. 6.—General Haig reported the British lines southwest of Lavacqueri had been advanced slightly. Near Royelles sur Lesaut and Bourlon Wood the British withdrew slightly without interference from the enemy. General Haig said, until late yesterday the Germans were unaware of the British withdrawal.

By William Phillip Simms
BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 6.—Prince Rupprecht continued a steady pressure against General Byng's salient. Heavy fighting was reported on both sides of the British bulge into the German lines. The weather is exceptionally clear and cold.

British Make Raids
LONDON, Dec. 6.—The British air-bombed Sparapbook and dropped explosives on a train and ammunition dump, the admiralty announced.

British Cruiser Runs Into American Craft

BOTH ARE BLOWN UP, CREWS ARE KILLED
NEARBY DOCKS AND VESSELS ARE DAMAGED—HALIFAX ON FIRE.

TWO HUNDRED BODIES ARE ALREADY RECOVERED

Four Hospital Trains With Nurses and Another With Fire Fighting Apparatus is Sent to the City.
(United Press.)
AMHERST, NOVA SCOTIA, Dec. 6.—Scores are dead in Halifax, hundreds of buildings destroyed, and a section of the city is afire, as the result of a collision between an American munitions ship and a British cruiser near Richmond.

Both vessels were instantly blown to pieces, the crews killed instantly, and nearby vessels and docks damaged. The latest reports say the death toll will be more than four hundred. One report said the British cruiser struck the American munitions vessel.

A message from the Grand Trunk railroad asserted the bodies of two hundred railroad employees had been located in the North Street station. Four hospital trains with nurses, surgeons and supplies were rushed to Halifax. Another train is carrying fire fighting equipment. The entire city is reported afire. A large section of the city was completely demolished. The fire is spreading rapidly.

ST. JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK, Dec. 6.—Half of the suburb of Richmond in Halifax where the munitions ship exploded was razed. The fire still was sweeping over the city when communications were reestablished this afternoon. Bodies cluttered the streets. Hundreds of injured wander about, moaning and hunting their dead.

Secy. Dodson of the Chamber of Commerce reports Portland has outfit up a payroll of vast importance in the shipbuilding industry, there being between 13,000 and 14,000 employed now in the various plants, and the outlook is bright along industrial lines.

Air Planes Make Raid On London

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Twenty-five enemy airplanes made five simultaneous attacks on Kent, London, this morning. Lord French announced. Two German machines were forced to land. A heavy barrage fire was put up against the raiders. The raid lasted approximately two and a half hours. Lord French announced that seven were killed and twenty-one injured.

Joseph Is Having Some Snow, Thank You, But It's Light

JOSEPH, Dec. 3. (Special).—After our long spell of beautiful weather, winter has set in with some snow, which has been quite light, most of it passing off soon after falling. If enthusiasm exists for anything, Joseph High School will have a very successful year in debate. One of the largest try-out debates ever held in the school will be staged soon to decide who is to be on the team. Of the students who will try out (twenty in all) there is some very promising material. It is to be remembered that Joseph won the debate championship of the state at Eugene last spring and thought only one member of the championship team is still in school Joseph proud.

(Continued on page 4.)