

BRITISH TROOPS CAPTURE CITY OF JERUSALEM

7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE "BEST EVER"

VERDICT OF LEADERS AND DELEGATES WAS UNANIMOUS.

CLOSED WITH ROUSING UNION CHURCH SERVICE

Packed House Marks Closing Session —Baker Man New President—Banquet Was Big Feature.

The seventh annual state Old Boys' Conference for Eastern Oregon came to a close last night in a rousing union meeting at the First M. E. Church, at which Rev. G. L. Clark, who had twice previously appeared before the conference, delivered the principal address. The large church was early filled to capacity, a sincere testimonial of the interest which the people of La Grande feel in the welfare of the "Old Boys" as well as a magnificent tribute to the speaker of the evening.

Rev. Clark took for his theme, "Christ's Challenge to Serve," an appeal for the higher ideals of life, directed especially toward the young men of the conference who occupied two whole sections on the lower floor of the church. Rev. Clark pointed out as a duty of every one the necessity of having some fixed goal toward which to work and the further necessity of making that goal a lofty one. Although handicapped by a severe cold, aggravated by the strenuous use to which he has put his voice during the sessions of the conference, Rev. Clark commanded the closest attention from his large audience and left a deep impression upon the minds of those who heard him.

The meeting was presided over by President J. W. Boyer, of Baker. Reports were heard from the various committees and the business of the conference was completed. A special program including several musical numbers was greatly enjoyed by the large audience. Among the musical numbers was an organ prelude by Mrs. W. A. Winters, a song by the male chorus of the Methodist choir, and a duet by Misses Gladys Black and Jeanette Stoddard.

Conference Best Ever. At the closing feature of the conference, which is said by those in charge to have been the best, both in point of attendance and enthusiasm of any yet held in Eastern Oregon, the delegates and leaders took part in the service of the farewell circle. This service included the forming of an unbroken circle around the room, each man clasping the hand of his neighbor, the entire circle remaining intact the while John H. Rudd, interstate boys' secretary, lead the conference in a series of pledges, bidding them to do their share in keeping the home fires burning, guarding those who are left in their care while others have gone to the front and maintaining the supply of necessities here at home. The meeting—and the conference—closed by singing "Blessed be the Father That Binds."

Conference Leaders in Pulpits. Local pastors occupied the pews yesterday morning just the same as the ordinary church-goer, while conference leaders spoke from the various church pulpits in the city. The Old Boys' Conference was strictly "it" so far as church activities were concerned and both delegates and leaders put in a busy day.

At the hour of the regular morning service at least five La Grande pastors gave way to conference leaders who presented to their various congregations a message based on the theme, "The Challenge to Boy Leadership." At the First M. E. Church, L. G. Nichols, director of education of the Portland Y. M. C. A., delivered the address. Rev. John H. Matthews, of Seattle, occupied the pulpit at the Baptist church. Rev. G. L. Clark addressed his old congregation at the Presbyterian church. Paul Newmyer, of Enterprise, occupied the pulpit at the Christian church and Mr. Hadley, of North Powder, addressed the congregation at the M. E. Church South.

Preceding the morning church services the delegates participated in a "Life Work" session presided over by L. G. Nichols, of Portland. So great was the interest among the boys in this session that it was continued in the afternoon, a most unusual occurrence, according to conference leaders.

At 3:30 in the afternoon the conference was addressed by Rev. G. L. Clark, who spoke on "The Challenge

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GERMAN SHELLS HAVE DEVASTATED THE REGION FOR MILES ABOUT VERDUN

Once Thickly Forested Hills and Richly Cultivated Valleys Are Now in Utter Ruin.

By ED. L. KEEN (Gen. European Mgr., United Press)

WITH THE FRENCH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Nov. 14. (By Mail.)—If one of the party hadn't stopped to dig up a Boche bayonet from the roadside, this piece wouldn't have been written.

The French officer-chaplain and his charges had tarried on the way back to Verdun from one of the outlying forts to chat with a bunch of Red Cross men, and incidentally to watch the antics of a flock of German aeroplanes as they dodged in and out among the feathery puffs of French shrapnel. The usual daily artillery strafe had been on for some hours. Hundreds of tons of metal had been bowling above our heads, from both sides, far up and down the line. At times there was a shot for every second. But so far the Boche targets had been located a comfortable distance away. Our officer had given the word to resume the journey, and the chauffeurs were cranking up, when the opportunity of gathering in another battle-fold souvenir intervened. It is still there.

Careful figuring, conducted very shortly thereafter in one of the Red Cross dugouts nearby, convinced the whole party that if it hadn't been for the bayonet episode our cars would have collided with the big Boche shell just at the moment of its explosion about a block down the road. For half an hour the German artillerymen raked the neighborhood, and then during a lull we beat it back to the underground shelters of the safest citadel in Europe.

The experience had merely supplied a vivid final touch to impressions already acquired—of what the soldiers of Verdun have been undergoing in the past eighteen months. In this region Nature has been given no opportunity, as she has, for example, on the battlefield of the Somme to repair as best she can the ravages of war. From the top of one of the battered forts that now forms an unbreakable ring about Verdun—recaptured from the Germans with a valor and at a sacrifice of life that will make its name immortal in history—stretches out as far as 10-ply made-in-Germany binoculars can reach, a vista of utter devastation.

Once thickly forested hills and richly cultivated valleys speckled with happy villages; now a sodden, grayish, monotonous panorama of churned-up soil, criss-crossed here and there with trenches, and only an occasional stump or pile of crumbled stones to evidence its former beauty. It's like Notre Dame de Lorette, Vimy, Wytschaete, Messines and Passchendaele Ridge all scrambled together.

All the forces of Nature—fire, flood, hurricane, and earthquake—could not have wrought such havoc. Only one man could do it. Even looking backward, the only discernable color is the green of the distant fields, the shattered red-tiled roofs of the fortress city, and the clusters of purple-wreathed graves where sleep the men who made the motto of Verdun—"On ne passe pas" (No transgressors allowed!)—a reality.

The Germans now occupy very much the same line as that from which the Crown Prince launched his costly but futile attack upon this stronghold. Previously we had traversed the valley of the Marne whose almost scarless landscape bears ample testimony to the characteristic French traits of dash, mobility, and resourcefulness; just as Verdun's pitifully harrowed hillside will always be a monument to the hitherto less familiarly known French qualities of tireless energy and dogged stubbornness.

Then on through the forest of the Vosges down to where France in the early days of the war plucked, and still tightly clutches, a bit of what used to be hers. It's only a few square miles—just about equal in area to the plot of ground that Belgium now holds of her own ravished country—but entirely sufficient to exemplify and justify another fine French trait, intense pride of accomplishment.

"Alsace Reconquise!" proudly reads the sign over a little shop fronting the badly scarred old church in the public square of Thann. Nearly all the old signs have been changed from German, but some have been retained, just for souvenirs. In this corner of the "lost provinces" there is no doubt how the people stand. A good many German statesmen profess to believe that the population of Alsace-Lorraine has been so thoroughly Kulturized in the past generation and

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GERMANS IN HALIFAX ARE TO BE ARRESTED

SURVIVING OFFICERS AND CREW OF STEAMSHIP DETAINED.

PREMIER BORDEN CANCELS ALL HIS ENGAGEMENTS

He Will Devote All His Time to Relief—Known Dead 1200—900 Unidentified—Missing, 2000.

(United Press.) HALIFAX, Dec. 10.—All Germans are being arrested. The surviving officers and crew of the steamers Mont Blanc and Imo which collided, were ordered detained.

Premier Borden announced cancellation of all political engagements. He will devote his entire time to relief work. The known dead total 1200. Nine hundred bodies are unidentified. Two thousand are missing.

ITALIANS FORCE BACK THE TEUTONS

(United Press.) ROME, Dec. 10.—Italians forced the Teutons from the entire Caposile position along the lower Piave, it is announced. The enemy losses are heavy. Thirty-five prisoners were taken.

New Type of Legging

(United Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 10. (Special)—Following the suggestions of Allied and American officers who have recently served on the western front, the United States Marines are experimenting with a new type of legging to be worn with their new winter field uniform. It will replace the present type of legging, made of canvas.

A puttee with bound edges and simple wrap that may be easily adjusted has been suggested and is now under consideration of Marine Corps officials. It will embody all the good points of the several different kinds of leggings used by the Allied armies in the field. The new puttee is a nearly perfect as modern ingenuity can make it and if adopted will make the Marines' winter field uniform most distinctive.

Secretary Baker Is Very Much Alarmed

Man in Charge of Military Operations Urges the People to "Speed Up"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Secretary Baker's weekly war summaries frankly warned the nation not to minimize the danger of German's activities along the west front. He declared the German menace is now greater than at any time for the last two and a half years. The summary predicted the Germans would be able to achieve some relative advantages through temporary predominance in numerical strength.

Secretary Baker called upon the nation to speed up military effort, preparing not merely to fight but to win. He declared Germany, with many divisions released from the Russian front, is now in a singularly fortunate position.

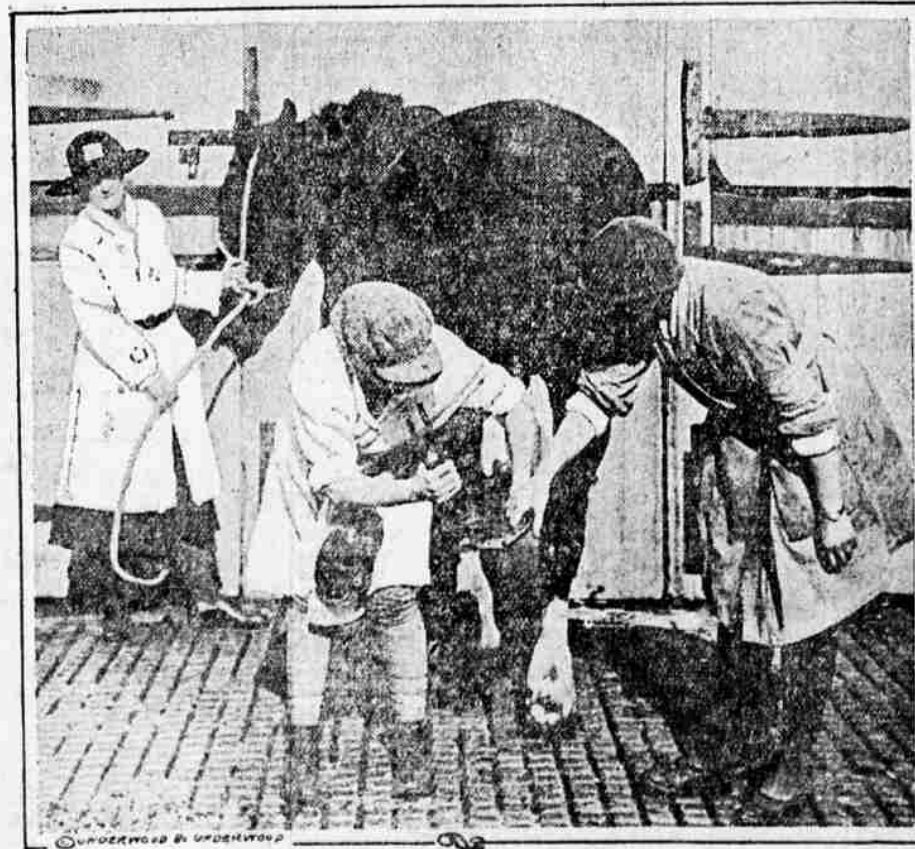
LA GRANDE TO HAVE ANOTHER BIG MATCH

The packed house that greeted Santel and the success attending his appearance against O'Neill made such a favorable impression upon the lovers of clean athletics that many requests have been made to the promoters for another match. The services of Walter Miller, world's middleweight champion, have been secured and he will defend his title against Ted Thye, the clever Spokane wrestler in a finish match at the Arcade, December 20th, which has been rented for the occasion.

Miller is the best known and most popular wrestler on the Pacific coast. He has defended his title against every mat artist of note in America and is recognized by sport authorities as the wrestling wonder of the age. He has frequently wrestled heavyweights in order to keep busy and on his last appearance in Portland recently he met all comers, not drawing the line at any weight, offering \$50 to any man whom he could not throw in fifteen minutes.

Ted Thye is well known here, having wrestled Jack O'Neill here in July in one of the fastest, most interesting contests of the year and later he met Jim Noregaard and was so severely injured that he had to forfeit the match. As a result of this injury he was rejected after a second examination at Camp Lewis, the examining physicians claiming his shoulder had healed imperfectly. Since his discharge however he has had three hard matches, winning each one, demonstrating that he can wrestle as good as ever. The coming match will be a finish affair and considering the talent should surpass any exhibition we have had this year.

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS THE WOMAN STEEPLE-JACK



The latest war occupation of British women is running a veterinary hospital and blacksmith shop. McNamara's Horse Hospital, it's called, and the owner and all the workers are women. The photo shows girls removing a patient's shoe. Next they'll be steeple-jacking.

BOLSHEVIKI GET CONTROL OF RAILWAY

FACTION FRIENDLY TO GERMANY MAY REACH HARBIN

WOULD OPEN VAST RESOURCES TO GERMANY

Two Provinces Declare Independence —Peasants' Council Issues Manifesto Against Separate Peace.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—The Bolsheviks are gaining control of the Siberian railway and are likely to reach Harbin. Control of the Harbin and Siberian railway would open up the vast Siberian and Manchurian resources to Germany if a separate peace were declared.

TOKYO, Dec. 10.—Vladivostok and Amour provinces have both declared their independence and established provisional governments, it is authoritatively reported. The new governments formally notified the other independent Russian governments of their action.

Anarchy is reported throughout this part of Asiatic Russia. Great quantities of the allies' supplies and ammunition are stored at Vladivostok. ant Council and P. N. H. L. SIERA PETROGRAD, Dec. 10.—The Peasant Council's executive committee has issued a manifesto repudiating the German armistice and appealing strongly to the people against the Bolshevik program for a separate peace.

TROTSKY AND LENINE ARE REPORTED DEFEATED

HAPARANDA, Dec. 10.—Chinese troops have entered Harbin. Japanese troops have reached Vladivostok to prevent disturbances. The Petrograd official news agency announced that the Bolsheviks were willing to form a coalition government. A courier from Petrograd declared the Trotsky-Lenine combination had been overwhelmingly defeated at the national election, according to fairly complete returns.

Declare Their Independence. COPENHAGEN, Dec. 10.—Orenburg, Ufa, Perm, and Samara provinces have declared their independence. These four provinces are in the extreme northeast corner of European Russia. The Cossacks control them.

ARMISTICE IS SIGNED ON EASTERN FRONT

BERLIN, Dec. 10.—An armistice affecting the line between the mouth of the Dniester and the Danube was signed, it is officially stated.

Mrs Ella White, Beloved Pioneer, Dies

WIDOW OF THE LATE J. W. WHITE PASSES AWAY

Stricken with Paralysis a Week Ago. Funeral Will Be Held Tomorrow—Stores to Close

La Grande lost one of its most beloved pioneers last Saturday evening when death called Mrs. Ella White. She had been stricken a week ago with paralysis.

Mrs. White was the widow of the late J. W. White, who passed away in July, 1915. Mrs. White leaves one daughter, Mrs. May Desilet, and a niece, Miss Birdie Smith of Walla Walla as her only near relatives.

Mrs. Ella White was born in Seymour, Connecticut, May 16, 1853, and was 64 years of age. She came to Oregon 31 years ago, settling in La Grande. Although she has suffered greatly from rheumatism for 34 years, the last 18 of which she was practically an invalid, still she was always cheerful and jolly, put a bright face on everything. Her kindness and charities were innumerable. She was never too sick or too busy to render a helping hand, and her purse was also always open to the needy or those temporarily embarrassed.

She was a member and for many years secretary of the local lodge of Rebekahs. As soon as news of her death reached her friends and business associates, it was decided to close all stores in La Grande tomorrow from 2 to 3:30 p. m. as a mark of respect and to allow all to attend the funeral of their beloved friend. There will be few dry eyes in La Grande tomorrow, as there are very few of the older residents and their families who in some way have not reason to miss the kindly presence of Mrs. White.

ANARCHY IS SPREADING IN HEART OF RUSSIA

(United Press.) PETROGRAD, Dec. 10.—Russian soldiers returning from the front are pillaging towns and estates. Conditions are growing tense here. The city council issued a manifesto declaring Bolshevik interference threatens a food and fuel famine. Maximalists issued a decree formally abolishing all lawyers, courts, and creating a revolutionary tribunal in their stead.

General Korniloff is reported to have joined General Kalldine's Cossacks. When Your Neighbor Is Your Enemy

By GEORGE W. STOKES Deputy Fire Marshall

Many people concern themselves seriously as to whether or not their neighbor may be responsible for a fire that will wipe out house and home overnight.

And what's the difference in the loss of property, or possibly life, whether the neighbor is an enemy of a careless friend? If your neighbor is harboring a defective flue, trash-ridden attic, closets or cellar; if his electric wires or stoves are so installed as to endanger the woodwork, or if his family or servants handle gasoline or oily rags either ignorantly or carelessly so as to invite fire-disaster—if your neighbor is doing any of these things or others equally careless or dangerous—it's your move.

In matters of fire protection it is strikingly true that "no man liveth to himself alone." Our only safety lies in fire prevention.

Sig. Sichel, Good Man and True, Dead

PORTLAND, Dec. 10.—Sigmund Sichel, pioneer merchant, legislator and one of the best known Jews on the Pacific coast died today. He was a former state senator and prominent in all philanthropic movements. He was one of the most popular men in Portland.

GENERAL HAIG REPORTS GERMAN RAIDS REPULSED

LONDON, Dec. 10.—General Haig has reported that two German raids were repulsed. The Paris statement detailed violent artillery on the right bank of the Meuse.

GEN. ALLENBY LEADS ARMY INTO HOLY CITY

NEWS OF VICTORY ANNOUNCED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CAPTURE WILL BE BLOW TO TURKISH MORALE

Dispatches Indicate Envois Passa, Turkish War Minister, is Tottering —Turks Have Long Boasted of Possession of the City.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—General Allenby's British troops have captured Jerusalem, it is officially announced. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law announced the capture in the House of Commons. The news was received with great rejoicing.

The capture brings the city under Christian control for the first time in four hundred and one years.

The capture of Jerusalem is expected to be a tremendous blow to the Turkish morale. The possession of Jerusalem has been the boast of the Moslems for centuries.

Recent dispatches indicated that Envois Passa, Turkey's ambitious war minister was tottering from his position while the British armies swept toward the city.

Great Rush On Now To Enlist

MEN ON DRAFT LIST CANNOT ENLIST AFTER DECEMBER 15

Many of La Grande's Boys Are Leaving to Enter Various Branches of Uncle Sam's Service.

After December 15, Saturday, no more enlistments in the army will be received.

A great rush is on among those in the draft list to get into special branches of the service. The following notes have been reported into The Observer office or picked up by the staff:

R. G. Keefer went to Baker today to join the aviation corps.

Allen Wicks left for Baker today to enlist.

Virgil Bolton of Hill's Department Store goes to Baker today to enlist. Roy Greene, who has been in business in La Grande for some time leaves tonight for Portland to enlist in the quartermaster's department of the United States army. He will be accompanied by E. W. Atchison of the Western Union, who will enlist in the bakery department.

A number of other young men of La Grande who will leave in a few days for Baker to enlist are reported as follows: H. Plass, Walter Bean, Estelle Wright, Forrell Murry, August Zogg, Silas Andrews.

War Baby Scare Proves To Be a Myth

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Miss Lathrop, chief of the Federal Children's Bureau, reported that an official investigation showed that the war baby scare in American military camp towns proved to be a myth.

MANY FAIL TO PASS DOCTORS

One Out of Every Eight Sent to Camp Lewis Is Rejected

Camp Lewis, Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 10.—On an average one man out of eight sent here by local exemption boards have been rejected by army physicians and sent back home, according to figures available here today.

Total of 5,256 men failed to meet the strict mental and physical tests. In each case, army physicians will send rejection papers showing the cause of rejection to the local boards. Physicians are expected to study these rejection papers are carefully so that the number of men sent back home in the second draft will not be as great. Wholesale rejections of men caused physicians here much extra work and added greatly to the expense of maintaining the camp, in addition to causing five thousand men great inconvenience.