

## WIRES TO BE TURNED TO OWNERS

### PRESIDENT WILSON AGREES WITH BURLESON ON IMPORTANT MATTER

### AMERICAN CABLES TO GO BACK ON MAY 2ND

All Telegraph and Telephone Lines Will Follow as Soon as Necessary Legislation Can Be Framed to Make Things Run Smoothly—Burleson Acts With Haste on Cables

WASHINGTON, April 29.—President Wilson has approved the recommendation of Postmaster General Burleson that telegraph and telephone lines be returned to their former ownership. It is ordered that enactment of necessary legislation be started and that American cable lines be returned forthwith.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Postmaster General Burleson issued an order today returning American cable systems to their former owners at midnight May 2nd.

It was explained by Mr. Burleson that no legislation was necessary in the case of the cable company properties. His announcement follows:

The postmaster general has recommended to the president that the government return the cable lines to their respective owners. This action is made possible by the fact that the congestion resulting from war conditions has largely passed. The enemy commercial blacklist has been abolished and the tremendous volume of government cable messages from and to the war trade board has ceased. The bar to commercial code messages has been removed, thus materially lessening the cable loads. The use of the cables in connection with the peace conference has been greatly diminished.

"The postmaster general hopes that the return of the cables may be effective not later than May 10."

Publication, after the signing of the armistice, of the presidential proclamation taking over the cable systems has been the subject of much controversy. Critics of the administration in congress attacked the action as an abuse of war powers and various resolutions for investigations were pending when the last session ended. Republican charges that the purpose was to control newspaper reports of the peace conference were replied to by official administration assurance that there would be no censorship of the American press from Paris.

In the matter of land service, however, the solution of the problem will be put squarely up to congress. Coming so soon after the recommendation in his annual report that the telephone and telegraph lines become government owned at the conclusion of peace, the postmaster general's statement created unusual interest. The statement follows:

Land Lines Need Aid. "The postmaster general still recommends that the telegraph and telephone lines be restored to their respective owners as soon as legislation can be secured from congress safeguarding the interests of the owners in every way that it is possible to safeguard them.

"The information of the postmaster general as to the condition of the wire companies convinces him that it is imperative that such legislative action must be had before the various telegraph and telegraph lines are returned.

"This is not true as to cable lines, which are in a condition to be returned at once."

Postoffice department officials expressed the belief that few of the companies could weather the financial storm if the properties were turned back without remedial legislation. Some officials said that while the properties must be returned in the same physical condition in which they were taken over, to do this now without added revenue to meet wage demands and increased cost of operation, would wreck the entire industry.

### To Advertisers--

All copy for advertisements in this paper should be in as early in the week as possible and no later than Thursday noon. Ads coming in after that time cannot be guaranteed publication.

THE OBSERVER.

## EXHIBIT BLANQUET'S HEAD

### Display of Ghastly Proof of Rebel Leader's Death at Vera Cruz

NEW YORK, April 29.—The head of General Aureliano Blanquet, who was killed in a small engagement with federal troops shortly after he landed in Mexico to act as chief lieutenant of Felix Diaz's revolutionary movement, was exhibited to the public in Vera Cruz April 16, according to Francisco Bobadillo, secretary to the general manager of the Bank of London, in Mexico City, who arrived here Monday.

Throughout Mexico, said Bobadillo, there has been steady improvement recently in general conditions.

## AMERICANS ARE KILLED IN FIGHT

### SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS AND YANKIES MIX AT WINCHESTER

### Soldiers are Americans Who Enlisted With the British Army in the War

LONDON, April 29.—Three Americans were killed at Winchester repatriation camp in the fight with South African negroes, according to reports here. Winchester camp was established for Americans who served in the British army and are awaiting transportation home. There has been a strong feeling between the Americans and the blacks for some time and it broke forth in a fight today.

## A. J. BOLLONS AT NEW YORK ON HIS WAY HOME

Mrs. Wm. Bollons, of this city, received a telegram this morning from her son, A. J. Bollons, who had just landed at New York on his return from France. He has been stationed temporarily at Camp Mills, New York. Mr. Bollons was with Company E of the 18th R. R. Engineers and had been overseas eighteen months. Supt. Bollons and family are rejoicing today over the receipt of their goods news.

## PAGE CONDOLES WITH ORLANDO

### EXPRESSES REGRET AT TURN OF EVENTS

### Blames The Italian Newspapers for Wrong Interpretation of President Wilson

ROME, April 29.—Ambassador Page visited Premier Orlando today. They had a friendly conversation. The ambassador seriously regretted the situation had arisen and said he thought it had been aggravated by the Italian newspapers' criticism based on the wrong interpretation of President Wilson's attitude.

## McCLURE LAD DIED LAST NIGHT AT HOT LAKE

Arthur McClure, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. McClure, of this city, died shortly after 9 o'clock last night at the Hot Lake Sanatorium. He had been ill for the past four months and had been receiving treatment at the lake since April 4th. The bereaved parents have the sympathy of a large number of friends in their bereavement.

## ANOTHER BOAT BRINGS BOYS

### MANY OREGON MEN ARRIVE IN PORT TODAY FROM AUCKLAND

### Divisions Attached to the Ninety-fifth Land with Officers and Men

NEW YORK, April 29.—The steamship Atenas arrived from Auckland today with one hundred and three officers chiefly from three hundred and sixtieth field hospital, Second South morlar, three hundred and sixtieth ammunition train and three hundred and sixtieth supply train of the Ninety-fifth division. Many Oregon men are in these units.

## WILSON MAY BE THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE

### UNIT HAS NOT STARTED

PARIS, April 29.—It is virtually decided to hold the first meeting of the League of Nations in Washington next October. It is reported that President Wilson will be asked to be first president of the league.

PARIS, April 29.—The salary of Sir Eric Drummond, appointed secretary of the League of Nations, has been set at \$25,000 a year.

### SLAYERS OF LIEBKNECHT TO BE PLACED ON TRIAL

### Reward of 10,000 Marks Has Been Offered for Arrest of Murderer of Neuring.

BERLIN, April 29.—The trial of the alleged murderers of Dr. Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg has been set for Thursday, May 8. It is expected the trial will last three days.

A reward of 10,000 marks has been offered for the arrest of the murderer of Herr Neuring, the war minister of the government of Saxony, who was killed at Dresden, April 12, by disgruntled soldiers to whom the minister had refused a hearing.

Numerous persons have been named by Spartacan friends of Dr. Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg as implicated in the murder of these radical leaders in Berlin last winter, but reports cabled to this country revealed only one known arrest in this connection. This was a soldier named Runge, who was taken in custody within the last fortnight.

## GERMANS BEGIN INTENSE FIGHT

### MUNICH IS ENCIRCLED AND THE PRESSURE IS FELT

### Soviet Troops Will Feel the Heel of the Government Armies at Once

PARIS, April 29.—Encirclement of Munich by German government troops has been completed, according to German dispatches. They accomplished the occupation of Landsbut thirty-five miles northeast of Munich. Attack on the soviet troops will probably begin soon. Gustave Noske is commanding the government troops.

## THIRD U-BOAT REACHES PORT

### NEW YORK, April 29.—The U-88, third of the fleet of five German submarines allotted to the United States to reach American waters, arrived at Sandy Hook bay Saturday. The U-88 is one of the smaller types of undersea boats.

## SPARTACANS ARE DEFEATED

BERLIN, April 29.—Spartacan forces attempted to overthrow the government in Braunau Sunday, but were defeated after hard street fighting. A dispatch from Berlin transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph company reporting the outbreak adds that revolutionaries and hand grenades were used freely in the fighting.

## ONE YEAR AGO TODAY

Battle tired British troops forced back to lines of 1914 in Flanders fighting. German storm troops reach Voor-zezele, two miles south of Ypres. Artillery storm battalions allied lines clinging to defense of channel ports. Germans test mettle of allied troops at St. Mihiel with trench raids. Troops of the old regular United States army reach France in small numbers. Subscribe now to the Victory Liberty loan what you would have paid for victory then.

## Diamonds in the Rough Sparkle For Disabled Yanks



"Diamond cut diamond." It has been said every one of our soldier boys was a diamond in the rough. Now they are coming back to us as diamonds. A new industry which has opened up does the rough and tumbled soldier boys take to mine a rough stand-up job. It is reported that twelve hundred disabled soldiers are learning diamond cutting and polishing. Some of them are in the larger New York plant where the disabled men are being given instruction in the work.

## STAGE SET FOR THE FINAL WORK

### GERMANS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT VERSAILLES TODAY

### Italians May Reconsider Their Difference and Return to the Peace Conference.

PARIS, April 29.—The report of the economic commission of the peace conference, the Echo de Paris says, contains clauses for insertion in the preliminary peace treaty that Germany shall give the allied and associated nations the treatment of most favored nations without any reciprocity.

### BRITISH WITHDRAW BLACKLIST

### BERLIN, April 29.—The president of the British commission in Germany has notified the German armistice commission of the withdrawal of all blacklists and the abolition of all trading disabilities.

## MINOR TEUTON ENVOYS ARRIVE

### DELEGATION OF SIXTY HAVE REACHED VERSAILLES

Main Plenipotentiaries Are Expected to Reach the Conference City on Tuesday, May 6.

VERSAILLES, April 29.—The second installment of Germans who are to attend the peace congress arrived here at 10 o'clock Monday night. The party included a large number of women stenographers and typists.

VERSAILLES, April 29.—A large number of German who are to attend the peace congress arrived here Monday evening at 9 o'clock. The party numbered 60.

Immediately upon their arrival the delegates were taken in automobiles to the Hotel des Reservoirs. There was no untoward incident.

The main plenipotentiaries and the technical delegates, who will complete the full delegation, are expected to arrive Tuesday.

LONDON, April 29.—The greater part of the German delegation to the peace congress, together with all its experts and clerks, left Sunday by special train for Versailles by way of Cologne, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Berlin Monday.

At Cologne the delegation was met by French representatives. It will proceed thence by way of Charleroi and Brussels, arriving at Versailles Monday evening.

The leading delegates, with their secretaries, the message adds, will leave Monday for Versailles.

## ROAD PROGRAM MAY BE CHANGED

### OLCOTT'S RETENTION OFFICE DEEMED ESSENTIAL TO PLANS

### Title to Governorship Needful to Keep Appointments Made

SALEM, Or., April 29.—Oregon's gigantic road programme may become seriously involved if the supreme court fails to determine whether or not Governor Olcott is entitled to resign as secretary of state and appoint his successor to that office.

This is particularly emphasized in an amicus curiae brief filed with the supreme court today by Carey & Kerr, a Portland law firm, which argues that Mr. Olcott is governor in fact and has the authority to resign as secretary of state without destroying his title to the governorship.

The brief cites numerous federal cases and goes back to famed Dred Scott decision in an effort to prove its contention. The brief urges that the importance of the question now before the court should outweigh any technicality as to whether or not the court can determine the title to the governorship in the present mandamus proceedings. It points out that inasmuch as the signatures of both the governor and secretary of state are necessary on the road bonds a serious issue might arise if the question is not speedily settled.

Wood, Montague & Hunt, another Portland legal firm, filed a brief today in which it likewise argues that Mr. Olcott is governor in fact. This brief points out that the Oregon constitution closely follows the federal constitution with reference to the vice-president succeeding to the presidency, and it is argued that Mr. Olcott becomes governor without any qualifications or restriction arising from the fact that he succeeded to the office by reason of his having been secretary of state upon the death of the late Governor Withycombe.

## DEMAND ECONOMIC TREATY FAVORING ALLIED NATIONS

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## VISIT OF TANK TO BE DELAYED

La Grande was disappointed today when the whippet tank which was to have given demonstrations here did not arrive and it seems now that the exhibition here will not be given until after the tank has completed its itinerary of other points in the state. The failure of the crew and their little war wagon to arrive here this morning was due to the breaking of an axle at Baker yesterday, during the exhibition there. The breakdown occurred over a mile outside the town and consequently the crew could not get the machine back to town in time for shipping.

An effort was made to have the tank stop over here tomorrow, but as other towns along the line have made great preparations for the exhibition it has not been found advisable to throw all their program out of line. It seems therefore that the tank's visit to La Grande will not come until it has completed its itinerary of other points in the state.

## ASKED TO HOLD THEIR OPINIONS

### REPUBLICAN SENATORS MAKE APPEAL TO PUBLIC

### Lodge and Curtis Ask for Sentiment After Republican Conference is Held

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Telegrams have been sent local Republican senators by Senator Lodge, floor leader, and Senator Curtis of Kansas, Republican who are asking that public expressions of opinion upon the League of Nations covenant be withheld until the Republican conference could be held. What attitude should be adopted. No date of the conference has been set.

## OFT SOUGHT CHANGE NOW IS ASSURED

### NEW SCHEDULE FOR THE WEST BOUND PASSENGER TRAINS COMING SOON

### ANNOUNCEMENT MADE AT AD. CLUB LUNCH TODAY

Dr. J. M. Taylor, Much Traveled Methodist Missionary, and Dr. George Mecklenburg, Prominent Western Churchman, Among Speakers at the Luncheon in "Y" Today.

Though the Ad club members had to forego themselves the pleasure of the promised visit of the tank men who are campaigning for the Victory loan, their luncheon at noon today did not suffer at all from lack of interest. Vice President J. G. Snodgrass, who was chairman, had an excellent program lined up and gave to the business men one of the most satisfactory meetings they have held. The dinner, served at the Y. M. C. A. by the ladies of the M. E. church, South, pleased all by its homely goodness. Rev. N. S. Hawk, pastor of the First M. E. church, invoked the blessings of the Almighty upon the gathering before the commencement of the meal.

Better Train Service Assured. Getting down to business early in the hour the chairman called for reports from heads of various committees. Of these the one in which the greatest interest was taken was that of C. R. Eberhard, head of the transportation committee. Mr. Eberhard announced that the trains running from here to Portland will within the next ten days or so go upon a schedule that will be much more convenient to the traveling public all along the line than the present schedule. This change has been brought about through the combined efforts of La Grande, Baker and Pendleton business men, who took the matter up with Director-General Hines when he visited Portland recently. While this news was received with general expressions of satisfaction, the fact was brought before the meeting that in taking the matter to the federal director-general, the spirit of fair play had not been observed with regard to the local officials of the O.-W., Messrs. Buckley, O'Brien and O'Neill, who had been working in the interests of Eastern Oregon in respect to this matter for some time and the opinion was expressed that the Union County Ad club should not have allowed it to be carried above their heads. This, it was pointed out, was done by Baker and Pendleton, who spoke for La Grande apparently without proper authority. A motion was accordingly passed authorizing the sending of a resolution to the O.-W. first and second division officials conveying an expression of the good will and appreciation of the Ad club and of regret for what had occurred.

Under the promised new schedule travelers from this part of the state to Portland will reach that city early (Continued on Page 2)

## CAPT. KELLEY GOES ON TOUR

### Fighting Chaplain Will Tour Large Towns in Pacific States, Addressing Railway Men.

Capt. (Father) Francis E. Kelley, the fighting chaplain of the old 27th New York, left La Grande today, accompanied by his father, who goes with him on all his journeys these days. The two of them had been visitors in this city for the past couple of weeks. The words of the captain's uncle, Dick Kelley, and of the city at large, La Grande, feel that they owe a great deal to Capt. Kelley for the information and the tales he has brought them concerning the great happenings in Europe last summer and last fall.

Capt. Kelley has been commanded by the railway officials to visit important points, along their lines and speak to their employes. He went out on No. 26 this morning to Huntington, where he will speak tonight, and he will double back and be here tomorrow noon. Tomorrow night he is billed to give an address at Pendleton under the auspices of the Commercial Club and the Victory Loan organization in that city. After that engagement he will go to Washington, giving addresses at many points, and then will work southward through Western Oregon into California.