

While the Stores are Closed

We will do everything possible to take care of your phone and mail orders...

Hill's Department Store

JOSEPH GOLD 15 BELOW ZERO

JOSEPH RED CROSS LADIES HAVE MUCH KNITTING.

Circuit Court Again Postponed on Account of Judge Knowles' Inability to Attend.

JOSEPH, Jan. 1.—(Special)—New Year's day was quiet in Joseph, as most people stayed at home on account of the ban. Jack Frost was busy, however, as he sent the thermometer down to 15 degrees below zero in the early morning of the first day in the new year.

Miss Edna Hackett of Wallowa returned home this week after a Christmas visit with her sister, Miss Bessie Hackett of Joseph.

Miss Ella Scriber came up from La Grande last week and spent several days with her friend, Inez Coleman, returning home Monday.

Lee Roberts, Patrick Mallan and Ray Daggert, three Joseph soldiers now stationed at Camp Lewis, left on Tuesday's train, after spending an eight-day furlough at their homes in Joseph. The boys expect to be mustered out of the service in the near future.

Senator Colon Eberhard and family returned to La Grande Sunday following a Christmas visit with the Knapper family in Joseph.

Ellis Marr and wife returned last week from Elgin, where they spent a few days with relatives.

The Joseph Red Cross is still working these days despite the flu ban and the ladies are taking the work into their homes.

John Dukan was a passenger on Friday's train to La Grande.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Michala left the first of the week for Walla Walla, to attend the funeral of Mrs. Frank Davin, who died of influenza. Mrs. Davin was the wife of Frank Davin, president of the D. M. & R. Sheep and Land company.

Mrs. E. C. Stanley and two little boys are visiting in Enterprise this week with relatives.

Miss Inna Galbraith returned to Baker Saturday after a short visit with relatives and friends.

Glenn Robinson returned Tuesday from a trip to the Willamette valley. J. A. Johnson returned the first of the week from a two weeks' stay in La Grande.

H. P. Mooney returned Monday from Dayton, Wash., where he has been for some time. Ben says that they had him reported dead, but he assures us that he is very much alive.

First Sergeant Albert Walker returned Tuesday from New London, Conn., where he was gunner's mate in the torpedo sheds. While in the service Albert had many experiences, such as riding on a submarine, etc. He holds an honorable discharge.

W. E. Luffell drove through from La Grande Monday in four and a half hours. He reports the roads "fine" all the way in.

Mrs. Mollie Mays, president of the local Red Cross, has received an appeal from headquarters to send in more knitted goods. There are many soldiers in France who need socks, sweaters, etc., very badly. Joseph ladies are asked to obtain yarn from Mrs. Collinwood and to knit as much as possible. Much yarn is yet to be done. Also work of this kind may be obtained at the home of Mrs. W. E. Luffell.

H. Rubin of Boise was a business visitor in the city the first of the week.

Because of influenza in his family Judge Knowles had to put off circuit court again until February 17. This is the third time the court has been put off this fall.

G. N. Rydberg of Baker Co. was registered at the Jennings Monday.

J. Sig Davis, former picture show man and restaurant owner of Joseph, is in town this week.

A saw-filing shop has been set up in the old Green harness shop.

Lawrence Prout went to Minam the first of the week.

Mrs. E. C. Buell arrived Tuesday from Ellensburg, Wash., for a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sprague of the Divide.

Ray Shelton and Frank Keffer, two Elgin boys, spent some time in Joseph last week.

Mrs. F. O. Clark of Enterprise spent Sunday with friends in Joseph.

Homer Fleming, one of the Joseph boys who has been overseas, but who has been at Camp Lewis for some time, was home on a furlough last week, leaving again on Monday.

Mrs. J. Michell spent Christmas in Joseph with her husband. She is spending the winter in Walla Walla.

L. L. Halmerper, a trapper, was up from Innaha the first of the week.

Elmer Akin was in from Zuniwalt recently on business.

Last Sunday evening about 8 o'clock the Buchanan barn on upper Prairie creek burned to the ground. Several tons of hay, an auto, some harness and several other pieces of property were destroyed. It is thought that the fire originated from the batteries in a car.

Peter Cote is in from the Divide this week.

G. M. Richey, the La Grande piano man, was in town the first of the week on business.

A. Larson of Chico was in town this week transacting business.

Dilbert Mitchell received a letter from Ralph Felt, dated November 12, stating that he was getting along fine and hoped to be home in a few months. Mr. Felt is in the 91st division, and has been service on the firing line in France. Because his division took such an active part it was feared for a while that he might not come back.

GOVT. HAS BIG LOSS RAILWAYS

(Continued from Page One)

taining financial and other corporate offices, including salaries of officers not actually employed in physically operating the railways, must be paid by the railroad companies out of the \$250,000,000 which the government guarantees them.

Expenses Break All Records.

For the railroads, 1918 was a year which broke all records of revenues and expenses. Although receipts were nearly 25 per cent greater, expenses were even more. It took 80 per cent of the operating expenses, although only 70 per cent was taken for this purpose in 1917. Operating expenses, which with estimated figures for the past two months amounted to \$2,500,000,000, were a billion dollars more than in 1917. Increased wages are estimated variously to have been responsible for between \$500,000,000 and \$800,000,000 of this billion.

RED CROSS SOC. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The local Red Cross society wishes to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a donation of ten dollars worth of groceries for the community kitchen from W. H. Perry of Sixth street. Mr. Perry's offer was made as soon as he had read the announcement in the paper of the establishment of the kitchen.

Mrs. E. T. Andrews also called on immediately and offered to do cooking at home for them. Mrs. Braze offered to assist and Mrs. E. Short offered the service of her motor. Mrs. M. Sord offers the services of her own and herself for Red Cross work along this line.

Other persons also are getting up the headquarters and offering assistance of every kind.

Song brings of itself a cheerfulness that wakes the heart to joy.—Burton

BUSINESS SECTION WILL OPEN WIDE AGAIN NEXT SATURDAY

La Grande's business section will open for business next Saturday morning according to the original program outlined by the board of health when it was deemed advisable to try out a closing order with the hope that it would have a good effect on stopping the spread of influenza.

Like all other things connected with the prevalent disease no one can tell whether the closing has been of benefit or not, for the fact remains that the disease is still here and in the opinion of many it will remain until it has had its run, just as any epidemic lurks around until there comes a time when it disappears.

The quarantine of those afflicted with the disease will be retained, but business will open Saturday morning. Dr. A. L. Richardson, who, as chairman of the city board of health, issued the closing order, said today there was positively no change in the order and the opening would occur automatically without further order or comment.

It is believed La Grande went farther in the effort to do something in a community way to stop the disease than any other city in the country, for the closing of business is admitted the final step in precaution. Hardships have been endured not only by the business people but by the general public, in order that the experiment might be tried. Merchants served their customers at the store doors and the cold weather that has prevailed made this an arduous task for all concerned. It frequently became necessary for women to stand in the cold to be waited upon, which when considered from a health standpoint, is good.

But the unanimous desire was to try something with the hope of getting better results.

The trial has been made and the town will now resume its former business course with all lines of commercial activity open on Saturday.

This afternoon J. D. McKennon, president of the city commission, stated to The Observer that he was in favor of opening the business houses Saturday morning and further said if either member of the commission agreed with him business would be resumed Saturday as usual.

Commissioner Grandy, while not yet installed in office, is an important factor in tonight's meeting, for he will become a commissioner this evening. When seen he stated that he was not inclined to give his position before he was inducted into office, but from his remarks it is apparent that he favors the resumption of business as soon as possible.

Commissioner Brownson was found at his home and he renewed his statement that he was never in favor of a general closing order on business, for he believed that the strict quarantine of the homes in the solution of the trouble. He will be present at the meeting this evening, which is the annual meeting of the commission and also a special meeting of the new officers.

Reports on the street this afternoon stated that Chief of Police Rayburn did not purpose letting anything open on Saturday and that it was his intention to keep the city closed indefinitely because he believed the situation justified it.

It is very likely this evening there will be some understanding as to whose word and authority will be taken in this very important matter, but it is considered unthinkable that any movement will be made to suspend business longer.

ICE HARVEST ON AT IMBLER

IMBLER, Jan. 1.—(Special)—Ed Bohrens, who has been home from Camp Lewis on a furlough, left Monday on his return to camp.

John Gross, a non-in-law of Mr. May, who came a few days ago from Idaho, left Monday evening for Portland, where he will look for a location.

Mrs. L. L. Tillmore and children of La Grande, visited over Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Walker.

Walter Wade is able to be about again after two of three week's confinement with the flu.

Geo. Stevenson and family of Enterprise, was in Imbler Friday visiting at the home of Wm. Wiggins.

J. H. Walker has taken over the horse-drawn business in the shop of Jossie Berry and will be on hand to attend to your work after January 1.

John Clarke and family returned to Elgin Thursday after spending Christmas with friends in Imbler. Albert Squires came in Christmas day to spend the holidays with home folks, he will return to Camp Lewis this week.

Alvandra Andrews is home from Willowa to spend the holidays with his parents.

Prof. Hurly entertained a class of 26 freshmen at this house the evening of the 26th. A very pleasant time was reported.

Mrs. Wm. Fernan has been very ill at her home north of town for a couple of days. She has been very low, but last reports are that she is some better.

Imbler is about to harvest her supply of ice. People have not forgotten the shortage of ice last summer, so with a few more nights like we have had the last week will find ice sufficient for all.

Mrs. Foster, of Chicago, an old time school mate of Wm. Williams, dropped in a few days ago to renew acquaintances. They had not met for several years, consequently their meeting was a pleasant one.

Mrs. Mable Gross and Miss Trilby May visited at the home of Wm. Fernan Monday.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bingham have been receiving season's greetings from them. Their address is Swissvale, Penna. They also sent \$2 to the Red Cross for membership fee.

Friends in Imbler have received news from California that Miss Bessie Urte, formerly of Imbler, will soon be married. She has many friends who extend congratulations.

Skating parties are recently in order in Imbler and every afternoon and evening finds the river lined with young folks who enjoy the sport.

Imbler is again without a flu patient, although the ban is still on the city. Every precaution has been taken to stamp out the disease in our community. School will open again January 6th.

Miss Ruth Hilgarth of Elgin visited friends in Imbler Tuesday.

What might have been a more serious accident happened near Imbler last Friday when the Ford belonging to Mr. Curran and the other as they entered the Brook's lane. Miss Jean Tuttle and Miss Margaret Johnson were coming to Imbler and did not see the other car, so they turned the corner. Mr. Curran tried to avoid the fence when he saw the girls coming, but

public, in order that the experiment might be tried. Merchants served their customers at the store doors and the cold weather that has prevailed made this an arduous task for all concerned. It frequently became necessary for women to stand in the cold to be waited upon, which when considered from a health standpoint, is good.

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DANIELS WANTS MORE SAILORS

ASKS NAVAL COMMITTEE FOR 250,000 INCREASE.

Also Requests Transfer of 1000 Reserve Officers to Permanent Naval Force.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—Secretary Daniels asked the house naval committee today to provide for a temporary increase in the naval personnel of 250,000 men for the year beginning next July, leaving the question of a permanent peace-time personnel to be determined later.

He also sought authority to transfer 1000 officers among the reserve force to the permanent naval establishment.

Mr. Daniels also asked a provision making permanent the war time pay increases for enlisted men. This would give increases of \$6 to \$15 a month over the pre-war scale, making the pay range from \$36 to \$51 a month.

The White Elephant.

A good many persons have, no doubt, got a wrong impression of the Siamese white elephant. He is not pure white, as is generally supposed, but is a sort of albino among his race. He is a very light gray, but never a pure white color. Outside of this, he is little different from the rest of his race.

It was too late. Miss Johnson was thrown into the wind shield and received severe injuries about the face.

Mrs. Willis Sergeant returned home Tuesday, from an extended visit with friends in Olympia, Wash.

Walter Wiggins left Friday for a visit in North Powder, and he will extend his trip to Drakes, Ore., for a visit with relatives.

Miss Beulah and Jean Smith of Island City, spent New Year's with Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Kiddle.

Mr. and Mrs. Booth Larsen and family of La Grande had New Year's dinner at home of J. P. Larsen.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Cassel were host and hostess to a party of young folks who watched the old year out and the new year in. About one o'clock they retired to their several homes with many New Year resolutions.

Among them were that they would not keep quite so many late hours.

Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Coble sent to Rinehart to spend New Year's with Jim McKinnis and family.

Stores in Imbler closed at 12 o'clock New Year's so that the proprietors might have a half holiday.

Mrs. Marshall McKinnis has been making regular trips to La Grande, so that he might keep in close touch with his family, as his son has the flu.

AIM AT TWO GREAT FLEETS

U. S. NAVY TO BE EQUALLY DIVIDED NEXT YEAR.

Daniels Wants Big Fleet in Both the Atlantic and the Pacific—Reports Japan's Strength.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—By next summer the navy will be equally divided into two great fleets, to be known formally as the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. Secretary Daniels described the program Wednesday to the house naval committee, explaining that approval of it by Admiral Benson, chief of operations, was received Tuesday night from Europe.

"It is the prime aim, of course, to keep the navy fit," declared Mr. Daniels, "and the only way to keep it on its toes is to have competition between fleets. We will, in effect, have a war between the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, which will so stimulate the keenness that it will make the men feel they are in actual war."

Shows Japanese Strength.

A report showing the strength of the Japanese navy was submitted by the secretary to fill out the reports of the comparative strength of the navies of the six other large powers which he gave Monday. It shows thirteen battleships and four building or projected; seven battle cruisers, ten cruisers, sixteen light cruisers and seven more building or projected, five armored coast defense vessels, sixty-six destroyers and twenty-three building or projected; sixteen first-class torpedo boats, eight second-class torpedo boats, sixteen submarines and twenty-seven building and projected, and two airships and sixty-three miscellaneous vessels.

Large submarine bases are to be maintained by the navy during peace times at New London, Conn., San Diego, Cal., and Key West, Fla. Secretary Daniels told the committee that these bases will afford ample protection to the great ports from enemy attacks.

Explains Purpose of Plan.

Explaining the purpose of dividing the fleet Mr. Daniels said:

"After every war there is a tendency for the navy to retrograde. We need the stimulus of competition, and a few weeks ago I developed the plan for fleet division and sent it to Admiral Benson. It was returned with his enthusiastic endorsement. At the head of each fleet will be one of the best admirals, an admiral who can stay long enough to stir up ambition. I have directed the bureau of navigation to have officers remain on their ships two years."

"BLACK BOYS"

PARIS, Dec. 15.—(United Press, by mail)—The "black boys" they call the men aboard the Georges Washington, who run the boilers and engines and were responsible for the safe and prompt arrival of President Wilson's peace party in France.

These are hundreds of these men who work forty feet below the water line in the vessel and who in time of danger, have about one chance in a score of escaping if the boat is mined or torpedoed.

The first job when they got aboard the Georges Washington, seized more than a year ago, was to get her boilers and machinery in order after the Germans had sought to put her out of commission. They found the great cylinders in the engine room broken; pistons were bent almost double and many pieces were thrown overboard.

"I will take my hat off to the men who can get this hot in shape to be of any use in this war," was the boast of the vessel's German commander when his destructive job was completed. His hat may be lifted to members of the "black gang." They got things back into shape in time to transport over 50,000 American troops to France in the last year. The first trip was made just one year ago this month.

These boys have an "on four hours, off eight hours" schedule of work. With their daily drills, inspections, etc., they get a maximum of five and a half hours sleep in 24. Yet they're a happy bunch and their leisure is rendered pleasant by music in their sleeping room, entertainments of all kinds and good food.

Readers Must Be Trained.

In literature the reader as well as the writer must be trained. Many believe that if they can look at a printed page, and pronounce the words there presented, they are readers, but if you would appreciate the sense or nonsense of a piece of writing, you must have intelligence and experience even greater than is the average among scribblers.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

CIGARETTE FAD THRIVES IN PARIS.

The pipe of Peace they're smoking now.

But cigarettes of war are still "trot" lip, encased in tin, of females, more and more.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—(United Press, by mail)—A puff of smoke promises to obscure the popularity even of the powder puff with the "sex." No wonder cigarettes are scarce in Paris, with all the girls lighting one

1918 Greetings 1919

HAPPY NEW YEAR

From THE PROPRIETOR AND SALES FORCE of the

Harris Grocery

Phone Main 70 and 77, Farmers Black 192
408 North Fir Street Across the Track

from another in a reckless abandon that would make Carrie Nation turn in her grave if she but knew about it.

Goodness knows what excuse we are going to have for all our delightful bad habits, now that the war is ended. "C'est la guerre" used to work fine with father when we took out a cigarette after dinner and shortened our skirts up to our knees. As an efficient excuse however that is now "Bui" as the dough-boys would say and do. But why bother looking for excuses when it takes all our time looking for cigarettes.

Actually, they have become rarer and more priceless even than sugar or hennepin. At your hotel though you tip yourself fearlessly you still will be unserved, but flash a cigarette at your femme de chambre or the valet and the house is yours. On the strength of one or two Leaninns or Grafes you can even obtain food and strong drink, after the mystic hour of 9:30 and that's certainly obtaining "beaucoup."

The other day I went into the bank with a carton of 10 packages under my arm. The nice, reserved gentlemanly clerk nearly had hysterics. He asked me if they were easy for me to get and if I could spare him some. I explained that I was sorry but I had gone to a great deal of trouble to get them for just ten wounded American soldiers at the hospital and therefore I couldn't spare a pack. He apologized profusely of course when I left I noticed a gleam in his sad sunken eye. I know he suspects me of smoking them all up myself.

We have long become resigned to devilish females smoking after dinners and luncheons and at tea time

at home and in the smart hotels in our big American cities. What the folks back home have to get educated to now is seeing their daughters, wives and sweethearts strolling along hotel corridors, popping in or out of taxis, with a dainty cigaret held nonchalantly 'twixt their ruby lips or else extended at a more discreet distance at the end of a gaily laced cigaret holder.

These cigaret holders are alluringly irresistible in their gay color schemes of bright reds, greens, blues and yellows combined with ivory, hended in gold, monogrammed, or else in just one solid vivid shade, but all and everyone very long and slender of line. Most any girl would be willing to smoke herself to death just to own and manipulate one of these charming accessories. Then there are the fascinating briquets (that sometimes work) and the cigaret cases made by the wounded soldiers that heap further temptation in the smokers' way.

All phone orders promptly attended to. Phone Red 231. The Tougery. 12-27-tf.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We have now resumed making our famous Blue Star Patent flour, which has been off the market for some time, and it is now handled again by all dealers.

LA GRANDE MILLING CO. 1-2-3t.

Y. M. C. A. Educational Department. Short-hand and typewriting. Day classes, 10:00 a. m. to 3:30 p. m. Night classes 7:30 p. m. to 9:30 p. m.

BUCKHECHT ARMY SHOE

When you walk into a dependable shoe store and ask for a pair of BUCKHECHT Army Shoes, you can be sure—

That this Army Shoe is up to standard—that it is made by workmen who have turned out more than 600,000 Army Shoes under expert supervision—and that it is backed by a record of more than fifty years of honest shoe manufacturing.

Look for our registered trade name BUCKHECHT stamped on the sole of every Shoe—for our mutual protection.

Office Men Attorneys Physicians Makers Hunters

Orchardists Motormen Conductors

—and others in every walk of life.

If not obtainable from your dealer, send name and your order direct to BUCKINGHAM & HECHT. Manufacturers San Francisco

SNOW FLAKES

Fresh-Crisp-Satisfying

This is exactly what you'll say when you taste your first Snow Flake Soda.

That's what everybody says about them and that's why they are continuing to be so immensely popular.

Don't ask for cacklers—say Snow Flakes.

Your grocer can supply you.

Recine Coast Distill Co.