

# ARMY CLEANS UP OKLAHOMA CROPS

## Great Industrial Gathering Harvests Big Wheat Yield.

### HIGH CLASS FARM HANDS.

Thirteen Thousand Men From Many Parts of United States Dispatched Into Oklahoma—They Bring Forth Wheat Crop of \$30,000,000 and Oat Crop of \$15,000,000.

Oklahoma City.—Thirteen thousand men from many parts of the United States were dispatched into the harvest fields of Oklahoma during the first three weeks in June by the Oklahoma department of labor and a record breaking handling of the wheat and oat crops resulted.

Never before in the southwest was such a large body of laboring men mobilized and dispatched to their places of labor in so short a time and with little friction. Men covered freight trains like blackbirds. They tumbled off by the score at towns along the line and were picked up by wagons and hurried into the fields and the whole state was cleaned up like magic.

Two important hindrances were encountered by the generals of the department of labor. At first a large contingent of the assembled laborers were influenced by the Industrial Workers of the World, who persuaded a number of them to hold out for higher wages than those offered by farmers—\$2 and \$2.50 a day with board and sleeping place. The other hindrance was by farmers along the railroads running west from Enid, who, ignoring the carefully laid plans of the department, picked off men as they passed along on their way to other points to which they were consigned in filling orders for men regularly filed with the department.

William G. Ashton, assistant commissioner of labor, who directed all the movements of the campaign, overcame the influence of the I. W. W. workers at Enid within a few hours. The men who had been pulled away were promised two meals a day and other considerations while they awaited disposition under higher wage terms. In order that this scheme might be carried out the leaders were compelled to appear before the county commissioners and ask that provisions be supplied the men, a majority of whom were without money.

Simultaneously Ashton went before the commissioners and explained that his department had places for 1,000 men at once at wages of \$2 to \$2.50 a day. The commissioners refused to make an appropriation for food, and the ranks of the strikers soon dwindled. That same day the rebels were pacified and were sent out on trains into the fields.

Enid was made the distributing point of most of the northwest counties, and about 7,000 men were handled out of that place. Enid is the seat of a state employment agency and the largest city in the whole wheat belt. Business became so heavy at this office, however, that other offices were opened nearer the wheat areas of the farther northwest, one at Ava and one at Woodward. In each of these towns about 2,500 men were handled.

Two or three weeks before the season opened the department of labor had learned the opening dates in the several subdivisions of the wheat belt, and men and boys were assembled accordingly. Representatives of the department visited every county in the wheat belt and ascertained the approximate number of men that would be needed. This information they obtained by personal interviews, by telephone conversation and through commercial organizations. The newspapers took up the call and spread it into every county, and the United States department of labor placed it in conspicuous places in many parts of the country.

Assistant Commissioner Ashton estimates that the entire campaign cost the department only \$700, and the men harvested a wheat crop valued at \$30,000,000 and an oat crop valued at \$15,000,000.

"Business men gave up their work to assist us," says Mr. Ashton. "Bankers, merchants, editors, lumbermen, real estate dealers and others co-operated with us in every possible way."

The eagerness with which harvest hands were gathered up by farmers along the railroads is illustrated by Commissioner Ashton.

"There were frequent scrambles among farmers to get hold of the men unloaded," he says. "This was true especially at Woodward, a far western point, which our men reached late. I saw several times one farmer trying to outbid laborers away from another farmer. One of them was wise to the ways of the hotel porter, and he held his men by carrying their grips to his wagon as he ran a gauntlet of farmers trying to grab the prey."

"Farmers near Enid were forced to see hundreds of men go past their fields on their way to western points, and they were late in getting their crops taken care of. Some of them raised the price 50 cents to \$1 a day over the prevailing prices of the wheat belt. Some offered men not only three square meals a day, but five, and there were others who were willing to chance prosecution for violation of the prohibition law by offering a few cold bottles daily as extra inducements."

# NEWS FROM OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL

## Government Takes Steps to Prevent Financial Stringency as a War Result.

Washington.—War developments in Europe overshadow all else in the attention of official Washington. Steps to prevent a financial stringency in this country as a result of Europe's sudden need for gold were followed by a series of precautionary measures, designed to protect Americans and their interests abroad as well as at home.

Germany, France, Great Britain and practically all the other governments of Europe which may become involved in the struggle have asked the United States to care for their diplomatic interests in those countries with which they may be compelled to sever relations. The United States has accepted every request of this kind.

In this way the United States government, by acting as the sole channel of communication between the powers, may find an opportunity to assist in the settlement of the conflict by means of diplomacy.

**Relief For Stranded Americans.**

The administration has under consideration sending army and navy transports to carry American refugees home. If necessary the Washington government is prepared to send American vessels abroad with gold for the relief of Americans. Mr. Bryan cabled all consulates, legations and embassies to spare no pains in caring for Americans who remained in the war zones and giving every facility to those who wished to leave.

State department officials admitted that the most serious problem confronting them was the plight of Americans abroad. They estimated that at least 100,000 and perhaps as many as 300,000 are scattered throughout Europe.

The disorganization of European exchange has made it practically impossible to cash checks or letters of credit. American consulates, legations and embassies are devoid of funds for the emergency which has suddenly confronted them. They are being besieged on all sides with requests for financial assistance.

With the cancellation by several steamship lines of their sailings, many Americans find themselves unable to get passage on the overcrowded boats of American register.

### Brief News of the Week

Government is collecting documentary evidence against the so-called kodak trust, says a Boston report.

Armour millions stopped a wheat panic on the Chicago board of trade, preventing crashes and failures.

Kernit Roosevelt will take a position as credit man in a branch bank of the National City bank of New York at Rio de Janeiro.

The Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis railroad went into the hands of a receiver. The road is said to have failed to pay interest on \$2,000,000 bonds.

As a result of the European war situation the stock exchanges of the world have closed.

Jean Leon Juarez, the noted French socialist leader, was assassinated when dining in a small restaurant in Paris.

Paul M. Warburg, of New York, President Wilson's nominee to the federal reserve board, was examined by the senate banking committee.

Unsettled market conditions as result of the war crisis have closed the Great Falls smelter of the Anaconda Copper Mining company in Montana. More than 3,000 men were thrown out of work.

Secretary McAdoo has announced that the \$34,000,000 which the treasury will deposit in national banks, to help in the movement of crops, would be available as soon as they complied with conditions outlined to them.

Transatlantic service of passenger and freight steamships with sailings between German and American ports has been practically suspended for an indefinite period, owing to the international situation abroad.

To save trans-Atlantic shipping from paralysis during the European crisis and avert a threatened blockade of America's bumper crops, President Wilson and congressional leaders have agreed upon an amendment to the Panama act which will permit foreign ships to come under American register.

Five per cent increase freight rates between Buffalo and Pittsburg and the Mississippi river were granted by the interstate commerce commission in a decision in the eastern advance rate case. All increases east of Pittsburg and Buffalo were denied.

In an attempt to avert the threatened strike of 55,000 firemen and engineers on 98 western railroads, President Wilson appealed to representatives of the employers and employees to accept the settlement plan proposed by the federal board of mediation and conciliation.

# OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

## Events Occurring Throughout the State During the Past Week.

### Jackson Fair Set.

Medford.—Great preparations have been made for the Jackson county fair, which will take place here September 9 to 12, inclusive.

Special efforts are being made to obtain a record number of exhibits. Premiums offered for fruit and stock total \$2500. One exhibit, which is to be sent to the Panama-Pacific exposition, will be made up of more than 500 products taken from one farm, that of D. M. Lowe, of Ashland. It will include 50 varieties of corn, 100 varieties of fruit, 30 varieties of grains never before grown in the United States, and many other products.

### Sizing and Grading Apples by Machine

Hood River.—Varieties of apple-sizers and graders are becoming almost as numerous as the kinds of automobiles. Three years ago there was but one apple grading machine on the market. Today 15 different kinds are manufactured in the northwestern apple districts. No less than a half dozen machines are being made and offered for sale in the Hood River valley. Inventors and makers of the new machines are shipping models to San Francisco to be exhibited at the California apple show.

### Slayer Notifies Officers.

Tillamook.—Lee Cooper shot and killed a man by the name of Ether, nine miles above Blaine, and then went to the telephone and asked to have the sheriff and coroner sent out. In talking to Sheriff Crenshaw over the telephone, Cooper said he had killed a man in self-defense, and would remain at the Blaine store until the officer arrived.

### Man Slain by Employee.

Prineville.—Henry McDowell shot and killed A. G. Scoggins three miles west of Paulina. Scoggins was a mail contractor and owned the stage line between Prineville and Paulina. He made his home near Paulina. He recently had been to Portland and returned unexpectedly a couple of days ago.

### ARRANGE INDUSTRIAL SURVEY

United States Commission Due to Hold Hearing in Portland August 19-22.

Portland.—Agents for the United States Commission on Industrial Relations have practically completed preparations for the public hearing to be held by the commission in Portland August 19 to 22.

Employers of labor, bankers, lawyers, college professors, trades unionists and representatives of the Socialist party and the I. W. W. have been asked to testify.

Witnesses will be asked to give their views as to the existence and causes of industrial unrest and as to what can be done to improve the relations between employer and employee.

The commission was appointed a year ago last June by President Wilson under an act of congress directing the creation of the commission and ordering a three years' inquiry into "the underlying causes of dissatisfaction in the industrial field." Three of the members represent the general public, three the employers and three organized labor.

### Astoria is Hurt by War.

Astoria.—The effect of the European war menace is being felt in Astoria already, as the trouble is interfering with the shipping of salmon, particularly to Germany.

One packer wanted to ship four carloads of fish to Germany, but the transportation companies declined to accept it, saying they were making no bookings for that country at the present time.

### Topographic Survey Near Hillsboro.

Salem.—State Engineer Lewis on Monday started a topographic survey party on the large area in the vicinity of Hillsboro, the work to be done in co-operation with the United States geological service. The state engineer has four parties already at work, three in the Willamette valley and one in eastern Oregon.

### Car Shortage Feared.

Salem.—Announcing that a car shortage would be inevitable during the moving of crops this year if the shippers and transportation companies did not co-operate, the state railroad commission has issued an appeal urging the loading and unloading of cars with dispatch.

### Pheasant Hunters Warned.

Hood River.—An especial effort will be made by State Game Warden Evans, who has been here conferring with State Game and Fish Commissioner Duncan, to protect the China pheasants of the valley.

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## NOTICE

THE ONTARIO MARKET has the Exclusive Agency of the Weiser Creamery Butter selling now at 30 cents per pound

### Local Market Report.

Corrected Apr. 30, for the benefit of Argus readers by the Malheur Mercantile Company.

Eggs, per dozen, 17c.  
Butter, per pound, 25c.  
Oats, per hundred, \$1.50  
Wheat, per hundred, \$1.75.  
Hay per ton, \$8.  
Potatoes, per hundred, 1.00  
Onions, per hundred, \$2.00.  
Apples, per box, \$1.00, to \$1.50  
Chickens, dressed, per pound, 18c.  
Pork, dressed, 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 c.  
Pork, live, 6.50 to 7  
Veal, 9 to 10c.  
Beef, 11c to 12c.

## PATENTS

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## GYPSIES CARRY \$100,000 IN GOLD

## Fortune in Belts Shown Immigration Inspector.

Philadelphia.—When Immigration Inspector Phillips started the examination of a band of gypsies landed at the Gloucester station, by the North German Lloyd liner Rhein one of the first questions he asked Nicolai Cluron, the patriarchal leader of the band, was, "How much money have you?" "One hundred thousand dollars," said Cluron in the best English he could command. The gypsy king then proceeded to startle Inspector Phillips further by proving his wealth. From around his waist Cluron took a belt fashioned out of American twenty dollar gold pieces, English sovereigns and other gold coins representing the currency of nearly every realm. He called his three sons, each of whom wore a similar belt, each valued at \$5,000.

The four belts removed, Cluron and his sons dug down into a steel bound chest among their baggage and brought out bag after bag of gold. They placed them at the feet of the inspector. Cluron, silent all the while, next began to take off his gay red and green coat, which had gold buttons sewed down the front.

Inspector Phillips stopped further disrobing. Behind Cluron stood his three sons, their wives and children, twenty-eight in the band, and every man, woman and child glistening with more gold buttons, gold earrings and wide bands of metal about their fingers.

Nicolai, the king, is sixty-three years old, and his wife, Marya, is sixty. They planned to bring their descendants to this city to live with the old chief's brother, Theodore Cluron.

They sailed as cabin passengers on the Rhein and say they made all their gold working as coppersmiths during a wandering career which has taken them through Italy, Spain, Portugal, England, Brazil and Germany.

## THE FOREIGN GRAIN CROP.

General Falling Off Indicated by Latest Report.

Washington.—The International Institute of Agriculture reported to the department of agriculture that the estimated production of winter wheat in Italy is 180,044,000 bushels, or 16 per cent less than last year, and in European Russia, 297,041,000 bushels, or 100.5 per cent of last year.

The winter rye crop in European Russia is 932,534,000 bushels, or 3.3 per cent less than last year; barley in Japan 102,758,000 bushels, or 5.8 per cent less than last year, and oats in Italy 34,447,000 bushels, or 20.8 per cent less than last year.