

HUNS HAVE BIGGEST ARMY WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN

Haig Reports Retirement of Three Miles on Ac- count of Gas

The French-American Line Is Being Held Intact Against Furious On- slaughts by the Enemy

The Germans have now reached the neighborhood of Steenwerck, the edge of the town of Estaries and have occupied the eastern half of Ploegsteert Wood, just outside the ruins of the towns of Messines and Wytschaete.

Correspondent Simms indicates that the British, after abandoning the city of Armentieres, have retired three miles, probably in a westerly direction.

At four o'clock this morning, German artillery opened artillery fire on Martinsart and Engelbel.

The fighting, which raged throughout Wednesday in the northern section of the front, continued throughout the night in a new salient to the north of the St. Maur bridgehead. In this fighting, the Germans enlarged upon their gains.

Once the Germans succeeded in occupying Laereche, Nieppe, Ploegsteert, Messines, and Wytschaete, but the British, with a heavy counter attack, succeeded in regaining all villages except the western half of Ploegsteert.

DRIVE EQUALS ORIGINAL OFFENSIVE

LONDON, April 11.—Field-marshal Haig announces the withdrawal of the British from Armentieres. The report says:

"We have withdrawn from Armentieres, which is full of gas. The battle is continuing on the whole front from La Bassée Canal to the Ypres-Comines Canal. There is very severe fighting near the Lys and Lawe rivers, and from Lestrem to Armentieres. Near Ploegsteert, Messines and Wytschaete there was heavy fighting until a late hour last night."

Armentieres is now a mere pile of stones and bricks and is of no strategic importance. This drive in the northern section of the western front, equals in importance the original offensive. Von Hindenburg's objective is believed the splitting of the British line along the Lys River, and the rolling back of Haig's northern forces on to the North Sea, thus facilitating the capture of the Channel ports.

GERMANS HAVE HUGE ARMY.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES, April 11.—America must show her full hand quickly if she wishes to stay von Hindenburg's plans, which are working fast and furious and avowedly aim to annihilate both the British and the French armies. He is apparently prepared to shift his drives first against one and then the other.

New German arrivals, make the total of the army facing the allies two hundred divisions, or two million four hundred thousand men. Von Hindenburg has the world's largest army at his command, and is also using the greatest network of railways and highways that it is possible to imagine. The Allies are fighting like lions, but they are crying: "Come on America."

FRENCH-AMERICAN SECTORS INTACT

Paris, April 11.—German attacks against Franco-American sectors in Champagne and the Lorraine districts, were repulsed, it is officially announced.

CONFIDENCE IN UNITED STATES TROOPS.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The shifting of America's main reserves into the Western battle front is about completed. The men already brigaded with the British are veterans and have a splendid record in their operations against the Teutons. Others coming are of the same type. America can be confident of the gallantry of these men when they are put to the supreme test.

FOUR HUNDRED MILLIONS IS SUBSCRIPTION ESTIMATE

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The Liberty Loan subscriptions, according to conservative estimates by the Treasury Department, now reach a total of four hundred million dollars.

DOGS MUST STAY HOME

The city commission last night passed the ordinance prohibiting dogs from running at large and the same is now in effect. The closed season for dogs running at large is April 1 to September 1, and owners who permit their dogs to stray from home are subject to a fine of from \$2.50 to \$25, or imprisonment if such fine is not paid.

The commission passed on claims against the city and disposed of other routine matters and this constituted the main business of the meeting held yesterday evening.

City Manager's Report.
LA GRANDE, Or., April 10, 1918.
To the Hon. Commission, City of La Grande, Oregon: Gentlemen: I herewith submit my report for the week ending Monday, April 8, 1918.

Fire chief reports no fires for the week.

Water superintendent reports total expenditure for labor, \$144.00, \$23.50 of which is charged to the water department, \$106.50 to the street department, \$12.00 to the sewer department.

Chief of police reports two arrests for the week, one for selling liquor, one traffic violation. Total fines and forfeitures, \$85.00.

The manager and water superintendent visited the Beaver Creek reservoir last week and found the reservoir full and flowing over. The ice over the reservoir is some 18 inches to two feet in thickness. The snow in the timber on the north side of the reservoir, we believe, averages about four feet in depth. This snow is packed until it is quite hard, therefore should furnish a considerable supply of water. The hills on the south side are practically bare. We were able to ride as far as the telephone box at Whiskey Saddle in a buggy. From there we rode horseback and encountered very little snow until we reached the slopes of Jordan Creek. From there on we had from a foot to two and one-half feet of snow. We inspected the pipes at several places and found them in good condition. We opened the gates at the reservoir Friday noon and today Caretaker Woods reports that the water has been lowered eight feet. The ice is now

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TODAY'S AMERICAN CASUALTIES

Total Of Killed Wounded And Missing Is Hundred Twenty-Four.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Today's casualties among the American forces on the Western front total 124. This list is as follows:
Killed in action: 1.
Died from wounds: 2.
Died following accidents: 5.
Died from disease: 13.
Severely wounded: 69.
Slightly wounded: 30.
Missing: 4.

WASHINGTON, Later.—A further casualty list was given out this afternoon, and contains the following additional list of American losses:
Total casualties: 110.
Killed in action: 22.
Slightly wounded: 68.

EX-GOVERNOR WEST IS A CANDIDATE

PORTLAND, April 11.—Ex-governor Oswald West, today announced his candidacy for the democratic nomination for the United States senate.

WIEL PROBE WOOL SITUATION

Intolerable Situation Reported To Be Rapidly Developing.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—Wool is the next necessity that is coming under the scrutiny of Chairman Baruch of the Industries Board.

This action follows the report that intolerable conditions in the wool situation are rapidly developing, and is throwing an unwarranted burden of rising wool prices on the civilian population. Prices are daily leaping upward, while supplies on the market are rapidly dwindling.

Officials today declared that the strain on the wool supply during the coming months will be far greater than estimated, this being partly caused by the decision to rush troops abroad.

ITALIAN FRONT ACTIVE

Rome Reports Artillery Duels Along Entire Front.

ROME, April 11.—A report issued by the war department here this morning states that the whole of the Italian front is the scene of artillery exchanges.

REPORT GIVEN OF THE BOYS IN FRANCE

LIEUTENANT PLOMONDON RE- LATES EXPERIENCES OF THE HOSPITAL UNIT.

Very Large Attendance Turns Out to Hear the Returning Officer From the Front.

There was a very large attendance at the Methodist church yesterday evening to hear Lieut. Plomondon, who was with the La Grande hospital boys in France. The lieutenant's home is in Athena, but he enlisted with the hospital corps which was organized in La Grande. He returns home on account of having been a victim of pleuro-pneumonia, but will return when he recovers if his services are further needed. The returning officer said:

I have come directly from your boys in the American battle front and I realize that each and every one of you are anxious to have a personal word of their experiences.

Why He Returned.

I know that people as a rule are not interested in the misfortunes of others, but first I want to tell you in just a few words, why I came back. Shortly after our arrival in France I contracted a severe attack of pleurisy that resulted in a rather chronic affection of my left chest, and I was up and down for several weeks. To make matters worse, I later had a siege of broncho-pneumonia that put me in a hospital for several weeks more. I was told I was developing tuberculosis and advised to make a change.

I am happy to say I have been improving rapidly since starting home, and I am certain that I will soon be able to return, if the necessity arises. As most of you already know the Hospital Unit left Camp Mills, Oct. 18, 1917. (We sailed on the ship Covington, which is one of the interned German vessels, that were taken over by the United States when war was declared.

The Covington is a fine vessel and was well equipped as a transport. The men had good quarters, but of course were down in the hold and very crowded, for, with the crew, there were over 3,800 on board. The voyage over was uneventful.

The Trip Across
Naturally among so many men who
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REPRESENTING RED CROSS

R. E. Arne, District Official, Is Here On Business.

R. E. Arne, district representative of the Red Cross, with headquarters in Seattle, is in La Grande. His specialty is in the home service work of the Red Cross, which has several very important functions. One of them is the information department which undertakes to locate missing soldiers or those who have not been heard from, or who may be in the casualty list. For this purpose an office, or bureau of information, is maintained in Washington and a district branch in Seattle.

Another matter which is being placed before the local and district army boards is that of insurance for those who are about to enter the service.

It is the business also of the home service department of the Red Cross to keep a check on supplies and see that allotments are properly handled.

Mr. Arne is meeting with the local chapter this afternoon.

C. C. REIBER OF ELGIN KILLED IN ACCIDENT

WAS CAUGHT UNDER LOG AT THE HACKETT SAW-MILL.

Deceased Was An Old Time Resident of Elgin, and Highly Respected.

ELGIN, April 10.—(Special.)—The citizens of Elgin were grieved yesterday afternoon when news was sent to town that C. C. Reiber had been fatally hurt in an accident at the Hackett sawmill. A log, rolling down, struck and crushed his chest. Dr. E. G. Kirby was immediately sent for, but the unfortunate man was so badly injured that he died before the physician arrived.

Mr. Reiber had lived in Elgin for over 10 years and was a highly respected man. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. C. C. Reiber. No definite funeral arrangements will be made until Mr. Reiber's relatives in the east are heard from. Deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Reiber in her bereavement.

Before Municipal Court.

Dr. Cauthorn, Andrew Loney and J. B. Garrett were each fined \$10 this morning for not having purchased dog licenses. J. Thompson, Frank George and James Bugg have hearings later, on similar charges.

CLASSIFICATIONS ARE QUESTIONED

WASHINGTON, April 11.—(United Press)—General Crowder has ordered a thorough investigation of local draft boards in districts showing singularly small percentage of Class 1 selections.

This inquiry results from congress opposition to Provost Marshal-General Crowder's plan to base the quotas of future drafts upon the number in Class 1 instead of the total number registered. In some few districts the percentage in Class 1 is only 17, while in others it is 45 per cent.

Congressmen claim that local boards have deliberately sent in small returns in Class 1 with the object of keeping their quotas lower.

Alumni Meeting.

The Alumni Association will hold a meeting tonight at 7 o'clock, at the Y. M. C. A.

WAR MATTERS PRESENTED BY SOLDIER

MAJOR MATTHEWS, WOUNDED CANADIAN OFFICER, MAKES AN ADDRESS.

Many Of The Important Features of The Giant Conflict Are Explained By Visitor.

Major Matthews, the wounded Canadian officer, entertained a large assemblage at the meeting at the Methodist church yesterday evening. As a preliminary to the meeting, A. T. Hill, county chairman of the loan drive, stated that the quota for Union county has been over-subscribed and that those who had not yet been seen would be given the opportunity to get in on the next call.

The speech of Major Matthews was primarily on the war situation and conditions. He said that the stretcher bearers on the battlefields have as hard a place, if not more so than the men in the trenches. Frequently as many as sixteen men were required to rescue one man. The most of the fighting is done in the night time, but the battlefields are lighted with bursting shells.

He said the boys became very homesome at times and were hungry for something to read. A candle costs 18 cents and will last but a couple of hours, and it is during the long-drawn periods which contributed to a condition of loneliness and homesickness. By all means the boys at the front should have letters, cheering letters and all the reading matter that can be sent them. The hours drag heavily when they have nothing to do.

He explained the trench positions, the listening posts, and said that when in the trenches the ears of the soldier were much more useful than his eyes.

Each soldier is furnished with a quart of water which is the allowance for two days. The soldiers are loaded with gas masks, bayonets, shovel and other trappings which range from 60 to 80 pounds in weight.

The soldiers from Canada range in age from 18 to 65 years, and frequently the men of advanced age prove to be the best of soldiers. Traveling is difficult on account of the earth being torn up by artillery and other kinds of explosions.

In England the food situation is very critical and all that can be done in this country for food conservation should be done.

Major Matthews says that while he is personally inclined to prohibition, the soldier is entitled to supplies of rum or cigarettes, and especially the wounded ones should have whatever he may desire, irrespective of sentimental views of the case.

The Major's address was received with deep attention and interest.

GOVERNMENT SEIZES SHIPS.

Well Known Steamship Lines Commandeered by President.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Under a presidential proclamation issued today several well-known steamship lines are taken over by the government, and will be operated by the federal authorities. Among the vessels commandeered are those belonging to Mallory's, Merchant's and Miner's.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, April 10.—Fair.



SENATE DECLINES TO APPROVE WAR STRIKES

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Senate today, by a vote of 34 to 25, refused to approve of labor's right to strike during war time.

Senate also rejected the conference report on the bill which provides penalties for the destruction of war material or interference with its production.

The report was rejected because the conferees wrote in a new clause, specifically providing that none of the penalties provided in the bill should apply to workers who are striking to get higher pay or better working conditions.