La Grande Evening Observer

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VOLUME XVII. LA GRANDE, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917 NUMBER 92

1500 ARE DEAD IN THE HALIFAX DISASTER

THOUSANDS HOMELESS IN COLD AND HEAVY SNOWSTORM

WAR ON AUSTRIA IS DECLARED BY CONGRESS

SENATOR LA FOLLETTE DOES NOT VOTE—PACIFISTS MAKE NO NOISE

AMERICAN TROOPS MAY SOON BE IN ITALY

Wisconsin Senator Says He Was Absent by Mistake—Would Have Voted For It If His Amendment Was Accepted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The President signed the war resolution.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The Senate this afternoon unanimously passed the resolution declaring war against Austria.

The Senate committee's report favoring the resolution clearly intimated American troops may soon be fighting in Italy.

La Follette, who heard the debate, left before the vote was taken.

Senators Lodge, Syone and Hitchcock delivered stirring war speeches.

The discussion occupied less than an hour.

The resolutions were immediately sent to the House.

Senator Hitchcock declared the German menace was now greater than ever before.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—After the Senate passed the war resolution, the House took similar action.

The President is expected to sign the war declaration tonight.

Congressional action showed unexpectedly the disappearance of pacifism.

Congresswoman Rankin and others who voted against the war with Germany voted for the resolution this afternoon.

Senator La Follette announced after the Senate's vote that he was absent under a misapprehension and would have voted for the resolution if the Senate had embodied an amendment he contemplated.

Congressman London, Socialist, was the only representative voting against the resolution.

FRESHMAN GIRLS THIS YEAR ARE FREER FROM FLAT FEET

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, EUGENE, Dec. 7. (Special.)—There are fewer flat feet, straighter backs and less need of restrictive and corrective gymnasium among the freshmen girls examined by Miss Mabel Cummings, head of the department of physical training of the University, than last year.

Miss Cummings credits the splendid physical condition of the freshmen girls to sound heart action. Although medical statistics show that two of every hundred have leakage of the heart, she found no indication of it among the 180 girls examined.

Messick Jury Disagrees.

BAKER, Dec. 7. (Special.)—A disagreement by the jury in the Messick libel action was reported by the jury in the case at 2:15 yesterday afternoon, after 18 hours' deliberation, the vote of the jurors being six in favor of recovery by the plaintiff and six opposed. An agreement by nine of the jurors was necessary to carry a verdict either way.

Y. M. C. A. Delegates Arrive In Crowds

Today is a busy day at the "Y." J. Garfield King and his two efficient assistants Gladys Black and Charles Reynolds, have been working all day registering the delegates who are coming in on every train.

Many are already here and more are coming. It seems more like old times and La Grande has already taken on a more home like appearance since so many youthful faces appear in the crowd on the street. It has been over three months since the streets were thronged with our own boys and La Grande welcomes the delegates of the Older Boys conference as a return of the past. La Grande people have signified their pleasure by throwing open their homes to the guests and it is hoped that the boys will take with them when they leave an appreciation of La Grande and La Grande hospitality.

The conference opens today at 4:00 P. M. with a meeting at the Methodist church at which time committees will be appointed, the Honor Roll will be prepared, letters from Y. M. C. A. boys now in the service will be read and the boys will listen to a talk on "Our Former Conference Boys Now in Government Service," by C. L. Shaw, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. at Baker.

Tonight's program is as follows:

7:30—Patriotic Assembly, Ed. Coolidge, of La Grande, presiding.

Special music.

Address of Welcome—Clyde Bunting of La Grande.

Response to Address of Welcome.

Address—"The Challenge of War," G. L. Clark, Army Y. M. C. A. Secretary, American Lake, Wash.

ROUMANIA AGREES TO AN ARMSTICE

PARIS, Dec. 7.—M. Flaresdu, vice president of the Roumanian chamber of deputies, announced here this afternoon that the Roumanian generals had agreed to an armistice on the Russian fronts. He declared the Roumanian premier had informed the allies the Roumanian situation was desperate.

Roumanian Troops Firm.

JASSEY, Dec. 7.—Roumanian troops have rejected the attempt of the enemy to fraternize and postponed action on the Russian-German armistice negotiations, it is officially stated.

"NATIONAL SHOE" LATEST FRENCH WAR MEASURE.

PARIS, Nov. 20. (By Mail.)—In view of the exhorbitant prices asked for footgear, the Ministry of Commerce has decreed that all shops and establishments connected with the shoe trade are open to requisition and must declare their stocks. The object of this decree is to force shoemakers to give a greater vogue to the "National Shoe," which so far has only been abtainable in very limited quantities, at least in Paris. Everyone who has seen the "chaussure Nationale" declares it to be everything one could hope for. Besides being strong and well-made, it has only been obtainable in very thing against it, is that no one keeps it in stock.

BRITISH EXPECT ENEMY TO MAKE BIG DRIVE SOON

BIGGEST AND PERHAPS FINAL ATTACK TO BE LAUNCHED BY THE GERMANS.

ENGLISH TROOPS PREPARE TO WITHSTAND ASSAULT

Massing Resources for Expected Offensive — Russia's Withdrawal From War Aids Germany.

By William Philip Simms.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 7.—The British expect Germany's biggest and perhaps final attack soon. Having retired from Bourlon as a precautionary measure the British are now massing their resources preparing to withstand a terrific assault. With Russia out of the war Germany is enabled to shift great bodies of troops to France.

More than two thousand Germans were killed this morning in two violent and fruitless efforts to break the British lines around Vial Wood.

Twenty-five separate German divisions were identified, indicating the Germans have 375,000 men massed.

Italians Taken Prisoners

BERLIN, Dec. 7.—At Monte Sysmo 4000 additional Italian prisoners were captured, it is officially announced. Italian prisoners taken since the renewed drive started total 15,000.

German Attacks Repulsed

PARIS, Dec. 7.—The repulse of two German attacking waves, following a violent bombardment around Bezonvaux and Beaumont, was officially reported. Active artillerying is reported in the Rhoneux and Rhine Canal region.

APPLE GROWERS HOLD MEETING

Will Protest Against 15 per cent Freight Rate Increase.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 7—Planning a vigorous protest against the proposed 15 per cent freight rates increase, northwest apple growers met in the public service commission's room in the Multnomah county court house here today.

Representatives of the public service commissions of Washington, Oregon and Idaho are attending the meeting.

The apple men claim that the freight rate increase would greatly cripple industry. Definite steps to lay the entire situation before the interstate commerce commission immediately will probably be taken at the meeting here today.

RILEY CHANDLER IS ON VISIT TO ELGIN

Joined the Marines and is Now on Vacation—Talks to High School About His Experiences.

ELGIN, Dec. 7. (Special.)—Riley Chandler is visiting his relatives in Elgin this week. Mr. Chandler joined the Marines last year shortly before the close of school. He visited the Elgin high school Wednesday afternoon and gave the assembly a very interesting account of the island near Frisco and of the explosion which occurred there a few months ago. All of Mr. Chandler's many friends here are pleased to know the he is progressing so well in the military service.

Three young men of the Elgin high school are attending the Older Boys conference which is in session at La Grande, commencing today.

The United Society of Young People of Elgin, which was recently organized at the M. E. church is growing rapidly. Several committees have been appointed by the cabinet members and the members are starting out on a membership campaign. The society will give a poverty social next Friday evening.

There will be a meeting of the Parent-Teachers Association Friday evening at 3:00 o'clock in the dining room of the high school.

Byron Mayfield, wife, and daughter, of Enterprise, visited in Elgin the last of the week.

William Kloostra made a business trip to La Grande Tuesday evening.

The ladies of the Red Cross are now busily engaged in making surgical dressings. They are turning out a great deal of sewing and knitting as well.

Mrs. Lee Tuttle returned to Elgin the fore part of the week after having visited her brother who is in the Hot Lake hospital.

OREGON PIONEER WOMAN PASSES

MRS. BARBETT HENDERSHOTT DIES AT SALEM—WILL BE BURIED AT COVE.

BAKER, Dec. 7. (Special.)—At Salem, at the home or her sister, Mrs. John B. Eaton, death came to Mrs. Harriett Hendershott, aged 86, on Wednesday night, according to a telegram received by Mrs. Charles H. Brack, daughter of the deceased, in this city.

Mrs. Hendershott was the widow of James Hendershott, and both were Oregon and Union county pioneers. Mr. Hendershott being prominent in politics as a Democrat during his lifetime.

Mr. and Mrs. Breck left for Cove last night, the body of Mrs. Hendershott having been shipped to that place, the funeral to take place at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

ARMISTICE SAYS NOTHING ABOUT GERMAN TROOPS

RUSSIAN NEWSPAPER PRINTS ARTICLE WITHOUT TROOP STIPULATION.

ENEMY CAN USE TROOPS ON OTHER FRONTS

Trotsky Declares He Will Not Conclude Armistice Without this Stipulation.

(United Press.)

PETROGRAD, Dec. 7.—The newspaper Pravdan printed the Russian-German armistice containing no stipulation providing that Germany must not use her troops now on the Russian front against the allies, although Trotsky has announced he would not conclude an armistice without such a stipulation.

Those Who Aid Enemy Should Suffer

Patriotism is the Holiest Manifestation of Loyalty of American Citizens to the National Ideal, He Says.

Melvin G. Winstock, one of the big theatrical and motion picture men of the northwest, in town today, is very much disgusted at that class of people, who, in covert ways, are really giving comfort and aid to the enemy. He feels that they belong either in Germany or in internment camps, raising potatoes for the Army. Should they refuse, he thinks they ought to be shot. Asked for a definition of patriotism, Mr. Winstock said:

"Patriotism is the holiest manifestation of the loyalty of the American citizen to the national ideal. Its highest expression lies in service and sacrifice; service which knows no limit, and sacrifice which regards not even death itself as too high a price to pay for the preservation of true Democracy.

"The national ideal is not attained by lust of power or wicked dream of conquest. It is evolved from the inspired soul of a great and welded people, who, serene in happiness and confident in power, cannot sit idly by while tyranny crucifies millions upon the cross of military autocracy, and bloody war stalks the earth, leaving its trail of wanton destruction.

"When history seals the verdict of today, it will declare America to have been the deciding factor, not only in the preservation of Democracy for the masses, but in making safe and sure the everlasting peace of mankind."

Are You a Patriot?

"A good saver is a good server." This is especially applicable in these perilous times when every bushel of grain, every ounce of food stuffs, and every bit of material should serve its full purpose. A single act of carelessness which results in the destruction of any of our resources, or the wasting of a single morsel of food, is in direct contrast to the appeal of President Wilson, which is as follows:

"Preventable fire is more than a private misfortune. It is a public dereliction. At a time like this of emergency and of manifest necessity for the conservation of national resources, it is more than ever a matter of deep and pressing consequence that every means should be taken to prevent this evil."

In one trade journal's report of fires for one week we find two reports of significance as an example of the waste of foodstuffs in the South. At Fort Bliss, Texas, 27,000 bales of hay were destroyed by fire, while trucks manned by soldiers removed more than a million bales to safety. The value in money of the hay lost is approximately $25,000, but, insured or not, the money cannot replace the hay, which is foodstuff for animals. It is gone, and they can't feed the horses money.

At Cuthbert, Georgia, during the same week, 375 bales of cotton were destroyed in a warehouse fire.

The report of both these fires gives origin unknown. But, sifted down to facts, it is very probable that there was some carelessness or negligence at the origin of both fires.

In this day of stupendous figures the most unsophisticated turns up his nose at any sum under a million when amounts of money losses or gains are discussed, and the loss of a few thousand dollars by fire hardly attracts attention; but the loss in each state begins to show in considerable amounts, and when the nation's total of foodstuffs burned is footed up the sum becomes enormous.

It therefore falls to the lot of every loyal citizen to observe every precaution to see that not an ounce of food is destroyed by fire.

Attention means prevention!

Observer Unites Two Old School Friends

F. C. Herzinger, local agent of the Oregon Life Insurance company, found an old schoolboy friend that he had not seen for forty years, through The Observer.

Mr. Herzinger was in Enterprise last Monday and found himself sitting with two others at the same table in the dining room of the Miller hotel. One of them, a drummer, asked the waitress for a paper and was handed an Observer; he, however said he wanted a Spokane paper. Mr. Herzinger remarked that it was his home paper when the other man, who turned out to be Leonard Calkins, Pacific Coast Manager of the K. of P. Insurance department, asked him if he knew an insurance man called Herzinger, as he saw by an advertisement in the paper that he lived in La Grande.

When Mr. Herzinger introduced himself, there was a joyful re-union, as Herzinger is a native son of Nevada City, California, and Mr. Calkins spent all his youth there and was also for many years editor and publisher of the Nevada City Transcript. As boys they both attended the same school and were in the same classes, but it was almost forty years to the day since they had last seen each other.

THOUSANDS D... IN EXPLOSION MUNITION ... PS

CONSERVATIVE ... PUTS CASUALTY ... IN BIG FIGURES.

TWO AND HALF SQUARE MILES OF CITY DEST

Nurses Unable to Attend to ands of Injured—Dazed Roam the Streets.

(United Press

HALIFAX, Dec. 7.— ... said late this afternoon the ... that might not be as large as was at first expected. They said the total dead might not exceed 1,500. Thirty-five bodies were found in one section of a ruined hospital. Only three children escaped from scores in a Protestant orphanage. More than thirty women were found in the ruins of one print shop.

HALIFAX, Dec. 7.— Officials are conservatively estimating that 2,500 were killed yesterday when the French munitions ship Mont-Blanc exploded. Two and one-half square miles of this city were completely destroyed. The limited number of doctors, nurses and attendants are unable to attend to the thousands of injured. Hundreds, dazed, roam the streets and others paw through the wreckage searching for missing relatives.

HALIFAX, Dec. 7.—Freezing cold and a heavy snowstorm increased the suffering on the homeless thousands today.

The fire, believed to extinguished, broke out again this morning.

Corpses were frozen stiff in grotesque and horrible attitudes.

There are scores of injured and dying.

Police are attempting to round up lost children, who wander through the wreckage, weeping bitterly.

Conditions are even worse in Dartmouth, across the bay, than they are here.

Armed guards patrol most of the damaged sections.

Dockyard magazines have been flooded to prevent more explosions.

Canadian soldiers and American sailors are hunting the wounded and dead.

Trainloads of supplies, doctors and nurses are arriving hourly.

CAMP LEWIS NEARLY COMPLETE

Buildings About Finished; Other Camps Behind

Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 7—Camp Lewis the nation.

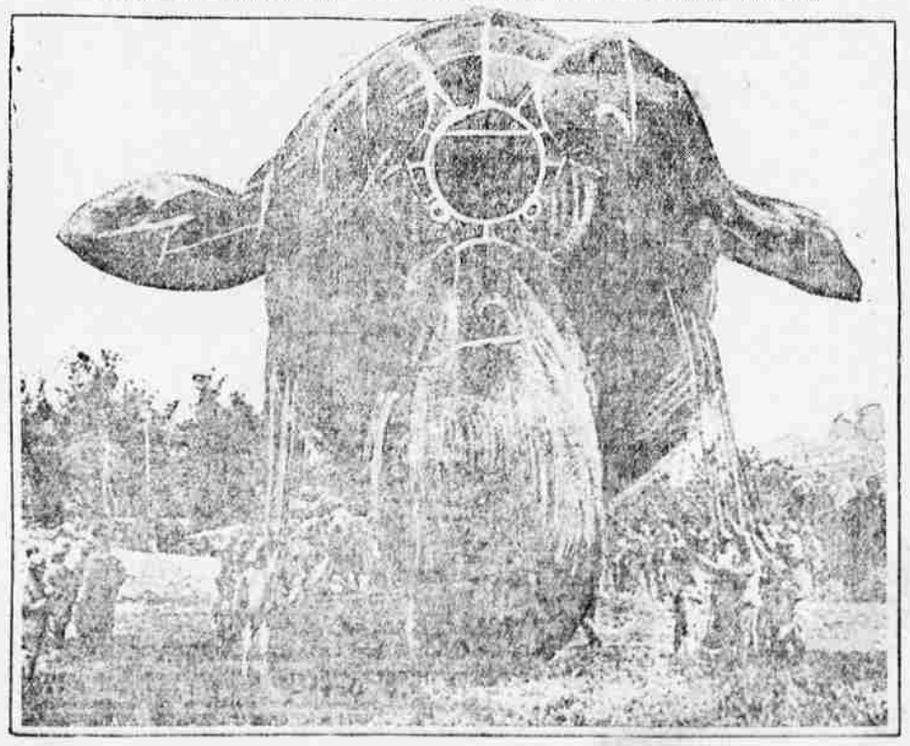
That is the unanimous verdict of officers reaching here from the east. With the exception of several small buildings, Camp Lewis stands practically completed. Work is far from finished in some eastern camps because of difficulty in securing lumber.

Moreover, these officers say, training has progressed further here than, in the eastern camps. Camp Lewis is also believed to be the largest cantonment in the country.

The Weather

PORTLAND, Dec. 7.—The U. S. weather forecast: "Fair."

FLYING "ELEPHANT" IS NEW EYE FOR FRENCH ARMY



This is a new type of French observation balloon, replacing the "Sausages." Like the "Sausage" this balloon takes its name from its shape. It is called the "Elephant." Note the "trunk" and "ears" and huge body. The picture shows the balloon just being let loose for observation duty.

Man Who Passsed Through European Battles Coming to La Grande

SERGEANT FRED WELLS WILL LECTURE HERE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ARMY AND NAVY AUXILIARY.

There is a man coming to La Grande who has gone through the hell of the war, who has contributed to the hell of the war, who has escaped from the hell of the war, and comes back, minus one arm, to tell of it. His name is Sergeant Fred Wells, known as "Doc" and he will talk at the Star Theatre, in conjunction with the regular motion picture program, December 12 and 13, illustrating his lecture with war pictures, released by the Canadian government. In Canada "Doc" Wells is well known. Tales of his heroism have been seized by the newspapers and published from coast to coast. The lecture here will be under the auspices of the Army and Navy Auxiliary.

But it is not his personal achievements that Sergeant Wells will talk about. He is not on a mission of self applause. He is telling the United States the real facts about the war, picturing it so graphically that every man and woman who hears will be able to picture his or her son surrounded by the war; to visualize war; to know the details of warfare.

Wells talks about Ypres in terms of the comrades he knew. He pictures men, men just before a charge, during a charge, in death, and pleading to be killed. He will not tell, unless drawn on, the story of how, in the attack on a Ypres salient of five miles, he volunteered to cross a road considered impassable, to take con-

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Dont Worry, Mother, Writes Soldier Boy From France

LEONARD JOHNSON, OF ISLAND CITY SAYS THINGS ARE NOT HALF BAD OVER THERE.

Mrs. E. F. Johnson, of Island City, has received the following letter from her son, Leonard:

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE,
November 1, 1917.

Dearest Mother:—

Well, here I am feeling fine and dandy. How is everybody at home by this time? I suppose you have been worried an awful lot not hearing from me for so long. But don't worry, things don't look half as bad as you think they are. Did you get my two post cards I wrote the 15th of October?

We [illegible] and have [illegible] but will [illegible] to more grub enough.

I was just out and heard the band play some music and it sure sounded good to me.

I got a letter a couple of days before I left New York, and I have an idea I have a lot of mail there by this time, and don't know whether I will get it or not. Did you send the cake to me? If you did I expect some one else will get to eat it.

It sure looks comical here to see people wearing wooden shoes.

Tell Tom's mother that he is feeling fine and dandy. I was only sick a little while one morning when I got up, and after that I felt fine all the time. There is so little I can write about. About all I can say is that I am well. But don't worry mother, I might surprise you some time before many months pass. I am going to close until we get settled and then write a big long letter.

With lots of love,

LEONARD B. JOHNSON,
Field Hospital Unit.