

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

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RUSSIAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS POSTPONED

GERMANY ASKED DELAY, ACCORDING TO PETROGRAD ANNOUNCEMENT

FINLAND RISKS RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENCE

Bolsheviks Demand Immediate Stopping of Manufacture of War Materials—Bolsheviks Occupy Kharkoff.

PETROGRAD, Dec. 26.—Germany has asked the postponement of peace negotiations until January 21, according to a semi-official announcement here.

It is reported Finland has asked Germany to recognize her independence.

A Bolshevik manifesto has been issued demanding that the manufacture of all war material immediately cease, "inasmuch as the Russo-German armistice will probably shortly be transformed into a general democratic peace."

It is announced the Bolsheviks have occupied Kharkoff and that the Black Sea fleets have joined the Bolsheviks and are threatening the Ukrainian hold on Odessa.

RUSSIAN COMMISSIONERS ARE TO NEGOTIATE PEACE

LONDON, Dec. 26.—Two Russian commissions to negotiate the purely military aspects of peace will be formed shortly at Odessa and Petrograd, according to Petrograd reports. A third is to be appointed for a European general conference. It is reported the Bolsheviks are to invoke a constituent assembly late next week.

Calvin Goss Retires As Cove Editor

Accepts Position On the Staff of the Morning Astorian.

Calvin Goss has retired as editor of the Cove Sentinel and has accepted a position on the staff of the Morning Astorian. Rev. Mr. Pratt will run the paper as editor. Mr. Pratt is the Methodist minister. Mr. Goss' family will remain on their ranch for the winter.

Mr. Goss is an able newspaper man, having served on the staffs of the Cincinnati Post and Indianapolis News and other metropolitan as well as country newspapers. The Cove community will miss Mr. Goss and wishes him success in his new field. Mr. Goss left last night for Astoria.

Drafted Men Will Require Year's Training

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Major-General O'Ryan told the Senate yesterday that a year's training would be necessary before the drafted men were fit to go to France.

FIRST WOMAN! CAR CONDUCTOR TOOK JOB FOR HEALTH



MRS. ROSALIE GOULDING

Mrs. Rosalie Goulding of Washington, D. C., is America's first woman street car conductor. She wasn't heard of until New York girls began claiming this distinction. Then Mrs. Goulding's friends showed that long before the Gotham girls even applied for jobs Mrs. Goulding was conductor on a dinky trolley which runs from Chevy Chase, Md., to Kensington. She took the job when she found office work was damaging her health. She has a son with the Canadians in France.

Senators Demand Overcoats for Soldiers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Senate military committee passed a resolution demanding Secretary Baker to authorize camp commanders to buy woolen overcoats and blouses in the nearest towns if they can get them quicker than from the war department.

GERMANS MAKE GAIN ON THE ITALIAN FRONT

DESPITE ATTACKS, ENEMY STILL HOLDS GROUND TAKEN LAST NIGHT

ROME, Dec. 26.—Fierce fighting between Buzo and Monte Valvella is progressing.

Despite the violent Italian attacks, the enemy at fearful costs still holds last night's two-thirds of a mile gain.

This gain is the result of monster concentration of all calibers of artillery, smashing the Italian front lines. The Teuton attack at Monte Grappa coincided with the other smash failed.

Italian machine guns answered the Austrian attempts to fraternize on the lower Piave.

Coal Shortage Is Now Fifty Millions Tons

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Fuel Administrator Garfield told the Senate investigators the war demands had caused a fifty million ton coal shortage this year, in face of the greatest production in history.

The bituminous output increased 10 per cent, and the anthracite 16 per cent. He blames the railroads for much of the famine and urges federal control.

White's Grocery Store Broken Into

THIEF ENTERS THROUGH REAR WINDOW—NOTHING OF VALUE MISSED

White's grocery store was broken into early this morning through a window in the rear of the building. It must have been someone who was very familiar with the surroundings, as plans seemed to have been laid very carefully.

Mr. Desilet has missed nothing valuable so far, but says that money was the object of the visit from all indications. Bloodhounds were given the scent, but owing to so many visitors to the place of robbery, no definite trace could be obtained.

This is about the sixth time in the last six years that White's grocery has been burglarized, two of the burglaries being caught, the other four getting away. One man was shot by a clerk in the store and afterwards died of the wound.

Astoria Steps in Line. Following the plan recently adopted in Portland, Astoria will soon open and maintain a prophylaxis center where men and women suspected of venereal diseases will be required to undergo examination, and if found to be infected will have to undergo treatment in an isolation hospital.

Community Tree at Chehalis. CHEHALIS, Wash., Dec. 26.—A community Christmas tree was held here Christmas Eve, the Citizen's Club having it in charge. A prominent corner had been selected and women worked trimming the huge tree and arranging for elaborate illumination. A band concert and a program was given.

Steffansen Party Is Safe At Port Yukon

OTTAWA, Dec. 26.—The ministry of naval affairs announced it had received word that the Steffansen party had arrived safely from Port Yukon, Alaska. He will probably make his way to Nome and take a steamer. The party has 24 men. They started north in 1915.

George Huntington Curry, Jr., editor and publisher of the Malheur Enterprise, of Vale, accompanied by Mrs. Curry, were here for the Christmas holidays. Mr. Curry reports business good in Vale.

GOVERNMENT IS TO OPERATE THE RAILROADS

PRESIDENT IS EXPECTED SOON TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF PLAN

LEGAL AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS TO BE SETTLED

Wage Question Will Be Considered Tomorrow at Conference Between President and Railroad Chiefs.

(United Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Government operation of railroads, probably under Secretary McAdoo, will begin early in January.

A few legal and financial problems are unsettled and are delaying President Wilson's announcement.

The President is confident the plan, including the compensation fixed for the railroads, will be approved by the railroad heads. The wage question will be considered tomorrow at the White House conference with the railroad chiefs.

The act of August 29, 1917, sufficiently empowers the President to assume immediate control, but there will be necessary legislative adjustments later.

BRITISH LABOR LEADERS TO MEET LLOYD GEORGE

GOVERNMENT MAY ASK NEW ARMY DRAFTS—LABOR WILL ASK CONCESSIONS

By Lowell Mellett LONDON, Dec. 26.—Labor's expected demands from the government when their leaders meet Lloyd George, Sir Eric Geddes and others Friday, is a big question here.

It is indicated that the government intends to ask further concessions from labor, including heavy new army drafts.

The Laborites intimated they "would accede, but will use the opportunity to obtain government adherence to the principal points of labor's war aims." They may ask Carson's resignation from the ministry.

Home rulers may ask extension of the co-operative system of distribution, ending profiteering and preventing waste.

Senator Newlands Dead.

(United Press.) WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Senator Newlands, of Nevada, died here Monday night of heart failure, aged 65 years.

Governor Stephens Receives a Threat

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 26.—Governor Stephens received a letter threatening to dynamite him and two state officials and the whole city detective bureau, unless fifty thousand dollars was left near Oakland Monday.

ELKS GIVE BIG PARTY TO ALL THE CHILDREN

ELKS BAND PLAYS MUSIC AND SANTA CLAUS DISTRIBUTES PRESENTS TO CHILDREN

When it comes to giving a Christmas party, the Elks know how to do it.

Yesterday afternoon the clubhouse looked as if Peter Pan had blown his whistle and every boy and girl in town had arrived.

The Elks started out their Christmas celebration with the Elks' band marching through the main streets and playing cheery music. It wasn't long before the boys and girls fell in line.

It was estimated that there were 850 boys and girls present.

Committees of Elks handled the crowd systematically and each boy and girl was given a bag of candy, a bag of nuts, an orange and a toy by Santa Claus.

It was a big party, and everybody enjoyed it.

There wasn't an unhappy little boy or girl in La Grande yesterday.

Iron Workers On Strike In San Francisco

(United Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—Twelve thousand iron trades workers failed to appear for work, following the refusal of their demands for a ten per cent increase. Federal mediator Fleishaker is urging both sides to confer and make an adjustment.

Astoria Barber Inherits \$100,000

ASTORIA, Or., Dec. 26.—(Special.)—A. S. Haddix, a barber, shut up his razor Wednesday and Sunday left for Houston, Texas, to claim a fortune of \$100,000 left him by an uncle who died there Tuesday. Haddix has been in Astoria three weeks and is a cousin of Collector of Customs Charles Haddix. He says he intends to return here to live.

Cove Has Typhoid Case.

COVE, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—Dr. H. Oftedal isolated a case of typhoid fever in the family of Elder Pixton, in Cove, this week.

UNION COUNTY FINISHES RED CROSS QUOTA

GOES OVER THE TOP AND WILL HAVE ONE HUNDRED TO SPARE

COMPLETE LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW

Portland Has 60,072 Members and Will Keep on Working—Eastern Oregon Counties Excel—State Has 171,738 Members.

Union county and La Grande went over the top in the Red Cross drive for membership and has some to spare. Just how many will not be known until tonight's mail is distributed but it will be by a margin of more than 100. By tomorrow the Observer will be able to publish how many members each community in the county has contributed.

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—Portland Red Cross members 60,072; outside 111,665; total for Oregon, 171,738. Umatilla, Harney, DesChutes, Douglas, Union, Morrow and Sherman counties are over the 100 per cent mark.

Portland campaigners this morning definitely decided to continue the campaign until Portland reaches the 100,000 quota.

Even Multnomah county, outside of Portland, is now 25 per cent over the quota.

Douglas county is the first county in western Oregon to complete its total.

Baby Cohn, to arrive in two weeks at the home of Nathan Cohn in Portland, claims the world's championship as the youngest Red Crosser. The membership is made out awaiting the arrival of the stock.

Mexicans Are Raiding Town on the Border

MARFA, Texas, Dec. 26.—Mexicans are raiding Candel, Arizona, located 20 miles from the border. They are 500 strong and are believed to be Villistas. Troops are patrolling the border to prevent further invasions.

Masons Will Install Officers Tonight

The La Grande Lodge No. 41, A. F. & A. M., holds an installation of officers tonight. Those to be installed are:

Robert S. Eakin, Worshipful Master. John McEwin, Senior Warden. C. M. Humphrey, Junior Warden. Geo. S. Birnie, Senior Deacon. J. F. Bingham, Senior Steward. W. W. Rhine, Junior Steward. The installation will be a joint affair with the Eastern Star.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—The United States weather forecast: Rain.

CHRISTMAS IS OBSERVED IN CHURCHES

SUNDAY SCHOOLS HOLD ENTERTAINMENT—SPECIAL SERVICES AND MUSIC

Christmas in La Grande, with the air crisp and clear, was delightful. The biggest crowd of shoppers in La Grande's history was on the streets Christmas Eve, the stores were filled, the lights were bright and the Christmas spirit was in the air.

And best of all, it was a Christmas of plenty. Only a few cases of distress were found in the whole city by the big-hearted Elks and the Salvation Army, who made a careful search, and these were soon alleviated, so it is safe to say that Christmas cheer was present in every home in La Grande.

The big event of Christmas Day was the Elks' Christmas tree when every child in La Grande was welcomed and given a present by Santa Claus.

Monday night the Presbyterian Sunday school gave an interesting program and collected gifts for the Armenians. The children were given a treat.

The Sunday school of the First Methodist church gave a very interesting entertainment Christmas Eve.

The midnight services at St. Peter's church were very solemn and impressive.

The Christmas Eve entertainment of the Christian Church was well attended and much enjoyed by the little folks.

At the L. D. S. tabernacle last night Christmas tree and program was given by the Sunday school, which was well attended by old and young.

An interesting program was given. Zion Lutheran church held Christmas services for old and young yesterday morning, which was much enjoyed by the congregation.

Midnight mass was attended in a body at the Church of Our Lady of the Valley by the Knights of Columbus and by a large congregation. Rev. P. J. Driscoll officiated and an impressive musical program was rendered. Christmas masses were said yesterday morning at 8 and 10:30 and the Sacred Heart Academy choir and orchestra rendered a beautiful musical program.

SPRUCE PRODUCTION WILL BE SPEEDED UP

(United Press.) PORTLAND, Dec. 26.—Spruce production throughout the entire Northwest is expected to be speeded up to an unprecedented extent as a result of the statement today by Col. Disque, aircraft production board head, U. S. army signal corps, that the government will pay bonuses and higher prices for stumpage and rived spruce.

The statement of former Governor West, just back from Washington, that Northwest mills will be given an opportunity to do planting work on spruce is another favorable sign, as this will occupy many small mills made idle by decreased demand for doors, etc., owing to war.

Farmers, loggers and all owners and workers of spruce timber are affected by the new price. The bonus is \$40.00 per thousand for all rived spruce accepted by the government by January 31, and \$30 per thousand for all accepted by Feb. 28. In addition to the bonus the government will pay \$7.50 instead of \$5.00 per thousand for spruce stumpage and \$50 instead of \$80 per thousand for rived spruce.

HELP INCREASE PORK SUPPLY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (Special.)—As a means of helping to increase the pork supply, the United States department of agriculture has just released to the motion picture theatres, through one of the largest motion picture companies, a film showing the work of the boys' pig clubs which the department is organizing in all parts of the country in co-operation with the extension divisions of the state agricultural colleges.

Whale Canneries Planned

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (Special.)—According to information received by the bureau of fisheries, department of commerce, a whaling company on the Pacific Coast is planning to erect two canneries to be operated next season, each with a capacity of 30,000 cases. The same company will also operate a cold storage plant for supplying fresh and frozen whale meat.

F. H. Lamphere of Joseph, was a Pendleton visitor Monday.

WOMAN SPY IS DIRECTING OTHER SPIES

FRANZ SCHEULENBERG MAKES CONFESSION TO FEDERAL AGENTS

PAPERS SEIZED SHOW GERMAN ACTIVITIES

Since the outbreak of the war she has been operating continuously and directing German spies in this country.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—A woman spy, with credentials from Wilhelmstrasse showing her to be high in the service, directed the movements of Franz Scheulenberger and other master spies, the federal agents announced after sweating Scheulenberger.

Papers seized show, her direction was continuous from the outbreak of the great war.

She operated on the Coast extensively.

The papers dovetail with those taken in the von Igel raid.

It is believed she is now directing head of all the spies in America.

LA GRANDE HOSPITAL BOYS HAVE A REAL THANKSGIVING

Somewhere in France, November 23, 1917.

Dear Folks:—

I am writing this letter after one of the biggest dinners in my life and it was the surprise of our lives, too, for up until 6 o'clock last night we thought we would get the usual bacon, beans and coffee, but the mess sergeant came in last night and took several of us to the supply house and got 14 turkeys and after that they rustled the trimmings. This is the dinner: turkey, potatoes, dressing, peas, cranberries, asparagus tips, gravy, peaches, cake, bread, butter and coffee with sugar in it. The mess kit was full and running over and I ate it all.

Just before dinner there was the usual Thanksgiving football game between two engineers corps. It was a scoreless game. The field was muddy and the boys were pretty well plastered up with mud.

Yesterday we installed stoves in the hospital. They weighed 525 pounds and had to be carried through halls and up stairs only wide enough for four men to get hold of them.

It is almost impossible to write this letter as the fellows are making all the noise they can and doctoring the bites some insects have given them. I haven't been bitten yet but I have a kind of itch.

Today the weather is pretty good but Tuesday the ground was covered with nearly a half inch of snow.

7:00 P. M.—Just came back from a little trip to the top of a neighboring hill to see if we could see the fireworks at the front. Didn't see much but some red and white lights occasionally. Saw a search light that reached the clouds.

Your son,
OTIS W. PALMER.

CABLEGRAM RECEIVED FROM HOSPITAL BOYS

C. N. Palmer received from his son Otis on Christmas Eve the following cablegram: Walter Stringham, John Stoddard, Otis Palmer send greetings. Mailing mail. Are well.

OTIS PALMER.

AMERICAN AVIATOR KILLED IN BATTLE



LIEUT. BENJAMIN WALCOTT

Lieut. Walcott, a son of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, is reported to have fallen in his first big battle with the Boche airmen. He went from Princeton, where he was graduated last May, to a French flying school, and became a member of the Lafayette Escadrille. Recently he was transferred to the American force.