

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

VOLUME XVII.

LA GRANDE, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1917.

NUMBER 111

PEACE OFFER TO GET SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

ALLIES MEET AT PARIS TO FRAME REPLY

KERENSKY SITS IN COUNCIL AS REPRESENTATIVE OF RUSSIAN DISTRICT

GERMAN-RUSSIAN ENVOYS IDLE FOR THE PRESENT

Lloyd George at Paris to Negotiate With Other Leaders—Teuton Reported to Have Plan for Adjustment of Poland and Other Teuton-held Territory.

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 31.—Word has been received here that the Bolsheviks have released 14 interned Austrian merchantmen. The release indicates the Bolsheviks are immediately complying with the German peace proposals, as this is one of the provisions.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Russia's peace terms upon which she is asking the entente to join in ending the war, reached America by radio from official sources this afternoon. Its foundation includes: no forcible union of districts coming into possession during the war to be allowed; troops occupying these to be withdrawn in the shortest possible time; political independence to be restored to peoples losing it in the war.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 31.—After framing an agreement to be presented to both governments, the German-Russian peace conference in session here for some time has adjourned temporarily. It is understood that it stipulates Russia is to evacuate portions of Austria-Hungary, while Turkey, Persia and the Teutons are to leave Poland and Lithuania and other parts of Russia, granting leave to the people in Teuton-occupied sections to have free opportunity to decide their own future status.

Commercial Trade Unrestricted. It is also stipulated that resumption of free commercial intercourse shall not be restricted and that there shall be exchange of prisoners, etc., thus practically providing restoration on a status quo ante basis.

Serious Reply Coming. LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Allies intend to give serious response to the Teuton peace terms announced at Brest-Litovsk, according to the best information obtainable by the United Press.

It is understood Premier Lloyd George will go to France very shortly to confer with government officials there to go over the offers with great care.

Kerensky Called In. Kerensky, deposed leader of the Russian forces and still in close touch with the loyal Cossacks, has been delegated to the inter-allied conference at Paris. He said the allies could best help Russia by restoring clearly and emphatically the exact aspirations and aims of the allies.

The belief is growing that the allies could, for Russia's benefit, give a clear interpretation of the "no annexation, no indemnities" phrase by Germany in attempting to remove the impression that they have already accepted.

Concrete Plans Advocated. STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 31.—Several allied diplomats here have recommended that their governments participate in the conference here to proclaim to the allies a concrete peace policy. It is understood in this vicinity that in this way only can the Bolshevik madness be checked.

COMPLETE HOLIDAY IN LA GRANDE TUESDAY

A complete let-up in business is the order for tomorrow in mercantile circles. Stores will remain closed all day that proprietors and employees may celebrate the advent of the new year properly. There will be no issue of the Observer tomorrow.

La Grande Educator Signally Honored By State Teachers' Annual Convention

La Grande has been solidly linked to educational affairs of the state in a most effective manner, and signal honor has been bestowed upon a La Grande citizen, when A. C. Hampton, superintendent of La Grande schools, was elevated from the floor of the state convention at Portland, Saturday, and made vice-president of the State Teachers' association. The election was wholly spontaneous and for that reason further mirrors the estimation the La Grande man holds among his colleagues.

As is and has been the custom, a nominating committee deliberates upon candidates for the ensuing year and up to this year has never had its recommendations disputed or denied. Upon this occasion, however, they recommended a vice-president from Marshfield, virtually Southern Oregon, and the retiring president is from Ashland, also in the south. By virtue of the fact that the vice-president by precedent goes into the executive chair the following term, it was deemed inadvisable by many—Portland educators more especially—to

knit the administration solely to Southern and Western Oregon. Hence they advocated recognition of Eastern Oregon, and entirely without previous jockeying or wire pulling, a Portland man seized upon Mr. Hampton as the logical leader of Eastern Oregon. In spite of the fact that Mr. Hampton later seconded the nomination of the nominating committee candidate, he was elected by a handsome majority. The turn of the events is wholly without precedent in the annals of the association.

Mr. Hampton is home today and when interviewed admitted that he was pleased with the results, "not so much from any personal viewpoint, as the fact that my position on the executive board this year as an ex officio member and the possibilities for future center of state educational affairs' administration from this point, make of La Grande a mighty force in affairs of school throughout the state."

(Continued on Page 3)

LA GRANDE'S SOLDIERS RESENT ANTI-TOBACCO FUND CRUSADE

A storm of protest echoes back from France after a recent issue of the Observer telling of a resolution condemning the use of tobacco in the trenches had reached the expeditionary forces. The article which has brought down the indignation of La Grande and other soldier boys now in France, quoted a resolution of the Bible School convention held some time ago, in which the following words were embraced:

"Resolved, that as a Bible school convention we most solemnly register our protest against the campaign for securing funds for the purpose of in any way supplying tobacco for our soldier boys."

Letters are coming in from the front bitterly condemning the resolution. In a letter to his sister and mother, written "Somewhere in France," Private Surber L. Klein of the hospital corps, written among other things:

Y. M. C. A.'s Supply Exclusive. "The Y. M. C. A.'s are doing a great work, they being the only place we can get American tobacco. I suppose you have seen the piece in the Observer where the Bible class was against the tobacco fund for soldiers. I wish they knew how we feel towards it, for tobacco is as much to the most of us as their preacher is to their church."

Mr. Delaney Voices Protest. A similar objection is voiced by Sgt. Harry Delaney, writing to the Elks' lodge, and saying in part:

"Regarding an article published on October 18, 1917, in the Observer written by the Union County Bible school convention and protesting against the campaign to secure funds to buy tobacco for soldiers in France, we, the members of the La Grande hospital unit, feel that we must express our surprise over their attitude in this matter. We also feel that content to sit in smug contentment by their fireplaces they know nothing whatever of conditions over here."

"To begin with, amusements or even diversions are exceedingly rare. Idle time in the evening hangs heavy on our hands. We have a microscope club room with a fire-place, to be sure, but no reading matter whatever. Round this cheerful blaze the boys rather each evening to smoke and talk of y' land "Where Ralls the Oregon." Deprived of this most innocent pastime, what is the result? Wines of all kinds, beer and champagne are within easy reach of our salaries. The cafes are warm and crowded with congenial companions. The answer is very simple. "At present writing "American" tobacco is hard to get at any price. It is hampering in the extreme to be reminded from time to time of our dependence on grubstakers for the necessities of life."

Resolutions Sent In. The following self-explanatory article also comes from France remonstrating against the resolution:

Tobacco at the Front. Somewhere in France, December 2, 1917.

To the Editor of The Observer: We the members of the La Grande Hospital Unit noticed an item in the paper of October 18, 1917, written by

(Continued on Page 3.)

Mills Will Not Be On 8-hour Schedule

Directors of Western Association Find By-Laws Conflict—La Grande Mills Not Affected By Order—Mr. Minnaugh Home From Convention

General Manager Minnaugh of the Grande Ronde Lumber Company has returned from the Spokane meeting of the Western White Pine Manufacturers' Association, and has gone on to Walla Walla to look after business. The most important, and in fact the only business to come up was action on the recent vote of the Association to adopt an eight-hour schedule. That transpired December 7 and effected largely Eastern Washington, parts of Idaho, Montana and Oregon. However, the last Spokane meeting found the action to have been illegal and the order was rescinded.

Consequently the mills will continue to run as before, in an effort to get out just as much lumber as possible for the war.

La Grande mills were not effected materially in the first place and will continue to run as before, operating nine hours on a ten-hour basis.

Official announcement of the rescinding order was made at Spokane Saturday by J. P. McGoldrick, J. H. C. Reynolds and A. W. Cooper, as a publicity committee for the Western Pine Manufacturers' Association. The announcement said:

"A special meeting of the Western Pine Manufacturers' Association, called by the directors, today considered fully the action of the meeting of December 7, on the matter of the eight-hour day and found this action to be illegal, under the constitution and by-laws of the association. The action of December 7, was therefore, declared to be null and void. No further action was taken."

RAILROADERS' WAGES RISE

(United Press.) ST. PAUL, Dec. 31.—An increase of 10 per cent in wages of the 15,000 employees of the Northern Pacific railroad and of 500 employees of the Northern Express company, effective January 1, was announced today.

Last night a similar increase to 3500 clerks and station employees was granted. Today's grant will add \$1,500,000 to the company's payroll.

FRENCH IN ITALY TAKE HUN FORCES

FIRST DECIDED VICTORY ON ITALIAN FRONT REPORTED FROM ROME

BERLIN ADMITS SOME REVERSES IN ITALY

Vigorous Fighting Going On Between French and Italian Forces—Germans Still Hold Parts of French Lines Taken Sunday.

(NOTE)—The following dispatch is the first official news to the effect that French troops are in action on the Italian front.)

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—French infantry have attacked and penetrated parts of the German positions around Monte Tomba.

Many Prisoners Taken. ROME, Dec. 31.—General elation is felt in Italy tonight over the report from the front where it is officially announced that for the first time since assuming the offensive, the French have gained notable victories between Osteria and Demondvendra. They have captured 1,350 prisoners and have taken 60 machine guns and many cannon and supplies.

British and Italian airmen helped in the attacks.

Germans Make Raid. LONDON, Dec. 31.—General Haig has announced the Germans still hold a part of the British trenches near Lavauquois, captured in Sunday's assault, though British counter attacks recaptured the more important sections. At Ypres the British lines advanced on both sides of the Staden railroad.

Cossacks In Battle. TOKYO, Dec. 31.—Fierce fighting

(Continued on Page 8)

Bert Andrews Is Reported Dead

The United Press informs The Observer late today that Bert Andrews died of bronchitis. His death is reported to the war department by General Pershing, along with 16 other Americans, none other of whom were from Oregon.

News that Bert Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Andrews, 2206 First street, and a member of the La Grande hospital unit, which was the first Oregon detail to reach France, is dead, reached La Grande today. Mr. Andrews, the father, who is an officer of the mechanical force of the O. W. R. & N., is out on the line today with a wrecking train, and the home could not be reached by telephone. The distressing news has been forwarded to him and he is returning to La Grande late this afternoon.

The nature of the death is not indicated in brief telegrams received here, but is true, nevertheless. That he died from natural causes and was not killed is believed to be the facts in the matter, judging from the wording of telegrams received this afternoon.

This is the first death in the corps unit since it left La Grande, one of its members having died before it left La Grande, when George Huckins was accidentally killed while in British Columbia on leave of absence before going to the front.

The news of the Bert Andrews' death came as a shock to La Grande this afternoon, as it did, the first fatality of the war so close to La Grande homes.

Additional information of the accident is expected hourly to reach relatives and friends.

Friends and neighbors report Mrs. Andrews in a critical condition this afternoon, having collapsed on receipt of the news.

QUAKE'S TOLL NOW THOUSAND

Terrible Devastation Continues With Intermittent Shocks—Martial Law Prevails at Guatemala—American Consulate Wrecked.

(United Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Cables to Secretary of State Robert Lansing say 1000 are dead as the result of the Guatemala earthquake. Forty percent of the houses were demolished and most of the others are untenable now.

The American consulate, the legation, the postoffice and churches have been wrecked and martial law prevails.

Inhabitants are leaving the city at the President's orders and terrific shocks continue at five-minute intervals. Most of the 75-mile strip between Guatemala City and San Jose is devastated.

PORTLAND ALONE NOW LAGS IN BIG DRIVE

(United Press.)

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—Outside of Portland, Oregon has unquestionably made its 140,000 Red Cross quota. Whether Portland will make its 21,000 now short of its 100,000 depends on the result of the Elks' spectacular campaign tonight. Coos, Lake and Tillamook counties are over the top, and Grant has increased her's to 125 per cent. At noon the total in Portland was 78,832, state outside 137,388, Oregon total 216,171. By this afternoon the state outside will have raised its figure to 140,000. Indications point certainly to Oregon at 240,000, in which event she probably will head the entire country.

SOLDIER GIFTS REACH THEIR DESTINATIONS

Denial of the vicious reports circulated by German propagandists, and innocently, often, carried by otherwise patriotic Americans, is seen in a letter received from Camp Lewis by a La Grande girl. She sent a Red Cross package via the usual Red Cross route, and in due time received acknowledgement from a stranger, a soldier at Camp Lewis, this being made possible because the sender had attached her name and address to the package.

EMPLOYEES ON ROADS LIKELY TO GET RAISE

GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES A HIGHER BASIS FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF MEN

DAMAGE SUITS CAN'T BE INSTITUTED NOW

Government Ownership or Management Precludes Possibility of Suits For Damages Following Railroad Accidents—Public Asked to Be Patient.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Federal mediators and Railroad Director McAdoo today discussed the basis for an increased wage scale for certain classes of railway employees. Just what the terms will be, or what the conclusions reached are, has not been definitely made known.

Public Patience Solicited.

Announcement was made however, that the government is asking the public to be patient, citing the necessity of expediting work yet to be done, such as building new engines, providing more track and material facilities, revision of priorities and the routings.

New Phase Develops.

Constitutional lawyers, after delving into the proposition, have come to the conclusion that hereafter, as long as the government controls the railroads, travelers and shippers will not be able to sue for damages of any kind. This is true because under the law, the government cannot be sued.

OREGON GIVES \$40,000,000

Oregon Citizens Give Nearly \$50.00 Per Capita.

Since the declaration of war, Oregon citizens have turned over more than \$40,000,000 to help with the war, a per capita outlay of over \$50. Oregon's subscription to the two Liberty loans totaled \$37,661,457. Of this amount Portland subscribed \$21,872,550. Oregon's quota on the first loan in June was \$8,500,000 and \$11,802,900 was subscribed. The state's quota on the second loan in October was \$18,000,000, and \$25,198,550 was subscribed.

Citizens of the state have been equally generous in donating funds for war work purposes. More than a million dollars was given in the first Red Cross drive and over four hundred thousand dollars to the Y. M. C. A. war work fund.

Appeals for financial help for such purposes as the war library fund, Oregon boys' emergency fund, Christmas gifts for soldiers, American field service and the Allied bazaar netted approximately \$130,000.

Substantial headway has been made on the war savings campaign in Oregon, which will continue throughout the coming year, for which period the state's quota is in excess of \$17,000,000.

PUZZLING QUESTIONS ARE BEFORE ARMY LEADERS

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—(Special)—Is an alien of draft age (not an alien enemy) subject to draft?

Is a man of draft age who has taken out only his first papers subject to draft?

These questions have been asked of local exemption boards time and again since the sending out of questionnaires began. The answer to the first question is "No." The answer to the second question is "Yes."

An alien of draft age who has not declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States may waive exemption on the ground of his alienage, but if he does not want to waive his exemption, the local board has no choice but to put him in Class V. However, he must answer his questionnaire and return it within the seven-day limit to his local exemption board, just as a citizen must do, or he will endanger his right to be placed in Class V.

On the other hand, an alien of draft age who has taken out his first papers declaring his intention to become a citizen of the United States, is subject to draft. It makes no difference how long or how short a time ago he may have taken out his first papers.

"SWEAR OFF? THUNDER! THERE'S NOTHING I CAN AFFORD!"

