

PRESIDENT WELCOMES WAR PROBE

STATEMENT SAYS HE THINKS TRUE DEMOCRACY INSPIRES THE MOVE

HOUSE COMMITTEE WILL INVESTIGATE NAVY

Chairman Oliver Will Inquire Into Expenditure of Billion and a Half Appropriation—Fess Secret Conduct of Affairs Is Desired.

(United Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—(Sapph.)—The House naval committee voted a sweeping investigation of the navy and will immediately begin hearings of every phase of the naval situation, examining Secretary Daniels and all active admirals.

Chairman Oliver of the special subcommittee was empowered to conduct a drastic probe into what was done with last year's billion and a half appropriation.

All naval activities will be probed. Congressmen say the probe is due to the nation's determination for a more open management of the army, and navy and not to suspicion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The White House states the President welcomes the war probe, and thinks that true democracy inspires the move. He is glad to give the people an insight into war affairs.

VIOLENT ARTILLERYING REPORTED BY THE FRENCH

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Violent artillerying near Malmedy de Champagne and Alsace east of Stuppach is officially reported. French raids were successful southwest of Cerny.

MAYOR GILL URGES HIS OWN IMPEACHMENT

SEATTLE, Dec. 14.—Mayor Gill indicated he would appear before a special session of the council to urge impeachment charges he drafted by corporate counsel and he brought against him, and that proceedings be rushed.

Shields Bill Passed

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The Senate passed the Shields bill authorizing the war department to permit the damming of navigable streams for water power under a fifty-year lease.

New Courses at University

EUGENE, Dec. 14.—Among the six new courses to be offered in the school of music of the University of Oregon at the opening of the second term, January 2, will be band organization and conducting.

This course will be conducted by Albert Perdue, instructor in band music, and is designed especially for high school teachers. Ability to conduct a small band or orchestra is considered an important qualification for a high school teacher.

Another course is planned in sight reading for the benefit of those who have good singing voices but cannot read music. The new system does away with the do-re-mi-fa-sol reading of the scale.

PARIS EDITOR NAMED IN BOLO PASHA CASE



CHARLES HUMBERT
Senator Charles Humbert, editor of the Paris Journal, has been indicted by a grand jury in Paris on a charge of being a confederate of Bolo Pasha, the spy.

American Aviator Killed In France

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Lieutenant Benjamin Walcott, an American aviator, fell Tuesday, after downing his first enemy plane. As he was returning to the American lines three German planes attacked him from the rear. Walcott fell and is believed to have been killed.

TIMES CRITIC WARNS ALLIES TO PREPARE

SAYS GERMANY WILL MAKE A SUPREME MILITARY EFFORT IN WEST

HALF MILLION MORE MEN WILL BE SENT THERE

He Says Germany Is Convinced There Is No Danger from Russia—Teutons Will Strike in Final Desperation.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—The Times military critic warns the nation that Germany is preparing for her supreme military effort in the west, and says the allies must expect half a million more Germans, many more guns and aircraft there.

He says, already there is much evidence of intensive transport of troops from the east, indicating Germany is convinced there is no danger from Russia. He says the greatest danger will come in six months, because the hard pressed Teutons may strike quickly in final desperation.

The German defensive in the west is regarded as ended.

GERMAN OFFENSIVE MAY BE A NEW PEACE MOVE

By Lowell Mclell.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Observers believe Germany's forthcoming western drive will be the preliminary to a new peace move, hoping to dent the allied line so as to claim invincibility for the army and to steel the Germans for the sacrifices which are certain to come when the Americans enter the battle front, to hasten Austria and to accelerate the "peace without victory" sentiment in the entente nations. Germany especially wants the war to end before America is in action.

GERMANY SAYS ENGLAND STARTED PEACE FEELERS

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 14.—The German official statement received here declares England, and not Germany, started the September peace feelers. Chancellor Law recently mentioned that a neutral nation was sounding sentiment in England for Germany.

The German statement says Germany received an inquiry regarding peace in such a form as to indicate it was sanctioned by England and so made a verbal reply through the neutral nation.

PERSONAL MENTION

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Levy and family have moved into their new residence at Second and M streets.

Bruce Cox, who has been in the city on business, went to Wallawa this morning.

Mrs. Ray Chynoworth of Holten, Mich., left for Elgin this morning to visit her sister, Mrs. Sanford.

Joe Summers left for his home in Elgin after a visit here.

Mortimer Snow left for California this morning.

Mrs. M. C. Priddy of Moscow, Idaho, went to Enterprise this morning.

Jack Garrick arrived from Brooklyn, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Clark of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" company left for Imbler this morning.

Frank Squires, who has been in the city on business, left for Elgin this morning.

PHYSICIANS TO MEET

A committee of physicians from Portland wish to meet all physicians of Union County at the City hall in La Grande on Saturday evening, December 15, at 8:30. The committee are urgent in their request as important business is to be transacted.

THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME.



SPRECKELS BLAMES HOOVER FOR SHORTAGE

SAYS FOOD ADMINISTRATION PREVENTED REFINERS GETTING RAW SUGAR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Testifying before the Senate investigators, Claud Spreckels blamed the food administration for the sugar shortage. He said Hoover hampered the refiners by preventing their getting raw sugar. He said this year's crop was larger than last. American refiners were made to agree not to import sugar.

RUSSIAN GENERAL COMMITS SUICIDE

PETROGRAD, Dec. 14.—General Skalon of the Russian staff pensionally committed suicide prior to the assembling of the Russian-German conferees at Brest-Litovsk. Details are withheld. The official agency announced Korniloff's forces were sent on by the Bolsheviks. Korniloff fled.

Best Food Fish

PORTLAND, Dec. 14.—The best food fish caught off the coast of Washington and Oregon is also the cheapest, according to a report made by City Chemist Callaway. The fish is the black cod.

Analysis of black cod showed 18.1 per cent fat, 16 per cent protein and 95.8 calories per pound. The sale of black cod at the municipal market is being pushed as a result.

HOMER LEFFEL WRITES OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN FRANCE

Homer Leffel of the La Grande Hospital Unit, has written the following letter from France to Mr. E. E. Short:

November 17, 1917.

Dear Mr. Short:—

It has been almost a month since we sailed from the states and we have been here about two weeks. We stayed on the ship for three or four days after we arrived and then took a 50 hour ride in box cars to our present quarters. We are billeted in a village of about 600 people. It is a very old town. There is a church here which was built in 1674 and another built about 1800 so I think Caesar must have founded the town.

(Deleted by censor) are running the camp hospital and have quite a few mumps and measles patients. It rains a great deal but we have not had any very cold weather. We sleep in a hay loft and our hospital is in an old chateau that they say was built in 1761, and it certainly shows its age. Wood is very precious. They use it mostly for cooking and shoes. Leather shoes are very hard to get. Some of the prices in the

post where we landed. Shoes that sell for \$2.50 and \$3.00 in the states are \$6.00, \$7.00 and even \$8 here, so most of the people wear wooden shoes with felt slippers inside. I don't think this would be a very good territory for the J. C. Penney Co. The people seem to make their clothes last too long.

The V. M. C. A. does great work over here. They have a good "Y" going here and we have only been here about ten days.

There is no war news here. The cheer you get to the firing line the best you know about what is going on. We get some news out of the Paris edition of the New York Herald and Chicago Tribune but it is only the news that is put out by the war office.

There seems to be plenty of food here. The people have bread books but where we landed you get all the bread you wanted.

The French occupied this town some time before we came and they left a lot of shoes so we get a chance once in a while.

With all the force a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for me. Yours sincerely,

HOMER LEFFEL.

Clew to Hermit's Murder is Found

A rumor was spread on the streets this afternoon that the authorities had secured a valuable clew to the murder of Hermit Moore at Perry, Oregon.

Moore lived alone there and it was rumored that he had plenty of money. His body was found in the pond.

The current report was that two boys who had been in custody had confessed. Sheriff Warnick refused to confirm this, but said that the authorities were still working on the case.

A check which was found on the boys is reported to be valuable evidence.

Ayer Is Food Tester

PORTLAND, Dec. 14.—Food conservation suggestions passed out to Oregonians by the food administration of the state are all tried and tested before being given the public.

And the official tester is W. D. Ayer, food administrator. Mrs. Ayer is one of the most enthusiastic food conservationists in the state. Whole wheat bread is served once a day at the Ayer home. Meats on Tuesdays are religiously observed and the entire list of food saving suggestions followed.

Lumber Peace Plans Upset

SEATTLE, Dec. 14.—The lumber industry peace plans were upset when the lumbermen refused to accept the mediators' commission, which goes to St. Paul tonight. The commission stated, conclusions reached at the conference would be reported personally to the President, with recommendations for action. It is believed the eight-hour day is the cause of disagreement.

Miss Goldie La Fontaine of Portland Left for Elgin this morning.

Charles Playle went out on the French line this morning on business.

JIMINIZ IS CAPTURED BY VILLA, REPORT

EL PASO, Texas, Dec. 14.—It is reported, but not confirmed, that Villa has captured Jiminez, Chihuahua's largest mining center. He has declared he will attack Chihuahua City before Christmas. Foreigners are fleeing for the border. Natives are near starvation.

Ford Rumor Unfounded.

The Motor World prints the following from Detroit: "The report which was published and widely circulated in daily papers last week to the effect that the Ford Motor Co. would discontinue the manufacture of passenger cars and that the Government had accepted the entire Ford plant to be used for munition work is without foundation. The Ford company will continue to build passenger cars and trucks as in the past."

Lewis River Rising

WOODLAND, Dec. 14.—Lewis river rose rapidly in twenty-four hours. Quantities of saw logs, ties and debris were brought down. Other rivers and creeks are rising as the result of th rains. Thus far the damage is immaterial.

HE IS LEADER OF U. S. "HELL-FIRE" UNIT



MAJ. E. J. ATKINSON
Here is "Hell-fire" Atkinson, or as his name appears on the U. S. army records—Major E. J. Atkinson. He is organizing and training the gas and flame battalion which Uncle Sam is whipping into shape for the trenches. The gas and flame boys are known in the army as the "Hell-fire unit."

Two American Engineers Escape

LONDON, Dec. 14.—General Hais reports the British local positions east of Bullecourt improved.

The enemy raided a post south of Pronneville. Few British are missing. Two American engineers who were captured at Cambrai recently escaped and rejoined their unit.

Red Cross Campaign Drive Plans Made

"JOIN THE RED CROSS TODAY." IS THE SLOGAN

Automobiles to Carry Shields—One Dollar Buys a Membership—All Memberships to Be Renewed This Christmas.

In spite of the cloud of sorrow that catapaulted upon Union county with the tragic death of Frank Bay last evening, plans for the Christmas Red Cross membership drive to begin Monday morning here and throughout the United States must proceed without a hitch. Local campaign affairs will be operated from headquarters at a point to be announced later and by tomorrow there will be an exhibit in some central point sounding the crying need of memberships.

For the guidance of the public in general the Observer will tomorrow publish a resume of the conditions governing the service flag which leads up to a nation-wide candle lighting program Christmas Eve, and likewise, will take up more fully the matter of stamps.

Briefly stated, these rubber stamps carrying the slogan "Join the Red Cross today; all that is needed is a dollar and a heart." All the merchants will be equipped with these and during the coming week are urged to stamp every parcel possible leaving their store, or letter going into the mail.

Auto Shields Available.

All automobiles owned by officers of local chapters, or those in any way connected with the official management of the drive, should be equipped with an official shield which may be obtained at headquarters. Any imitation of the Red Cross insignia may be worn by people during this drive except the actual field and Red Cross on the sleeve.

"Make it a Red Cross Christmas," is the slogan of the campaigners.

The campaign will start December 17 and last one week.

For one dollar a membership may be purchased in the Red Cross. The most costly annual membership is \$10. However, the principal drive will be made for memberships at \$1 a year, or \$2 a year, which includes a subscription to the Red Cross magazine.

One half of the \$1 memberships may be retained by the local chapter for its war work, for the purchase of supplies to be manufactured for the Red Cross, etc., for the relief of local dependents of soldiers, etc. The balance goes to Washington.

The campaign will require the renewal during the campaign of memberships taken last year, although they have not run a year, with the addition of at least two new members for each present member.

There are 5,000,000 members of the Red Cross at present.

Hereafter the Red Cross membership drives will come the week before Christmas and will not be oftener than once a year.

"I call upon every member of every chapter, branch and Auxiliary to co-operate with the local campaign manager to make this campaign a whirlwind success," said Mr. Chapman in a letter to Chairman Kiddle. "Roughly speaking we have to triple the membership of the Red Cross. There's our goal."

The chairman of each chapter in Oregon and the campaign manager for that chapter's territory, appointed by the chapter chairman, assembled in Portland Monday to complete plans for the campaign.

A house-to-house canvass will be involved. Every family must be solicited. In fact, to make the campaign a success in every family there must be at least one Red Cross membership.

Clubs will be asked to take out a membership for each of their members, banks and employers for each of their employees, householders for each of their children.

To Reduce Expenses.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 14.—Methods to reduce expenses of maintaining athletic teams was discussed at the annual meeting of the Northwest Collegiate conference here today. The conference ends tomorrow.

Representatives of Oregon, Washington and Idaho schools are attending. Many delegates favor a rule prohibiting games between distant schools, as such contests entail heavy expenses. Freshman participation in intercollegiate games and baseball and football schedules for the next year are also being discussed.

FRANK BAY KILLED BY ELECTRICITY

PROMINENT LA GRANDE MAN MET DEATH SUDDENLY YESTERDAY

HELD LIGHT SOCKET WORKING UNDER HOUSE

Exact Cause of Accident Will Be Investigated By Public Service Commission—Deceased Was Prominent Elk—Funeral Sunday Afternoon.

Frank Bay, one of La Grande's most popular citizens was electrocuted yesterday afternoon at about 4:45 o'clock while he was at work with his partner, Nate Zweifel, installing plumbing at the residence of Brakeman Anderson on North Second street. The news soon spread and it cast a great gloom over the city. Hardly anything else was the topic of conversation last night in La Grande. Mr. Bay was an Elk, a prominent business man, a member of the firm of Bay & Zweifel, plumbers, a member of the Volunteer Fire Department, one of the originators and backers of the Elks band, prominent in the Elks' "49" show, active in all civic undertakings and greatly beloved by everyone so that when the news was heard that he had been electrocuted many rushed to the scene of the accident and to the Bohemian undertaking chapel where the remains were taken.

Mr. Zweifel and Mr. Bay had been working in the house installing plumbing. Shortly before the accident Mr. Zweifel was working on the first floor and Mr. Bay was working under the house with an electric light on a cord, connecting up pipes from the kitchen sink with the sewer. Mr. Zweifel was the first to discover the accident when he left the inside of the house and stepped to the hole by which they had entered the basement and called out:

"Frank, what measurements do you want for the next piece of pipe?" Upon receiving no answer he called several times. Finally, receiving no response he swung down into the hole, stepping on the ground of the basement and received a shock that knocked him backward. He knew instantly that his partner was in danger.

He pulled himself out of the hole and rushed upstairs, turning off the switches and then proceeded down and under the house where he discovered Mr. Bay lying across the sewer pipe.

The electric light globe with which he had been working was still burning.

Mr. Zweifel telephoned for assistance and Dr. Richardson and the body was removed from under the house. His hand was found severely burned and his thumb burned off. His body was also severely burned.

There are several theories as to the cause of the accident. The house had been full of electricity all day and both Mr. Bay and Mr. Zweifel had noticed it. The telephone bell had been reported "noisy," and wire trouble had been reported and investigated. Mr. Bay had warned the little girl in the house to keep away from the sink, that it was charged with electricity.

An official investigation into the source of the electricity will be made. The Public Service Commission has been asked to send a man here to investigate the cause of the accident, which by some is believed to be from a short circuit from a power line.

Mr. Bay was born in La Grande and was 30 years of age November 8. His father is one of the pioneers of this city. He has a wife and a nine year old daughter. He has three brothers, Harvey, Arlie and Clare. The latter is at Camp Merrill, New Jersey in the field artillery supply department and can not get here in time for the funeral. His father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. David Bay, reside in Portland. They arrived here this morning. Mrs. Cook of Kamela,

(Continued on Page 8.)

8 more days to buy a Christmas Present for HIM