

Business Men Ask Commission to Give the City Board Control

Orders Already Issued by Commission are Asked to be Rescinded, Entire Matter Placed in Hands of Health Officers-Loyalty and Co-Operation is Pledged by Business Men.

Responding to a call from Acting City Manager Geo. H. Currey, who in turn represented the city commission, representatives of almost every business house in the city of La Grande met at the city hall last evening for the purpose of discussing closing orders and the best manner of handling the influenza situation.

Sentiment was unanimous in the desire to eliminate the disease and protect the health of the community, but there was a difference of opinion as to how the matter should be handled. The rules of the board of health as published last evening were read and discussion followed. It finally resolved itself down to what is meant by the word "crowding"—how many people constitute a crowd, etc.

Representatives of the moving picture theatres expressed a belief that the legislation already passed by the commission was class legislation, for the show house people expressed a willingness to sell every second seat or every third seat only if the health board thought it best.

Manager Currey repeatedly was forced to call the attention of the assembly to the fact that the meeting was called for but one purpose, namely, to have the store owners and operators discuss the best way to handle the people during the holiday trade and prevent crowding in the different places of business. He stated that the commission had already enacted legislation on the show houses and that was not open for discussion at last night's meeting.

May Carry It to Court.

Father Driscoll was present and made a strong plea for consistency in the matter of closing the churches. He said if there was danger in congregating why not enact the eastern rule of permitting one person to a certain number of cubic feet of air space, but under no consideration would he agree to the closing of the houses of worship in La Grande during the Christmas period, which was the greatest period of the year for the person who worshipped the Divine Being.

"I feel this so keenly," said Father Driscoll, "that I must serve notice on the city now to the effect that injunction proceedings may have to follow any arbitrary ruling. This will not be done with a desire to be petty, but quite the reverse; it will be done from the broad viewpoint of Christianity.

Recorder John Collier asked Father Driscoll "if people could not pray at home."

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MAC WOOD WILL BE A RANCHER

MERCHANT FOR MANY YEARS JOINS BACK TO THE SOIL

Has Purchased a 2400 Acre Ranch
in North Powder Country.

The beef steer and his sister hold a keen attraction for Mac Wood of the Golden Rule company. So much so that he has lately purchased the Gen. Stevens ranch of 2400 acres, on Clover creek in the North Powder country and is arranging to move on the ranch before March 1, where he will personally look after the business of raising cattle, hogs, sheep and a few horses.

The Golden Rule will have sold its entire stock before that time and the business will be closed up in its entirety. Both Mr. Casey and Mr. Wood have already made arrangements for their business careers following the termination of the mercantile business in La Grande.

CHORUS CALLED OFF ON ACCOUNT OF FLU THERE WILL BE NO APPEARANCE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

The Community Chorus met last night for special rehearsal but on account of the publishing of the "flu" had only one half of the normal attendance were present. It had been planned by the chorus to appear on the streets during Christmas, singing appropriate carols and songs. The present health regulations will prevent this Christmas appearance of the chorus. It was decided by the members to adjourn until such time as health regulations will permit public gatherings again.

ON GERMAN SOIL Hospital Unit is With the Army of Occupation.

An immense bunch of soldiers' letters arrived in La Grande yesterday. The time has been too limited for the Observer to get much in detail for today. Chester Thompson, of the hospital unit, is in German territory with his brother Glenn, who is with the motor service in Metz. It is presumed from the reports so far received that the main part of the hospital unit has followed the army of occupation.

PURCHASE FINE HOGS

Grande Ronde Meat Company Secures 100 of Chester Whites

NOT NECESSARY CLOSE SCHOOLS

CITY SUPERVISION SAYS AT- TENDANCE IMPROVED. Schools to Re-open in Week if Sit- uation in City No Worse.

Whether or not the local schools are to be closed again on account of the influenza situation is a question that has not yet been definitely determined. The order of the city board of commissioners, published in The Observer last night, did not extend to the schools, for the reason that they were to be closed at noon today for the Christmas holidays, anyway, and it was thought that when it was time for them to be reopened, on the 30th of the month, conditions might have improved to such an extent that it would not be necessary for the school work to be interrupted again.

A representative of The Observer talked to Mr. A. C. Hampton, supervisor of the city schools, yesterday with regard to the effect the epidemic has had of late upon the attendance at the schools. It was Mr. Hampton's opinion that with quarantine regulations strictly enforced in the city, which would ensure that sick children would not be allowed to come into the schools, it would not be necessary to close the schools again, and in addition he gave this statement to The Observer:

"As far as the effect of the epidemic upon the attendance in general is concerned, the situation is improved.

"The epidemic did not affect the Riveria, Central, nor high school immediately after the flu hit, but about two weeks ago the attendance began to fall off in these schools. It is gratifying to note, however, that these schools are now increasing in attendance very materially.

"It is my opinion that as far as the epidemic affecting the attendance is concerned, the situation will clear largely during the interval of the Christmas holidays. The teachers are observing, strictly the rules and regulations regarding the health of the pupils which were adopted after the first ban was lifted."

It is the intention at present, therefore, to have the schools reopened on Monday, December 30th, and pupils may plan to return to their studies on that day, unless the city health board issues instructions to the contrary in the meantime. The only school holiday during the New Year season will be New Year's day, if the present plan holds.

BERLIN IN FAVOR OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—According to Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, the German people feel that the political salvation of their country depends upon the successful inauguration of the league of nations. Bernstorff, who is better acquainted with President Wilson than is any other German in public life, expresses himself as very optimistic over the outlook for a peace agreement along the lines President Wilson is advocating.

Since his recall from Turkey, Count Bernstorff has been acting technically as a foreign secretary under the Socialist government. Today he gave to the United Press the first public utterance which he has directed at the United States since this country declared war on Germany over a year and a half ago. He refused to talk about matters other than those concerning the peace conference, but he reiterated the statements he made on leaving the United States that he had done everything in his power to prevent the break between Germany and America. He asserted emphatically that never for a moment had he been unaware of the grave possibilities and consequences of an error on the part of the Kaiser's government.

REORGANIZATION ARMY STARTS
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The reorganization of the United States army along permanent lines has been started here. Major-General Menoher, formerly commander of the famous Rainbow division, and later leader of the sixteenth army corps, has been named by Chief of Staff March as director of the air ser-

LODGE QUESTIONS PRACTICABILITY WILSON'S PLAN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Although characterizing President Wilson's plan for a league of nations as "captivating and attractive," Senator Lodge, floor leader of the Republican party, seriously questioned its practicability as a working plan to keep the world peace. "Any attempt to form such a league now," Senator Lodge said, "can only embarrass the peace which we ought to make at once with Germany."

He urged the postponement of the following five of the president's fourteen points of peace, until after a satisfactory, binding treaty has been signed, viz.: The league of nations, freedom of the seas, secret diplomacy, economic barriers and reduction of armaments.

ACCUSTOMED TO HEAR WAILS

HUNLAND IS IN NO DANGER OF FOOD SHORTAGE

Situation in Austria Is Serious, but
America Will Make No Hasty
Adjustments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Germany is in no danger as to food now, according to state department information. Her chief difficulty is the one of distribution. The Austrian food situation, however, is serious. The American government will make neither hasty nor extensive food adjustments.

The German propaganda of "wails" for assistance is falling on ears which they don't deceive.

BIG CONTRACT SIGNED

Northern Pacific and Subsidiaries Guaranteed Expenses.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Operating contracts have been signed by the railroad administration with the Northern Pacific and its subsidiaries, guaranteeing a standard annual return of more than \$30,000,000.

THERE NOW, TOMMY! TAKE YOUR OLD JOB

LONDON, Dec. 10.—(United Press, by Mail)—"Oh, if the men would only hurry up and come back and take back their jobs! We're fed up to the ears with this stuff."

After having been jolted about, buffeted about, through fog, cold and sun for four years on an autobus, this was what the conductorette replied today, when asked if she would be willing to give up her job when the men came back from war.

Many others answered in the same tone.

HUSBAND DEAD— CASE DISMISSED.

PENDLETON, Dec. 21.—Bertha Blaneett, who sued her husband Dell Blaneett, the celebrated Buckaroo rider, for divorce, has dismissed the suit. Blaneett was killed in battle in France, the wife now draws a pension of forty dollars a month.

WILL OPEN GOLD MINE

MARSHFIELD, Ore., Dec. 21.—Machinery is being assembled at Wagon Run a few miles above Bandon, and an effort will be made to extract gold and platinum from the beach sands.

ROY HUNTER HOME

PENDLETON, Dec. 21.—Roy Hicker, who for several months has been with the Red Cross in France, has returned home. He was given a big reception on his arrival and immediately elected chairman of the Pendleton Red Cross chapter. Mr. Hicker was elected State Senator from Unionville county in November.

USUDGE MAKES BIG MONEY

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—The net income in the interstate bridge across the Columbia River in November was twenty-three thousand five hundred and eighteen dollars.

BOUGH TO DUEL, CADETS

BAKER, Dec. 21.—S. B. Hough, one of the teachers in the Baker high school is giving daily drill to the cadet class.

SEA LAWS IN NEED OF REVISION

ENGLAND WILL GO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN SETTING WIL- SON'S VIEWS.

RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS ARE ALSO EXPECTED

British Newspaper Says It Would
Be Suicidal for Great Britain
to Enter Competition With the
United States in the Building of
an Invincible Navy.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Great Britain will go as far as possible in meeting President Wilson's point of view regarding "freedom of the seas." This is according to the advance skirmishes made by the British peace delegation.

They say that Great Britain is fully cognizant of the necessity of revising the antiquated sea laws, but they point out that the revision must be consistent with Britain's insular position, which they believe President Wilson himself will agree requires special consideration and safeguard.

Competition Would Be Suicidal.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The newspaper, the National, warns the British people that it would be suicidal to enter into a naval building competition with the United States, declaring that if there is to be naval supremacy it will be all American and not British.

WANTS REPUBLICAN FORM GOVERNMENT

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—A report is current here today that there is a strong agitation started in Silesia in favor of the adoption in that province of an independent republican form of government.

GREAT LIFT FOR EDUCATION

VERY IMPORTANT MEASURE IS NOW BEFORE CONGRESS.

Liberal Provisions Are Made for Peo-
ple in Sparsely Settled Dis-
tricts of the State.

A recent report from Salem says that what is considered the most important educational measure ever presented in congress is now pending before that body in the form of senate bill 4957, introduced by Senator Hoke Smith. It provides for the establishment of a department of education, with a secretary at its head who shall be a member of the president's cabinet, and appropriate \$100,000,000 annually for co-operation with the various states along certain lines of education.

If the bill becomes a law, which prominent educators say is a foregone conclusion, Oregon will be entitled to \$57,587 annually from the government for this educational work in this state. The fund will be appropriated as follows:

For the removal of illiteracy, \$3762.68.

For the Americanization of immigrants, \$62,790.48.

For equalizing educational opportunities, \$495,938.82.

For physical and health education, \$146,396.39.

For better and more teacher preparation, \$148,769.30.

To obtain the expenditure of this money in Oregon, this state will be expected to match the fund dollar for dollar.

The largest sum would be spent for equalization of educational opportunities. By that is meant that there should be statewide and nationwide taxation, at least to the amount provided in the bill, for raising a fund to aid the sparsely settled districts or districts with low property valuations to have adequate school facilities and properly trained teachers.

The next largest sum would go for physical and health education. This carried with it "the medical and dental examination of children of school age, the determination of mental and physical defects in such children, and employment of school nurses, the establishment and maintenance of school dental clinics, and the instruction of the people in the principle of health and sanitation."

LET'S ALL WEAR A LOVE BUTTON

WHILE WIND FINISH NEEDED IN RED CROSS DRIVE

Red Cross Can Not Retire
Private Life—Become a
Member and Help Out.

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—With the Red Cross membership drive closing next Monday night, the state has not made the showing expected to date, but the managers are not discouraged, knowing that Oregon people generally come to the rescue at the psychological and critical moment. That critical moment is the present.

Henry P. Davidson, president of the Red Cross, telegraphed to State Manager H. E. Witham today from New York:

"I am sailing tonight for Europe at the request of the President to represent the American Red Cross and as I leave I have a supreme confidence that the spirit of mercy and human sympathy which the people of the world have ascribed to the American people will again shine forth when the world once more learns of their devotion to the Red Cross ideals. Enrollment in the Red Cross by every man and woman and child will mean more to the world today than ever before. Millions of pleading, wistful faces are turned toward us today and only by answering that mute appeal by universal enrollment in the Red Cross can we show our sympathy and our vote for a kinder, gentler world in the days to come."

County managers throughout Oregon are being urged by Mr. Witham to take advantage of this day as in most of the towns it is shopping or market day for the surrounding country. Managers are requested to establish Red Cross centers today and Monday and to have all the available solicitors in the field to meet the people as they come into town to shop. Soldiers and sailors are displaying the right spirit and are going out as solicitors. Demobilized soldiers in Oregon town are offering their services for the cause, for they know from personal experience of the work of the Red Cross organization.

"Where's your button?" is now being asked everywhere. There are still many thousands of people who are not decorated with the little love button and there are thousands of homes where no Red Cross service flag flies in the window. There is until Monday night to remedy this condition and all Americans who are interested in the cause of humanity are expected to be provided with button and flag by Monday evening.

"Other states report wonderful progress," said Mr. Witham, "and I cannot see why Oregon, which is always first, should be playing possum. I know from past experience that the state is well organized, and I believe that the workers have not lost their original enthusiasm. The fault apparently rests with the public who are becoming forgetful."

Secretary of the Navy Daniels issued a statement in support of the Red Cross membership drive today, in which he says all who have relatives or friends in the American navy should enroll.

"Throughout the war," wires Mr. Daniels, "the men of the navy have benefited by the Red Cross, as this organization has supplemented the efforts of the navy by many services, and comforts which could not be undertaken by the government. I request that the friends of the American sailors become identified with and help to perpetuate the beneficent work of the Red Cross."

Thus far the enrollment in the state is far behind the Red Cross membership enrollment a year ago.

EXHIBITS NOW READY

Jack O'Neill, proprietor of the Cash Meat Market, now has in his window the yearling Hereford which he purchased from Bloklund Bros. for the express purpose of having something extra for the holiday trade.

SWEDISH FLEET APPEARS

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The Swedish fleet has appeared off the Danish coast, according to dispatches received here. The Bolsheviks are reported to be returning from the West coast front. Wessenberg is about sixty miles southeast of Revel.

BROCHDORFF APPOINTED

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—Carl Brochdorff of Rintau and president minister to Denmark has been appointed foreign minister, Berlin dispatches announce.

SINKING OF SHIPS IS "BUNK"

NO DECISION ON DISPOSAL OF SURRENDERED GERMAN FLEET.

TWO QUESTIONS FORM BASIS FOR GUESS WORK

One of Them Is the Disposition of
the Relinquished Navy and the
Other Is the Question as to What
Will Be Done With the Kaiser.

PARIS, Dec. 21.—(By Fred S. Ferguson, United Press representative)—The report that the American peace commissioners have decided to advocate the sinking of the surrendered German fleet is "pure bunk," according to information received by the United Press.

The submitting of suggestions regarding the fleet and guessing as to how the vessels will be disposed of is among the favorite pastimes. The same applies to the disposition of the former Kaiser.

As a matter of fact, nothing regarding either has yet been decided.

BRITISH ORDER GIVEN

Activities on Both Sides of the Rhine Must Cease Immediately.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 21.—The British governor of Cologne has ordered the workmen and soldiers' councils to discontinue their activities on both sides of the Rhine immediately. They are also ordered to evacuate all public buildings.

GERMANS LOST TWO MILLION

APPALLING SACRIFICE OF LIFE FOR THE KAISER

Figures From the Cologne Gazette
Supposed to Give Actual Re-
port of War Casualties.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—When the total German casualties are published, the number of dead will be about 2,000,000, according to the Cologne Gazette of November 25, a copy of which has been received here. Up to October 25 the total casualties reported were 6,065,769 of which more than 4,750,000 were Prussians. The total includes the naval casualties which were 70,000, comprising more than 25,000 dead, more than 15,000 missing and nearly 25,000 wounded.

The Cologne paper uses the word appalling in describing the casualties among the officers. The total on October 24 included 44,700 of whom killed, 82,450 officers wounded and 15,900 missing, a total of 140,750. The loss in officers alone, the paper points out, exceeds the total casualties of Germany in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 when the total losses were 129,638.

BEGIN SOCIALIZING

German Organization Declares for Government Ownership.

BERLIN, Dec. 21.—(United Press)—The Arbeiter-Zemiteirat, at its final session last night, adopted a measure providing for government ownership of mines and all essential industries.

It also instructed the people's council to begin socializing immediately.

WIDOW ENDS IN DEATH

Mrs. Clara Lucas, of Medford, Learning House, Pneumonia Victim.

Mrs. Clara Lucas, who with her sister, Mrs. Mae Phillip, has been conducting the Medford rooming house in the Slater building for a long period, died from pneumonia Thursday. The deceased was a widow and was thirty-two years of age and was born in Oregon. The relatives, who are in charge of the J. C. Henry establishment, have been prepared for shipment to Oakland, Cal., where they will be cremated in accordance with the wish of the deceased.