

STORM'S RIGORS LESSENED BY NEW ROAD ARRANGEMENT

NEW YORK IN A DILEMMA OVER COAL SHORTAGE

CONCENTRATION OF POWER TO BRING SPEEDY RELIEF

Everything to Be Done to Get Fuel and War Supplies Over the Roads—Arkansas Feels Zero Weather.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Railroad executives here believe the government intends to own as well as operate the railroads at the end of the war, if not before. It is said railroad stockholders want federal ownership and have declared it will be impossible to unscramble the lines after the war.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Zero weather and snow, winds and bitter blizzards have brought another crisis to the fuel famine. The winter's coldest weather finds this city with no reserve supply of fuel and snow is threatening to stop the railroads. The situation is extremely critical here and in all Eastern cities, for that matter. A blizzard is blowing up and down the coast.

Middle West Suffering.
CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—Central and Northern states are suffering in the cold, and have had zero weather for two days. Relief is promised for tomorrow. Zero climate is reported as far South as Northern Arkansas. General brevity of the cold snap has prevented fuel famines in these states.

Virtue of New Plan Shown.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Federalization of railroads has shown mighty advantages in the face of the storm, for Railroad Dictator McAdoo has been able to wire all lines requesting them to move traffic by the most convenient and expeditious routes.

West Supplying Power.
Western lines have been ordered to send locomotives to aid the stricken East and eight are already on their way to congested districts. It is expected Mr. McAdoo will recommend immediate and strict curtailment of passenger and non-war traffic.

Coal to Have Precedent.
This order will give coal supplies precedent and it is expected the public will accept these orders as war orders.

Mr. McAdoo is letting other problems rest until the present congestion is broken up.

Russian Power An Aid.
Two hundred locomotives ordered for use in Russia are being held up and will be pressed into service to aid Uncle Sam in breaking present blockades. This order is only temporary but if Russia gets a separate peace they will be permanently employed for American use.

Round-Up Record Helps.

CAMP LEWIS, AMERICAN LAKE, Wash., Dec. 29.—All that's needed to get in the remount station service here is a letter of recommendation from the Pendleton Round-up officials. Of course it goes without saying that the "Let-er-Buck" heads are judges of horsemanship par excellence, and a man to gain such an undisputed diploma for bronk busting must be a real "twister."

"Hippy" Burmaster, a Umatilla county cowpuncher who is well known to Round-Up fans on account of his work as official try-out, invoked the aid of the Round-up to get him in the remount station after the government had refused him. He found a long line of applications ahead of him when he decided to switch from a "doughboy" to a "twister." An appeal to the officers was in vain until Burmaster stated he had been the Round-Up's tryout man. He was then told that his application would go through in a hurry if the Round-Up would recommend him.

The recommendation came quickly from Pendleton. The result is that Burmaster is now in the remount service, fanning, pitching outlaws to his heart's content, and he was able to play a stellar role in the recent big wild west show here. Incidentally his nickname has been changed from "Hippy" to "Sunfish" by his admiring comrades in recognition of his ability to ride 'em straight.

New Year Will Be Greeted Quietly

CHURCHES HERE ARRANGE WATCHNIGHT SERVICES

Bachannian Programs of Yore to Disappear—Several Programs Are Provided For.

Bachannian stunts on New Year's Eve are, of course, taboo this year on account of the war, and the further reason that only in isolated vicinities can the wherewithal and necessities be readily obtained. New Year's Eve in La Grande will be largely celebrated with private parties, theatres, dances and watchnight services in the various churches. All of which is in sharp contrast to the programs carried out in all the large towns and cities of Oregon only a few years ago on like occasions.

Annual Meeting Set
The annual congregational meeting of the Methodist officary and membership will be held Monday evening in conjunction with a promising program of speeches and music. The following:

(Continued on Page Three.)

3-inch Rain Fall In a Week

Proof of the continuity and volume of the recent near-deluge of rain is seen in weather observations made by the government observatory for the La Grande territory today. For one week the total rainfall needs but one one-hundredth part of an inch to be three inches. This is far more than fell during the whole summer just past. Temporary cessation, at least, has come in the rain which hit Union county this week. The showers stopped this morning, and the Grande Ronde river which has been quite high has done some damage to bridges, immediately began to recede, a considerable drop being noted this noon.

PRESIDENT KERR A UNION COUNTY VISITOR

President Kerr, head of O. A. C., is in La Grande today on an inspection trip. After conference with County Agent Paul Spillman and Home Demonstrator Murphy, who also makes her headquarters in this city, President Kerr will go on to Union to visit the experiment station there. Facilities installed at that point for testing stock feeding are of much interest to Mr. Kerr and he keeps in close touch with their development. He took advantage of a spare day, after attending the teachers' convention in Portland, to run over to Eastern Oregon, a point in the state which he has not visited for some little time.

One Better Climate.

Billy Sunday has persuaded 15,000 Los Angeles people that they want to go to heaven. Such disloyalty to the climate of southern California.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

GOV. WITHEYCOMBE JOYOUS

HUSKY GRANDSON AND WONDERFUL GRAIN CROP OUTLOOK PLEASE STATE EXECUTIVE ON VISIT TO UNION.

Unquestionably the happiest man in Oregon is Governor James Withycombe, who is in La Grande today hob-nobbing with his old-time cronies of Eastern Oregon. Two primary factors are responsible for his beaming face, foremost—maybe—that he has just relived 10 happy years of his life in one week, bounding a husky grandson on his knee. The Governor like all good men and true, is passionately fond of children. Over at Union "My Bob," who is a chip off the old block in many ways, is the father of Robert Junior. Now Robert Junior has been "governor of Oregon" for the past week. His granddaddy hasn't slept much in that time for when Bobbie, Jr., was awake he occupied the state executive's time, solely and exclusively, and when Bobbie was asleep the Governor found a little time to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Withycombe. Then, too, the Governor has one of his prize saddle mares at Union and oftentimes this week the Governor has donned the chaps and herded in the sleek beef steers from the grass covered foothills. It has been a grand week, and to quote the Governor, "One of the gem weeks of my life."

Bumper Crops Predicted.

To come to the second reason for his good spirits: "These rains are wonderful," he exclaimed when interviewed today by The Observer. "What this nation must have is man-power, wheat and meat, and the weather conditions in Oregon promise a wonderful crop which makes these essentials possible. Barring unforeseen calamities, your wonderful Grande Ronde valley will produce millions next year. With

your large acreage, and these soaking rains—well, it's going to be great, these crops. The same condition largely exists in the state at large."

French Frost Plagues.

Of the war the Governor is deeply concerned. When shown a dispatch from the English trenches today to the effect that the trenches are frozen up, he was visibly pleased and said:

"Winter alone can save us. If Germany breaks through the western front before America is ready—well!"

Oregon's Part Lauded.

Oregon's part in patriotic moves were generously lauded by Mr. Withycombe. When gently chided at Marion county's failure to come up in the Red Cross drive for memberships, the executive adroitly defended the state capital county and predicted that commonwealth would be for the week-end have made a showing fully as good as the average. "I am intensely proud of Oregon's part in this war game—as proud of them as I am of my little grandson over at Union," exclaimed Mr. Withycombe.

Politically the state's executive preferred not to be quoted, being too much concerned with his happy sojourn at Union and the great prospects for big crops in this vicinity next year.

After completing his visit in Union county, a district which is extremely dear to the Governor, he will return to his habitat at Salem and once more shoulder the burdens of the state's executive affairs.

WINTER CAMPING ALONG TRENCHES

By PHILIP SIMMS
(United Press Correspondent)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY, Dec. 29.—Winter has practically frozen all fighting on the British front. Their lines are buried in snow and the thermometer is far below the freezing point.

Artillery Only Active
There is little chance for fighting along this front.

The Germans have, however, been bombarding trenches southwest of Bourlon, and later gassed the Homage sector back of the lines.

Skating Order of the Day
So thorough has been the freezeup

that Tommies off duty put in their time skating and following other winter sports. They thoroughly enjoy the novelty after the long siege of rain and mud.

Holy Land Bloody Again.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Heavy fighting is in progress in the Holy Land from Jaffa through Jerusalem along the historic Jericho road, almost to the Jordan. Abortive efforts to turn the British flank near Bethany have failed as did attempts to break British domination on the Jaffa-Jerusalem railroad. Falkenhagen is in command of the Turko-Teuton forces aimed at the British.

AMERICAN PRISONERS ARE DENIED COMMON COURTESIES BY HUNS

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS, FRANCE, Dec. 29.—Americans captured by Germany are regarded as not entitled to the ordinary courtesies extended to prisoners, according to information here. Presumably it is Germany's intention to employ Americans in the lowest forms of labor and wretched conditions, like the Russians formerly experienced.

National Guards Is Topic of Guarders

LA GRANDE COMPANIES AWAIT MORE DETAILED NEWS

Some Predict a Militia Company and a Home Guard Company for La Grande.

Just what part Oregon will play in the new national guard to which army recruiting stations are now receiving enlistments will probably not be known for some little time. At any rate Adjutant General White has received his instructions concerning enlistments and what class of people are eligible. In the main, any man over 31 and under 41 can join and will receive regular army pay. Those who have slight physical defects, and are of the draft age can join by special permission. The early orders indicate that the service will not be purely guard duty, but will take the place of the old state militia that is now federalized, and the members are subject to duty anywhere in America.

Home Guard Still Intact.

While it is to say definitely, La Grande Guard officers are of the opinion that the smaller communities will still be asked to maintain their home guards. The disposition of the La Grande home guard companies will remain intact until further developments at which time, many hope, it will be possible to organize a national militia company here of the middle aged men in the companies and leave a nucleus of a home guard as at present of the oldest men and the youngsters who are subject to draft but who, at present, are learning in advance many of the finer points of soldiering so that when their time comes to go they will have a decided advantage over the recruit who hasn't mastered the "hayfoot, strawfoot" catechism. Major H. E. Coolidge is away this week-end, but on his return it is expected that a concerted movement of some kind to get La Grande into the new guard will be taken.

Governor Inspects Quarters

Governor Withycombe, while in the city today, inspected the Home Guard gun rooms and pronounced the manner of storing and caring for the supply of guns sent here as excellent.

"We have hidden foes among us and it is absolutely necessary that each community has protection for anything that may come up," said the governor in this respect. "We had to use all the persuasive powers at hand to get Oregon's supply of guns, because of the shortage of equipment. Now that they are here, it falls upon the home guard to be ready. Developments in the Willamette valley this week, where arson hands were uncovered show the necessity of being prepared, and the truth of our contention that there are enemies lurking in our midst."

WAGES ARE SO FULL, MEN REFUSE TO WORK FULL TIME

(By United Press.)

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 29.—Three Northern Minnesota lumber companies have complained to the state labor department that lumberjacks are refusing to work more than half time since the war as their wages have practically doubled since the opening of hostilities. The employers claim the men are demoralizing the labor situation. The average woods worker gets \$75 a month and his board.

SMALL ARMY PROVIDES FOR LATE TRAVELING SOLDIERS

(United Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 3.—(By Mail.)—There are now 9,500 persons engaged in the single job of looking out for soldiers who arrive in London late at night. Of these only 1,000 are paid workers. More than 7,000 of the total are women. They have charge of 83 rest houses for officers and men, operate seven free buffets and drive the cars that carry the men from the train to the rest houses after the buses, trams and underground trains have stopped running.

Moser Comes Out For Governorship.

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—Gus Moser, president of the State Senate, has formally announced his candidacy for the gubernatorial nomination.

FIRST U-BOAT CAPTURE IS MADE PUBLIC

Captured Prisoners Are Shown Mercy and Attention

BESTROYER FANNING EXECUTES THE DUTY

November Capture Follows Lapping of Depth Bombs—American Dive After and Save German Sailors.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The American destroyer Fanning, aided by the destroyer Nycholson, is officially credited with capture of the first German submarine and its prisoners. This occurred in November.

U-Boat Badly Damaged

Four officers and 35 sailors were taken from the submarine, which was badly damaged by the depth bomb dropped in its vicinity. This new instrument of warfare proved efficient.

Merely Shown Prisoners

In sharp contrast to the German means of sinking helpless women and children, and of shooting prisoners in lifeboats, stands out the performance of the sailors on board the American ships. Two of them dove into the sea and saved a lone German sailor who was drowning. This splendid behavior so enthused the prisoners that they loudly cheered the Americans and were still cheering when they reached an American port.

Submarine Sighted in Time

The attack was being made on a merchantman in the convoy when the U-boat was first sighted, and the developments noted above followed.

THREE BRITISH VESSELS SINK

LONDON, Dec. 29.—It is announced that three British destroyers were either mined or torpedoed off the coast of Holland. Thirteen officers and 100 men were lost in the three accidents.

YOUNG AMERICAN GENERAL WILL END WAR IN 1918

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.—The war will end in September, 1918, after an American general has done "wonderful things on the French front, according to a Chinese prediction just received here.

Parish-Watson and Company, Chinese art importers, 560 Fifth avenue, received a large "Tang" jar valued at \$5,000, last week. The jar was made about 1000 years ago. When it was unpacked, a piece of blue paper was found at the bottom upon which were four rows of Chinese characters which, when translated, read:

"Some day one American young and famous general will achieve wonderful things in the front of France, and this great world war will be ended in September, 1918."

It is supposed the prediction was made by some Chinese "scholar" or philosopher, and was placed in the jar before it was packed for shipment at Hankow, China, last summer.

WEALTHY AMERICAN TO REBUILD FRENCH TOWN

PARIS, Nov. 4.—(By Mail.)—The inhabitants of the little town of Dun-sur-Meuse are convinced that, after all, there is a lot in a name. For, thanks to the fact that its patronymic happens to be the same as that of a wealthy and generous American, he ravages caused by the war will soon be made good. The municipal council of Dun-sur-Meuse has met in Paris to be presented to its "godfather" who has undertaken to rebuild the town.

AMPLE WATER ON HAND IN BEAVER CREEK NOW

Eighty-six million gallons of water are now stored in the Beaver creek reservoir and insure the city against the use of river water for at least three months. City Manager Currey and Water Superintendent Hoyt have laid these facts before the city commission.

Army Cloth Stolen

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—(Special.)—Louis Davidson, proprietor of a cloth shrinking and refinishing works in this city, was locked up in the Tombs prison tonight on a charge of embezzling government property. The arrest was made in connection with the disappearance of 350 bolts of olive drab uniform cloth, valued at \$50,000, which for several months has puzzled the quartermaster's department of the army.

The editor of the Gresham Outlook consoles himself and his readers with the reflection that anyhow there doesn't seem to be a salt shortage, and it would be harder to get along without salt than sugar.

"GET READY TO SPRINT, YOUNG FELLOW!"

