

CONGRESS BLAMED FOR WAR'S DELAYS

Major General Crozier, Chief of Ordnance Says Snail Like Pace Has Hampered United States In Its Entry Into the Great World War

WAR DEPARTMENT IS ALSO CRITICISED

Red Tape Is Held Responsible—Labor Situation Has Also Retarded Preparations—Major-General Crowder Testifies at Senate Military Affairs Committee's Investigation—Constant Bickering in Munitions Boards.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Major-General Crozier, chief of ordnance, blamed Congress for its snail-like pace, the war department for red tape, and the labor situation, for America's delayed war preparations.

Major-General Crozier was the first witness at the Senate military affairs committee's investigation of the whole military situation.

Munition boards' constant bickering over prices also caused delay, Crozier asserted.

The French and British, while our war-plans here were delayed, enabled American artillery to be supplied.

He testified that lack of guns at the beginning of the war greatly delayed preparations.

He said the United States profited by the allies' experience regarding artillery. Americans will use more high explosives than shrapnel.

FIFTEEN HUNDRED WERE KILLED IN HALIFAX DISASTER

HALIFAX, Dec. 12.—The munition ship explosion killed 1500, is stated in the official reports. A later thorough check was made of the bodies at all identification stations. Investigation of the disaster will probably start today.

PREMIER LLOYD GEORGE POST- PONES WAR AIMS SPEECH

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Premier Lloyd George postponed his war aims speech, scheduled for today. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law told the House of Commons the Premier will make his war aim statement before Parliament's Christmas adjournment.

U. S. PATROL BOAT IS SUNK IN COLLISION

ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 12.—It is learned a United States patrol vessel sunk in collision with two other vessels off the Atlantic coast. A meagre report said all the patrol boat's crew and much equipment was taken aboard other vessels. Details are lacking.

C. E. Anderson Wins His Commission

C. E. Anderson, of 407 Third St., who has been in the officers' training camp since August, has been spending some weeks with his family. Mr. Anderson received his commission in the U. S. Army as Second Lieutenant in the Coast Artillery and will leave tonight for American Lake.

Big Bible Drive On.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—The Pacific Northwest today is joining actively with the rest of the nation in the American Bible Society's drive for \$400,000 to place a Bible in the hands of every American fighter.

The campaign formally opened Monday and will end December 17. Sunday school associations, the Christian Endeavor, the Epworth League, the Baptist Young People's Union and similar organizations are aiding the drive. Governors have given the campaign their support.

TO BUILD SPRUCE MILL

Vancouver, Wash., Plant Will Have Capacity of 12 Ordinary Mills.

(United Press.)

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 12.—Construction of the world's largest spruce mill started here this week on the polo grounds of the Vancouver military post. The plant, which will turn out finished parts for airplanes, will have the capacity of 12 ordinary sawmills.

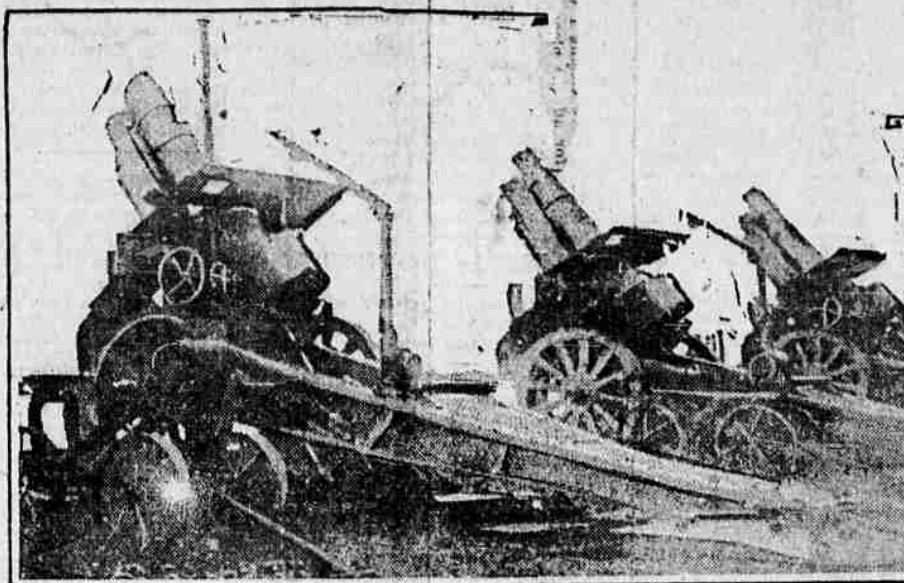
The main building, as it was laid out today, measures 350 by 400 feet. It will have a sawtooth roof, so that men working on the airplane parts can have plenty of light.

The government will effect 14 per cent saving on freight by making the spruce parts of an airplane here—in the heart of the biggest producing district in the nation.

Muchada Is Arrested.

LISBON, Dec. 12.—The new revolutionary regime arrested President Muchada Monday. It is announced.

ON THE TAGLIAMENTO THESE BIG GUNS BARK AT THE HUNS



This battery of big guns was placed along the Tagliamento as a second line defense before the Italian troops began the campaign in the Alps. These guns constituted part of the defenses to which General Cadorna's army retreated when the Germans and Austrians poured through the mountain passes, and helped materially to check the German advance.

Neighborhood Club Will Back Drive

PATRIOTIC WOMEN WILL HELP RED CROSS

Mrs. George T. Cochran Will Be Campaign Manager in Big Membership Drive.

In scores of homes in La Grande today there is great preparation for the Christmas Red Cross membership drive which begins next Monday morning and runs until Christmas Eve. At a meeting of the Neighborhood Club yesterday afternoon that patriotic body of women consented to get behind the drive in La Grande and with Mrs. George T. Cochran as La Grande campaign manager there is no doubt but that the campaign will succeed. Union county has 5000 members to recruit.

One important feature in connection with the drive is that the National Red Cross leaders have emphasized the ruling that during this week it is just as important to solicit members as it is to sew bandages or knit.

"Don't refuse when asked to solicit, regardless of how active you may now be in Red Cross activities," is the message sent out to the public at large by the national leaders.

Full description of how the drive will be worked here is to be outlined by the various chairmen in tomorrow's Observer.

Marines Have Horse Shoor.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. (Special.) Horace Lovett, U. S. Marine Corps, on duty "somewhere over there," has just been appointed a horseshoer for marines, with the rank of corporal. In the same company Sergeant John Ochsner is stable coxswain and Corporal Stanley A. Smith is saddler. No, you have guessed wrong. The captain's name is not Jinks but Drum. Captain Drum of the horse and other marines.

Joseph Man Tries to End His Life

Felix Vergere, of Joseph, attempted to commit suicide this morning. He was staying in a friend's house and sent for a lawyer and made his will and then went into the basement and attempted to kill himself with an axe. He was taken to the Grande Ronde hospital and his wounds dressed. He will recover. Mr. Vergere is a prominent man in Joseph. He was one of the original promoters of the Home Independent Telephone company. Later he went into the motion picture business and sold out to Mr. Ghormley. Since then he has been in the automobile business. Friends say that recently he has been despondent as the result of a love affair.

SHORTAGE OF SUGAR AND COAL TAKEN UP

(United Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Inquiry by a senate committee into the causes for the shortage of sugar and coal, with a view to recommending legislation to improve the situation, was today ordered by the senate on motion of Senator Lodge.

Mrs. Gerard Ill.

Continued on Page 4.) NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Mrs. James W. Gerard, wife of the former American ambassador to Germany, underwent an operation for appendicitis yesterday. Mr. Gerard's secretary said the operation had been successful.

Hop Grower Is Dead.

TACOMA, Dec. 12.—James Pines, 52, native son of this county, died Monday of pneumonia, after a few days' illness. He was a prominent hop grower and dealer, and a member of the Masons and Elks.

GOVERNOR WITHYCOMBE HAS COM- PLAINED OF BLANKET SHORTAGE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—While the war department hadn't received Governor Withycombe's complaint of blanket shortage for certain Northwest troops at Camp Mills, Long Island, it was learned this afternoon that if any shortage existed, it would be immediately corrected. It is suggested, some Northwest forces transferred east had sold or lost part of their blankets. Three blankets were issued to each man.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Following the receipt of Governor Withycombe's message late this afternoon, the war department announced the charge Northwest troops were short of blankets would be investigated.

EXPLOSION SETS STEEL CO. MUNITIONS PLANT ON FIRE

WILMINGTON, Dec. 12.—Explosion in the loading room of the Belvieu Steel Company munition plant set it on fire this morning. The explosion was felt miles away.

One workman was killed and five injured. Because the trolley cars were blocked, hundreds of workmen, usually working at the time of the explosion, had not arrived. The fire was extinguished at noon. Immediate investigation was begun.

British Government Sends Money

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The British government sent a million pounds to Halifax to relief work and rebuilding the city.

Dance and Cabaret a Huge Success

LARGE CROWD ATTENDED TWO AFFAIRS LAST NIGHT

Over \$450 Raised for Hospital Unit Fund—Event Was Under Auspices of Army and Navy Auxiliary.

If the La Grande and Union County boys who are in the Hospital Unit had only been there last night! How their eyes would have sparkled and how they would have enjoyed seeing their old friends dancing and having a good time and all for them.

The dance at the Rex Hall was well attended; the tangle supper and cabaret at the Foley grill afterwards was a great success. A large crowd attended both. The music was very enjoyable.

And best of all over \$250 was raised which will be sent to the La Grande Hospital Unit's company fund.

The event was under the auspices of the Army and Navy Auxiliary. Many indeed were those who worked and helped. It is impossible to give all their names today. A more complete and detailed account of the affair will be printed in the society column Saturday.

Discuss Grain Standards.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 12.—Proposed changes in the grain standards were discussed at a conference of grain growers, dealers and officials of the bureau of markets of the department of agriculture Monday.

Many Elgin Boys Are Enlisting

WILL LEAVE TONIGHT TO JOIN FIGHTING FORCES

Chester Barnett, Glenn Barnes and Doris Barnes Are Among Them; Band Will Give the Boys a Send-off.

ELGIN, Dec. 12. (Special.)—Chester Barnett, Glenn Barnes and Doris Barnes add to the large list of Elgin boys who have joined the fighting forces of Uncle Sam. Several more Elgin boys will leave this evening. The band will accompany the boys to the train to show them that those left at home will back them in every way possible. Among those who leave this evening are Guy Amherst, who has been connected with the Recorder office for several years, Terence Mosher and Roy Townsend.

Doctor E. G. Kirby returned Sunday morning from Portland where he performed an operation on Mrs. Bert Hug, of Elgin.

Attorney L. Denham was a business visitor in La Grande last week. Miss Hazel Smith returned last Sunday morning from La Grande where she attended the lecture of Rev. G. L. Clark to the Older Boys' Conference.

Dr. Riley Chandler returned to the Mare Island navy yard Sunday evening after spending a very pleasant visit with relatives and friends in Elgin.

Bob Lane is recovering from the effects of his accident which occurred last week at the box factory. He ex-

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GERMANS PLAN BIG OFFENSIVE

Fresh Preparations Are Being Made for Great Drive on Western Front--General Haig Reports Repulse Of Local Attack

GERMAN AERIAL RAIDERS ARE ACTIVE AGAIN

British Make Successful Raids on German Trenches—Arrival of Many Troops Leads to Believe That Germans Are Recalling Them from Italian Front.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Germans are continuing to make fresh preparations for the great western front attack.

German aerial raiders are unusually active. General Haig reported the repulse of a local attack north of Lavatequerie.

The British successfully raided German trenches near Pontruet and northwest of Quentin. Many machine guns were captured.

The presence of many troops confirm the belief the Germans watched troops from the Italian to the western

By William Phillip Simms

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS, Dec. 12.—Long lines of transports carrying reinforcements were seen behind the German lines on the northern British flank in the Cambrai sector. Great flocks of German planes endeavored unsuccessfully to prevent British aviators from learning this.

This morning the Germans opened a most violent artillery fire on the British flank. Their airplane concentration is the greatest the Germans have yet disclosed.

British Positions Are Safe and Comfortable

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Director of Operations Maurice declared the British Cambrai position was enormously in British favor as to comfort and safety, although the enemy neutralized the success of the first British assault.

Germans Active in Verdun Sector Also

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Unusual German activity in the Verdun sector was officially reported. Enemy artillery is active on both banks of the Meuse. The Germans attempted raids but were repulsed.

Pro-German and Allied Supporters Clash in Harbin

TIENTSIN, Dec. 12.—Serious clashes between pro-Germans and allied supporters in Harbin were reported. Chinese troops were requested to protect Allied citizens.

GENERAL KORNILOFF IS LEADING THE COSSACKS INTO BATTLE

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Greatly delayed dispatches reported the Cossack rebels are fighting around Tumenokva. General Korniloff commanded the Cossacks who are well supplied with machine guns, arms and ammunition. Details of the result of the battle are lacking.

"BOY PAGE MR. HOOVER, THIS MAN IS CHEATING."

(United Press.)

DALLAS, Texas, Dec. 12.—"A little more sugar please," a customer asked a waiter in a Dallas hotel when served but two cubes of sugar with his coffee.

"Sorry, but we can only serve two lumps with each cup."

"Then give me another cup of coffee."

And the customer took the additional lumps, sweetened the first cup of coffee to his satisfaction, and left the second cup untouched.

U-Boat Shells Spanish Ship.

(United Press.)

MADRID, Dec. 12.—The Spanish ship Claudio has been shelled by a German submarine and eight sailors were killed. The government will protest to Berlin.

Y. M. C. A. Will Build at Camp Lewis

(United Press.)

CAMP LEWIS, TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 12.—The present quarters inadequate the Young Men Christian Association will build three new buildings, it was announced today. The association now has seven buildings, each with its own staff of secretaries, in use. Work on the new buildings will be started as soon as possible and they will be rushed to completion.

W. B. Fisk left today for Camp Lewis to visit his son, Lieut. Hayden Fisk.

MANY ENLIST; MANY SLACKERS

Montana Raises Four Times Quota But Slackers Are Plentiful.

(United Press.)

CAMP LEWIS, TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 12.—Montana, the state which raised approximately four times its quota of soldiers by enlistment, is the champion slacker state of the west, army authorities declared here today.

The government has spent \$10,000 bringing technical deserters from Montana to Camp Lewis. Investigating the frequency of arrivals of soldiers from Montana in charge of sheriffs, mustering officers were surprised to find that in most cases the men listed as deserters had never left their home counties. Almost every train arriving from Montana for weeks has had at least one "desert-er" in charge of an officer who receives a reward of \$50 and his traveling expenses.

Big Fund Given For War.

(United Press.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—The Rockefeller Foundation has voted \$5,000,000 for war work and may double the amount soon.

Three Frozen to Death.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Three persons in Chicago have frozen to death.

The Weather.

PORTLAND, Dec. 12.—The U. S. weather forecast: "Rain."