

## La Grande Physicians Do Not Favor Continuation of the Ban on Business--All are Firm for Rigid, Unbending Quarantine

The community has turned to the medical fraternity for advice at a time like this when the city's business section is closed or partially closed because of an epidemic. The Observer, in order to give as much light on the situation as possible, has consulted the following physicians and herewith prints their opinions on the proposed continued closing program:

Dr. A. L. Richardson, city health physician, says: "I am convinced now that we have tried closing the business section, as well as churches, theatres and amusement halls, that it accomplishes very little if anything. I do believe dances should continue under the ban and that large mass meetings should not be permitted. Ordinary business such as we have in La Grande daily should be opened and the ban entirely lifted, is my view of the matter, with a rigid quarantine effective on those who are afflicted with the disease."

Dr. Whiting, who is treating many cases of the disease, says: "I believe the orders for closing are wholly useless and in no way effective. The only way to handle such a condition as we have here is to quarantine in a way that is positive. There is nothing gained in putting a ban on business."

Dr. Dora Underwood, who has lately returned from the east where the best medical authorities in the world are giving the influenza problem the deepest study, says:

"After considering this situation we have in La Grande earnestly and deeply I am convinced that the ban on ordinary business is of no avail. The best authorities we have do not recommend such a thing and they insist on strict quarantine of patients afflicted. This I believe is the thing to do and I believe La Grande will fight the epidemic in the best way possible if we will all see that a quarantine is established firmly and take the ban off of business."

Dr. Ray W. Logan, who has been very active in the study of the disease and has gone to extreme measures to get information on the situation in the east and south, says:

"We are always as a community willing to try anything at a time like this with the hope of accomplishing results, but there is no question in my mind now but what the only way to handle the influenza situation is to stick religiously to quarantine of the patients. There is nothing to be gained by the business ban which is now in operation. It is probably well that it was tried for we will all feel better to know we have tried the extreme measures, but all authorities now state the quarantine is the only effective measure and I, therefore, can see no reason why a ban should continue on business in La Grande."

Dr. C. T. Bacon, member of the state board of health and one of the oldest practitioners in Eastern Oregon, says:

"The closing order has hardly been in effect long enough to determine results. It is an innovation and one that is more or less of an unknown quantity. It does not seem to me, however, that closing the business section of the city will get the desired results. I am very firm in believing in the quarantine, and a quarantine that is binding at that, but I doubt very much the wisdom of continuing the order on the business section."

Dr. G. L. Higgins was found late this afternoon when he had hurried into his office for a moment from attending cases of influenza, and when asked his opinion relative to the closing order he said:

"I am opposed to it for I do not believe it is of any benefit whatever. People who are coughing and sneezing should be cared for and isolated and taught how to be careful, but as far as this ban on the town is concerned it is of no consequence. The quarantine is also over-estimated. I think, and it resolves itself down to the care of those who have the disease. Give them proper care and do not let them run around and we will soon see a decided change for the better."

### FOUNDER RURAL CREDITS IS DEAD

ROME, Jan. 3.—David Lubin of San Francisco, Cal., founder of the International Institute of Agriculture, died here yesterday of influenza. He was 78 years old.

In addition to establishing the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, Lubin introduced the rural credit system into the United States and secured legislation that improved the parcel post system.

## John Collier Named City Manager by Commission

Electing John Collier as city manager and re-electing Robert Eakin as police judge constituted the big work at last night's commission meeting. Mr. Collier said he would prefer to await until the next regular meeting of the commission to announce the appointment of chief of police, city physician and other officers. This was granted by the commission and in the meantime the city will remain officered by the present executives.

Numerous small matters were attended to by the commission and W. D. Grandy, the new commissioner, was sworn in at the beginning of the session to take the place of Vincent Palmer.

The matter of keeping the business of the city closed after January 4th was taken up by the commission, but no decision as to further action was reached, except that it was voted to consult Dr. Sealey, secretary of the State Board of Health, through Dr. Bacon, a member of the state board, and be guided by the advice of Dr. Sealey and the State Board of Health. Today Dr. Bacon endeavored to get in touch with Dr. Sealey, but up to the time the Observer went to press he had not been successful in doing so.

The New City Manager  
The man who will, according to the charter as adopted by the people, rule La Grande for the coming year, has been a citizen here for

## LOTS OF FOOD IN HAMBURG

GERMAN CITY IS GAY, AND WORK IS PLENTIFUL

You Pay for What You Eat in Hamburg—Butter \$7 a Pound, Sugar \$1.30.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—Butter in Hamburg costs \$7 a pound, although there is plenty of bread, a correspondent of the Daily Mail Telegraphed today. Sugar costs about \$1.30 a pound, while pork is selling at \$3.

The percentage of monarchists at Hamburg is small, the correspondent says. A majority of them ply the ex-kaiser and the former crown prince, but do not wish them back, preferring that one of the younger sons of the erstwhile war lord be put upon the throne if the empire is restored.

The council of soldiers and workmen at Hamburg is not very popular because it is accused of having stolen 10 truck-loads of chocolate and 20,000 bed sheets in Belgium.

They are excellent restaurants in Hamburg. The correspondent told of dining for \$4, receiving soup, fish, green vegetables, chicken and ice cream, as well as champagne.

The hotel room costs \$2. For breakfast the correspondent paid \$1, getting bread, jam, coffee and an egg. A good cold dinner can be secured in the cafes for \$1.50. Every cafe has music and they are very lively. Hamburg is not at all downhearted and there is dancing everywhere.

The sailors' hall at Christmas lasted nearly all night. There is plenty of work at Hamburg, especially in the Vulcan shipyards.

An engine driver told the correspondent that many locomotives were purposely allowed to become useless so that they would not have to be turned over under the armistice terms.

Germany is preparing to establish air mail service with Sweden and Denmark.

### SALEM IS EMPTY

SALEM, Jan. 3.—Marion county is starting the new year in happy fashion as there is not a single prisoner in the county jail. This is very unusual in consideration of the fact that the criminal court has not been in session since last October, and the next term of court will open next Monday. Only three criminal cases were tried during the entire year in circuit court for Marion county.

many years. Mr. Collier has been active in public work. When he was a member of the Golden Rule company firm he gave considerable attention to public matters, and as proprietor of the People's Store, he continued his active participation in affairs of the community. He removed to Portland for a short time but returned to La Grande and accepted the position of city recorder which he has held for some time. Mr. Collier was one of the citizens who framed the present city charter which provides for the city commission-manager plan of government under which we are now working.

## THEATRE WILL OPEN SATURDAY

PROPRIETORS BELIEVE THEY HAVE RIGHT TO PROCEED

Ban to Be Lifted on Saturday Morning—All Business Places Will Open.

"There is no disposition to be contrary about opening," said Mrs. H. B. Leiter today, "but the show houses of La Grande have been fair and have remained closed to give the matter a trial without protest. I feel that the time has come when as a property owner and one who conducts a business that is recognized by the United States government, I have a right to equal consideration with all other business houses. I shall open the theatre tomorrow when the ban on business goes off."

When asked what she would do if the city decided to close her theatre, she said:

"The city probably has a right to do that very thing and I am not arguing that point, but under the misunderstanding and the conflicting orders there is hardly a business concern that knows where it stands and it is not improper to open as per orders of the health officers contained in the same order that ordered closing. There is no feeling in this matter whatever and if we are able to determine our rights as property owners and business people we feel that we should do so. Yes, we will try to defend what we believe is right and there will be no crowding or packing of houses. Proper consideration will be given to everyone and there will be an abundance of space provided for those who attend."

## THINK "LOOMIS" HAS BEEN LOST

LIGHTHOUSE SHIP SEARCHING FOR HER HAS NO SUCCESS

Standard Oil Tanker Long Overdue—Believed Driven to Sea by Storms off Oregon Coast

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 3.—The Standard Oil company tanker George W. Loomis, with a crew of 19 men, last sighted off the Oregon coast by steamer Washathaw, is believed to be lost.

The vessel left San Francisco for Cook Bay, December 19. The trip ordinarily requires 48 hours. Sighted off the Oregon coast 26 hours after sailing, the tanker has not been seen since. Officers of the thirteenth naval district yesterday expressed serious concern for the safety of the tanker. According to these officials the United States lighthouse vessel Here, searching in the Cook Bay vicinity for the missing steamer, has reported no success.

The George W. Loomis was commanded by Captain E. E. Lyphias. The majority of the crew lived in San Francisco.

The Loomis was the first tanker to be constructed by the Standard Oil company, being built by the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, in 1896. The steamer was 175 feet long, 26 feet wide and 10 feet deep. She was 614 tons. She operated for some time between Puget Sound ports and Alaska.

### Deep Consideration Is Needed.

La Grande is a city of 7000 people. It serves more than 20,000 people in a business way. To close this city indefinitely is a serious matter. So serious, in fact, that the deepest consideration should be given and the precedents of other cities carefully looked into before such a thing is permitted.

For a number of days business has been suspended with the hope of helping the influenza situation. But in the minds of many very sane thinking people this is not the way to fight the disease effectively. We have but to look at cities of the northwest territory and cities of the east to benefit by the wisdom of men schooled in handling epidemics and also in handling municipalities, to learn that opinion has centered on the one chief benefit—that of enforcing a strict quarantine of cases of the disease. There is probably not another city in the United States that took the drastic measure La Grande took in closing the business section, and in very many cities that are well organized and well officered there has been a lifting of the ban on churches, schools, show houses and entertainment places. These cities argue that the individual case is the one to isolate and quarantine, and they further argue that business should go on as usual because the public mind is thus partially at least taken from the continuous thought of the disease, putting people in better shape physically to throw off the germ.

At last night's meeting of the city commission it was fully expected that the ban on La Grande would be entirely lifted, but the commissioners were not inclined to go that far. They are still inclined to hold to an order closing churches, amusement places and picture shows, and Commissioner McKennon expressed a belief that while stores might be opened for business the number of people permitted to enter each store should be restricted.

It is possible the commissioners may have overlooked the education the general public has received and the desire on the public to render self-protection, for undoubtedly after all that has been printed on the situation the people of La Grande will not crowd any building to the extent of danger.

La Grande should not be closed longer. As Commissioner Grandy remarked last evening, "the whole matter, while intended for the very best, is kids' play." He referred to the ban on stores not being permitted to serve the trade and people being forced to stand at the door or enter one drug store and fail to get the merchandise wanted only to walk to another store handling the particular line and be served at the entrance.

Grandy is right—it is child's play and the sooner we get on a basis of a positive quarantine and open the avenues of business the better off everyone will be.

The Observer believes that everything has been done with the sole idea of aiding public health, but we have now reached a point where it is not only useless, but it is unfair and discriminatory, to use hard and fast rules longer when we have abundant precedent of other cities before us who have gone through all phases of the influenza epidemic.

Let us join with the commissioners in a conference of season, insisting that La Grande no longer be paralyzed by trying to stop a stream at its mouth when it should be stopped at the source—meaning the establishing of a quarantine that means something and releasing the ban on the business district.

G. I. Larissen and family returned yesterday from Portland, where they have been during the holidays.

## Indications are that City Schools Open Monday

The city schools will open Monday unless some action is taken to prevent it, is the status of things today. At the commission meeting last night none of the commissioners proposed that the schools be closed under the full expectation of opening the schools on Monday.

## WILSON WELCOMED IN ROME

WILDLY CHEERING CROWDS GREET PARTY ON ENTRY TO CITY.

PRESIDENT HAS BUSY TIME AHEAD OF HIM

Freedom of the City Conferred Upon President Wilson—Formal Welcome Tendered Him—He Will Have Interview With the Pope and Others.

ROME, Jan. 3.—(United Press)—Mammoth crowds gave President Wilson a vociferous welcome upon his arrival in Rome this morning. The whole city was on feet for the occasion. Buildings and streets were strewn with flags and persons lined the route of the procession, cheering wildly as the President and Mrs. Wilson, accompanied by King Victor Emanuel and his Queen and a large suite entered the city.

This afternoon a formal welcome was tendered the President by Prince Calonna, the Mayor of Rome, and the program for this evening includes a reception and a banquet, when the freedom of the city will be conferred upon Mr. Wilson.

Tomorrow will be a busy day for the President. He will call on the Dowager Queen, will lunch at the United States embassy, and later will have an interview with Pope Benedict XV.

In the official greeting to the President, Prince Calonna, the Mayor, welcomed the President as "the man whose generous intervention had decided the destinies of humanity."

The President will confer not only with the Pope, but with Premier Orlando and with Baron Sonnio, the Italian Foreign Minister, and he will hold conferences with the members of the government, as he did in London.

## QUIET REIGNS ON S-V. LINE

EFFORTS TO GET MAIL TRAIN OVER ROAD FAIL

No Threats of Violence Made by Men Who Quit—Staying Quietly in Homes.

BAKER, Jan. 3.—The Sumpter An attempt to get a mail train over the road yesterday met with failure, as no men could be found to operate it. It is not expected that the strikers will attempt anything in the way of violence, as they are remaining quietly at their homes. Another effort will be made today to get a train over the road.

A dispatch received Tuesday from Senators Chamberlain and McNary and Representatives McArthur and Sinnott stated that the federal railroad administration had agreed to hold a conference with the managers of the Sumpter Valley road in an endeavor to adjust the matter if the latter would come to Washington. This measure was communicated to the men, but had no effect in further delaying the strike, which had already been postponed from November 1 to January 1.

In line with this proposition a conference was held yesterday afternoon between officials of the railroad, along with the general manager of the Oregon Lumber Company, largely for the purpose of selecting delegations to represent each side at Washington.

### FORD DIVIDEND IS FOUR MILLION

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 3.—The Ford Motor company declared a 200 per cent dividend, equivalent to \$4,000,000, it was announced here yesterday.

## BUSINESS MEN HAVE MEETING

BEST INTERESTS OF COMMUNITY CONSIDERED

Influenza Situation is the Issue Before the Body.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock there was a meeting of a number of the business people to consider what is best for the welfare of the community relative to continuing the closing order of business. While the city commission is wrestling with the problem and endeavoring to get in touch with the state board of health the business men feel a right and privilege to consider the entire situation as it appears to them.

## BAKER IS ASKING FOR NEW ARMY

WANTS CONGRESS TO CREATE A TEMPORARY FORCE AT ONCE

IDEA IS TO EXPEDITE DEMOBILIZATION A. E. F.

Secretary of War Appears Before House Military Committee With Recommendation—Says Will Release Million Men in the Next Five Weeks.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—A temporary volunteer army of five hundred thousand men to replace the military establishment created for war, was advocated by Secretary Baker when he appeared before the House Military Committee this afternoon. Baker said he would ask congress to authorize the organization of such an army, in order that the demobilization of America's present army might be speeded.

Secretary Baker stated further that seven hundred thousand men have already been discharged, since the armistice was signed and that he expected a million more would be released within the next five weeks.

To take up each individual case of distress on the part of families or of married soldiers, Baker declared, would serve only to slow up the process of demobilization, which is now being carried on by units. "To put one's fingers on John Smith or Thomas Brown and designate him for discharge is impracticable," he asserted.

### THOS. HOY'S FUNERAL

The funeral of Thomas Hoy, who died yesterday morning, will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be made in the Catholic cemetery. The remains are at the Bohnenkamp chapel, where they will remain until Sunday morning, when they will be taken to the residence of deceased's sister, Mrs. Al. Ray.

## Czecho-Slovaks Wipe Out Red Army; Capture 31,000

VLADIVOSTOK, Jan. 3.—In capturing Perm, in the Ural mountains, General Gaida, at the head of Czecho-Slovak and Siberian forces, virtually destroyed the Bolshevik third army, from which he took 31,000 prisoners. General Gaida's troops captured an armored train from which Nikolai Lenin, the Bolshevik premier, was directing operations in the region of Perm. Lenin himself escaped, but several members of his party were taken prisoners.

The exploit of General Gaida in capturing Perm parallels his success in the campaign of last summer. His superiors opposed his plan of attack against Perm and he carried out the operation at the risk of removal from his command. The bulk of his force was made up of Siberian troops, but he had two regiments of Czechs in his army.

In addition to the 31,000 prisoners reported, General Gaida captured 100 railway cars, 120 field guns, 1000 machine guns, 30 automobiles, an entire wagon transport and several armored trains and several thousand horses. His maneuver was a complete surprise to the Bolsheviks, and he captured several prominent soviet leaders at the headquarters of the 3rd Bolshevik army. The Bolsheviks are declared to have been annihilated and the rest of the enemy army was dispersed across the Kama river. Troops of General Semenov, the

## LA GRANDE YOUNG MAN SUICIDES

DOMESTIC TROUBLES—CAUSE ELMER SPECKHART TO END HIS LIFE

CORONER'S INQUEST WAS HELD THIS AFTERNOON

Act of Self-Destruction Occurred Early This Morning—Thirty-Eight Calibre Revolver Was the Weapon Used.

Elmer Speckhart, a well known farmer living about seven miles east of La Grande, committed suicide at an early hour this morning at his home, shooting himself behind the ear with a .38-calibre revolver. The cause of his suicide is said to have been domestic troubles. Speckhart's wife was alone with him in the room when he killed himself. The young man was twenty-five years of age.

The bullet passed through his brain and came out through the forehead, so death was instantaneous. Dr. Richardson was called from La Grande, but his visit was unnecessary.

H. Bohnenkamp, county coroner, was then called to the Speckhart place to make an investigation and he brought the remains into the city with him. They are lying in the Bohnenkamp chapel, where an inquest was held over them this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Surviving the deceased are his wife and little daughter, two or three years of age, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Speckhart, and a sister, of this city.

The verdict rendered by the jury at the coroner's inquest this afternoon was that the deceased came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted by his own hand.

The facts brought out at the inquest showed that this morning an argument had taken place between deceased and his wife. The former held a .38-calibre six shooter, in the chambers of which were three or four empty shells and one loaded cartridge. Deceased threatened to shoot himself and after snapping the revolver toward the stove, he held it to his head and snapped it again. The hammer fell on the loaded cartridge that time. From these facts it is thought by some that deceased intended using the gun only as a bluff, and death resulted from his miscalculation.

### PRIEST REMEMBERS CHARITIES

THE DALLES, Jan. 3.—The late Father Alphons Brounquet of this city left in his will amounts totaling \$7000 to the Christie orphan home and the baby home at Gladstone, and the orphan home at Beaverton. He left an estate valued at about \$35,000. Generous bequests were made to various church societies and charitable organizations.

## ALLIES THREATEN TO INVADE GERMANY

COPENHAGEN, Jan. 3.—The German newspaper, "Deutsche Tage Zeitung," stated today that the British command has served an ultimatum on the commander of the German troops in the Russian Baltic provinces that he must prevent the Bolshevik forces from entering Avik and Wenden, under penalty upon failure to do so of the invasion of Germany by allied troops.

### FUNERAL OF MRS. DENNING

The funeral of Mrs. Gertrude Denning, who died January 1st at her home, 203 North Birch, will be held tomorrow afternoon, January 4th, at 2 o'clock. The remains are at the Bohnenkamp chapel and they will be taken from there to the Odd Fellows' cemetery for interment.