

OREGON STATE NEWS

Insurance Report Is Issued.

Salem.—Investments of all classes of insurance companies in Oregon bonds, their mortgage loans on real estate and real estate owned total \$23,235,063, according to Harvey Wells, state insurance inspector. Figures are based on the year 1914.

Life and accident insurance companies lead all others in the amount of their Oregon investments, with a total of \$15,924,254. Of this sum, \$10,015,515 is in mortgages, \$2,999,963 in municipal, school, road and miscellaneous bonds, \$2,894,000 in interurban and street railway bonds, and \$14,776 in real estate.

Fire and marine insurance companies have \$2,630,118 invested in bonds, mortgages and real estate; foreign mutual fire, \$25,000; domestic mutual fire, \$145,550; fraternal benefit, \$3,987,640; and miscellaneous companies \$522,401.

In distributing their investments in Oregon, the insurance companies have seemed to favor mortgage loans on realty, for these figures total \$11,328,718. It is to be noted, however, that life and accident companies, especially, have favored this class of investment.

Fraternal benefit societies operating in Oregon have confined their investments for the most part to municipal, school and road bonds, for the report shows that of the \$3,987,640 invested, all but \$887,834 is in bonds of this character.

Although property owned by local lodges in the state aggregate several millions, only the property owned and controlled by the general lodge is mentioned in the report. This totals \$115,000 and is credited to the Women of Woodcraft.

Assess Land Grant \$5 Per Acre.

Eugene.—The Oregon & California lands in Lane county have been placed upon the assessment rolls at valuations of from \$5 to \$20, the total appraisement amounting to \$3,350,000, by B. F. Keeney, county assessor, disregarding the recent ruling of the supreme court of the United States, which held that the Southern Pacific Railroad company's interest in this land amounted to \$2.50 per acre.

"Whether we have a right to assess these lands only for the amount of the railroad's equity of \$2.50 per acre, or whether we have a right to assess it at all, is a matter for the board of equalization to determine," he said. "This land is assessed at virtually the same figure as last year."

Salmon Fishing Improves.

Astoria.—There was quite an improvement in the catch of salmon the past few days. This was especially true in the section of the river opposite the city and above Tongue Point, where several gill-nets secured in the neighborhood of a ton each, and catches of 500 to 600 pounds were common. The upriver seines and traps also made good hauls.

In the lower harbor, however, the catch was not so good, indicating that the school of fish which began to enter the river on Saturday hastened upstream.

Day of Rock Roads Ends.

Oregon City.—The ultimate solution of the rural road-building problem is not in the construction of macadam or rock roads, County Judge Anderson said here.

In the future it will be the policy of the Clackamas county court, at least as far as Judge Anderson is concerned, to replace worn-out rock roads with bituminous macadam, and the carrying out of this programme has already begun. Next year a bituminous road to Portland from Oregon City may be completed.

Polk Prune Yield Normal.

Monmouth.—Prune trees in the hills about Falls City, Monmouth, Dallas and Airle are expected to yield normally this year. The growers report a favorable season for fruit development and claim only in a few instances the early frosts have injured the fruit. While not as large as last year, the size of the prunes will rank well up with the past few years, according to the growers. Many new orchards will bear this fall.

Sumpter and Auburn Fires Checked.

Baker.—That fire in the Sumpter Valley and Auburn districts is now well under control was reported by County Fire Warden Palmer, who returned from Auburn, where he directed trenching operations. Mr. Palmer believes that new fires will hold the only danger to timber in the section through which he was working, as those now burning are well safeguarded.

Pumpkin Show Planned.

Junction City.—The seventh annual Junction City Pumpkin Show will be held on September 16, 17 and 18. The show will have ten departments: Pumpkins, forage, orchard and vineyard, vegetables, grain and seed, culinary, flowers and art, industrial school exhibits, fancy work and poultry. The state exhibitors of poultry are invited to compete. B. F. Keeney will judge the poultry exhibits.

Artesian Well Borings Succeed.

Klamath Falls.—Success obtained by B. S. Grigsby, of this city, a few weeks ago in obtaining artesian water on his ranch near Fort Klamath, north of here, was such that five other wells have since been put down, and more likely will follow. The record for getting water is on the Grover Neal place.

Percheron Prizes Up.

Salem.—W. A. Jones, secretary of the state fair, announced that the Percheron Society of America had offered 13 special premiums for stallions and mares exhibited at the meeting, which opens September 27 and continues six days. The fair board has offered prizes totaling \$622 and a banner each for champion stallion and champion mare in the Percheron exhibit.

AMERICAN BOY IN FOREIGN LEGION WRITES OF WAR

Takes Part in Terrific Fighting at La Targette, Near Souchez.

HIS COMPANY BADLY CUT UP

Walks 18 Miles Every Night to Dig Trenches Only 250 Yards From the German Lines—Says War Is Asinine Waste.

New York.—When Russell Kelly, twenty-two years old, son of a New York attorney and for a while a student at Virginia Military Institute, got the war fever last fall he took a job on a cattle boat, worked his way to Bordeaux and enlisted in the famous French Foreign Legion.

In recent letters home he tells of taking part in terrific fighting at La Targette, near Souchez, and not far from the celebrated labyrinth. His company was badly cut up, but he escaped with a bad bruise on the forehead caused by the vacuum of a great shell which passed a few inches from his head. Under date of May 29, he writes:

"After our attack of May 9-10 we went to the rear, about ten miles from the front, and were reorganized. We needed it, as I understand more than half of the regiment were either killed or wounded. The general reviewed us and distributed five military medals.

Captain Was Killed.
"The recruits came up from Valbonne and Lyon, so we are ready to go back. We have a new captain in place of the one who was killed. The one we lost was a very game man; he led us without a sword or any side-arms, using only his swagger stick. Our new captain is a Swede. Many German prisoners have passed us lately; one day as many as 800 went by; they looked well. By a strange coincidence the same Bavarian troops who faced us in Champagne are against us here, and yesterday we recognized among the prisoners a man who deserted from us in Champagne. I guess it is all over with him; it should be.

"You remember in my letter from Lyon I spoke about three brothers from Argentine, and how inseparable they were? Well, they are inseparable in death, as they were killed side by side.

No Convulsions.
"After leaving our trenches and crossing the Germans, which were battered to pieces by the bombardment, our first stop was in the shelter of a road. Here the good-looking Italian, the fellow who hit me with the brick in the scrap I wrote about, became reckless and tried to survey the landscape. He was killed instantly by a bullet through the heart. No convulsive tossing of the arms one reads about or sees in the movies; he just sank down and it was all over. Soon after we left this position, his chum, the other Italian, was shot through the leg. There was absolutely no ill-feeling between us on account of our scrap.

Regular Ty Cobb Slide.
"We advance by sections. When the order comes we jump up and, carrying the sack as a shield, run about 100 feet, and talk about Ty Cobb sliding into second base, it isn't a circumstance to the way I hit the grit, and what a strain to the nerves, waiting for our turn to advance again, fellows all around being hit. In a couple of cases I have seen men lifted from the ground, so hard were they hit. One fellow very near me got hit and began to squeal. Almost immediately a second bullet hit him and he made for the rear on all fours, crying like a baby.

"Field was full of such sights; but compared to the shells the bullets are nothing; give me most anything but an artillery bombardment. Shortly after we gained the crest of the hill their artillery came up and began firing on us; it was terrible. The way those shells would tear by and dig a hole five feet deep was enough for the most solid nerves. At nightfall we intrenched, but were on the watch all night.

"The next day their artillery opened on us and their infantry started an attack, but we stood firm and smeared them."

German Trenches Well Built.
In a letter dated June 10 he says: "The German trenches are built much better than ours. Some of the huts in which the men lived were 20 feet underground. They used a great number of dirt sacks. There must be a shortage of material in Germany as these sacks were made from everything, mostly from cheap, light calico, hardly strong enough to hold the earth.

"They had an extensive system of mines and we made the attack (May 9) just in time, as Pavelka and I investigated the saps with the aid of a candle. They were all loaded and wired ready to be set off. One had been exploded; the Germans, in digging, must have lost their bearings, because the hole was actually nearer their own line than ours. They used a tremendous charge and the explosion must have been terrific, for the result

reminded me of the crater of a volcano. It was easily thirty feet deep. Stench Was Horrible.

"Our bombardment of May 9 played havoc with the German trenches; a great number of the roofs on the huts had fallen during the cannonading, burying alive all the occupants. Around these places the stench was horrible.

"All through these trenches was evidence of heavy losses on the part of the Germans; at intervals arms and legs protruded from the walls and floors, and all in all it was a gruesome journey. As a result of May 9 our line is advanced about two miles, but the Germans hold a dangerous position on the side of a large hill and it will be hard work chasing them off.

"We have been out to dig trenches and, believe me, you sure do work. Imagine getting up and working on the ground about 250 yards from the German line, with them shooting all the time. Work! You bet the men work with a will, and it does not take them very long to get a good trench dug.

Walk Nine Miles to Work.
"We walk about nine miles from this town to the first line, dig a trench and walk back. We leave at 6 p. m. and get back at 5 a. m. The idea of walking nine miles to work.

"There is not much left of this regiment since May 9; the Italians have just been liberated to return to their own army. Our company at present has 55 men out of a full company of 150, but we expect to be filled up with men from Ballbonne and Lyon.

"Well, this war is a great game. The next person who mentions the glories of war to you jump on him with both feet. Picture the charge with the band playing and the men singing—what tommyrot. In the first place the instruments never get near the actual fighting, and in the second place, the men don't care a hang for a song.

Want War to End.
"We have some fun with the boxing gloves, and it is surprising to know how many good boxers there are here. The other day two zouaves turned up; they weighed about 180 pounds each and were very good. One had boxed for the amateur championship of Tunis. They would give many professional fighters a run for the money.

"We are all in the best of health and getting plenty to eat. We are unanimous in wishing for the war to end soon. Take it from me, those who clamor for war the most in the States are those who know nothing about it. War is an asinine waste and I take my hat off to Wilson and his level-headedness."

TELLS OF WAR'S HORRORS



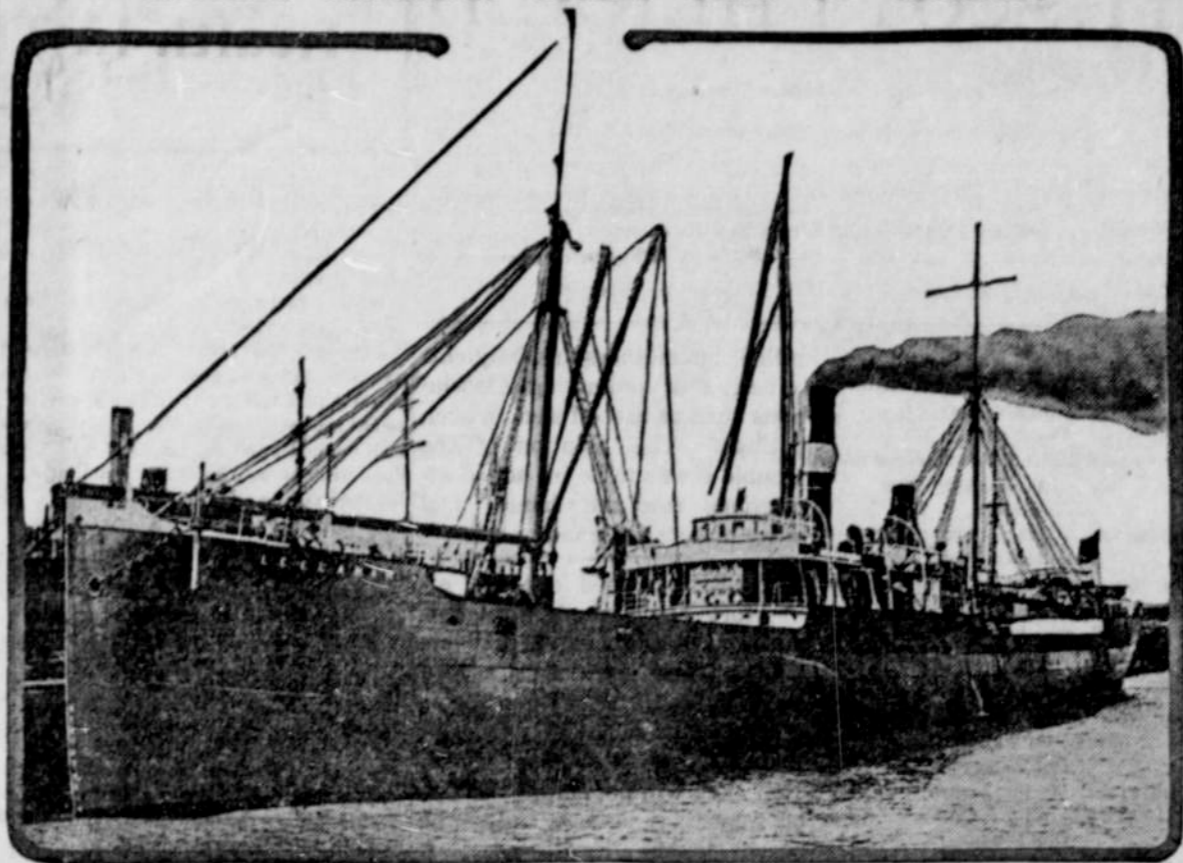
"We work by day and weep at night," was the heroic remark of a German woman in a hospital in Berlin to Miss Angella Morgan, the poet, delegate to the recent Woman's Peace conference at The Hague, who arrived home recently. "At one of the American Red Cross hospitals in Munich," said Miss Morgan, "we saw scores of poor men who had been blinded in battle. They were making pitiful efforts to learn to read and write under the new conditions. One poor fellow had his face so mangled that he will have to wear a mask over it the rest of his life. He had been engaged to marry when the war started, but his romance was at an end."

NEW YORK'S OLDEST TWINS

Two Women Will Be Rocked in Cradle of Their Babyhood on Their Birthday.
Middletown, N. Y.—Mrs. J. C. Barrett of Edmonston and Mrs. Nathan V. Brand of Leonardville, who claim the distinction of being the oldest twins in the state, expect soon to celebrate their eighty-sixth birthday together with some unusual features. The cradle in which they slept as children has been preserved, and it is planned that the twins shall be rocked in it in the presence of the guests.

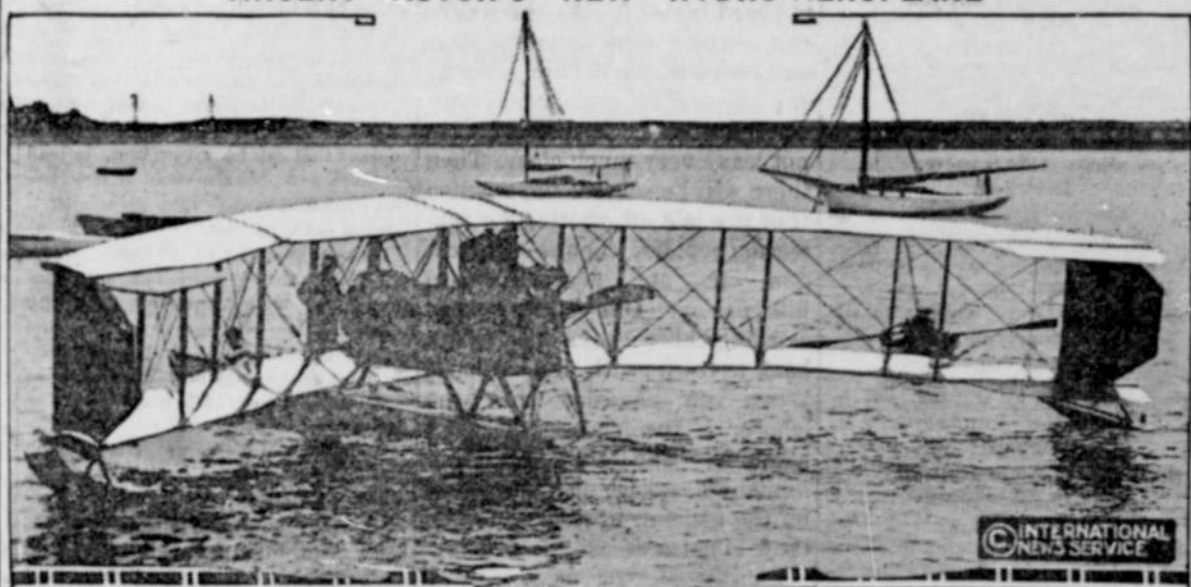
Raises Her Kittens in a Tree.
Rich Hill, Mo.—Frank Brown, who lives eight miles southwest of here, has an old mother cat who is raising a litter of kittens in the forks of a tree 15 feet from the ground.

ANOTHER AMERICAN VESSEL SUNK BY GERMANS



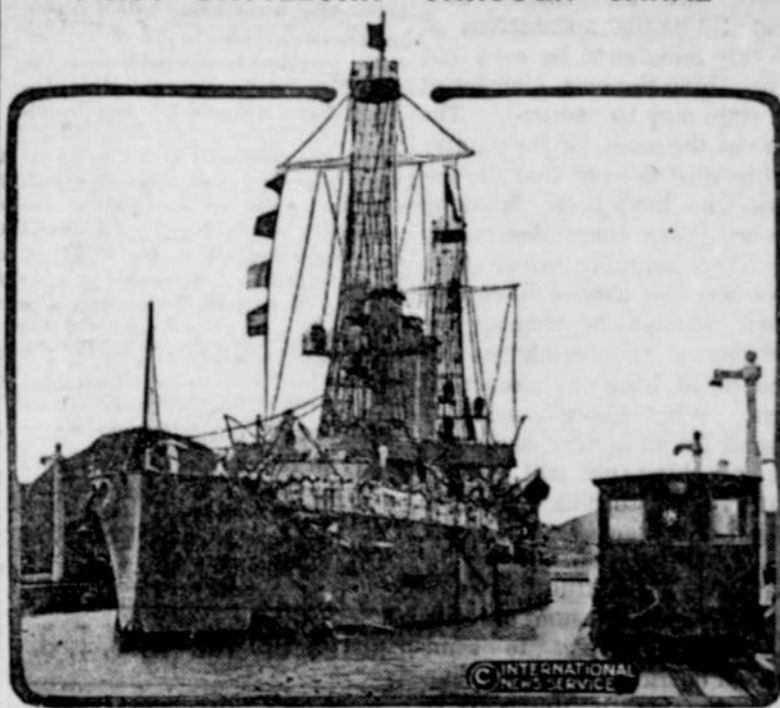
American steamship Leelanaw which was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Scotland because it had a cargo of flax for Belfast. The crew was saved.

VINCENT ASTOR'S NEW HYDRO-AEROPLANE



The first hydro-aeroplane made for Vincent Astor having been smashed in its trial flight, he ordered various changes, and the result is the machine here shown, the first of its type. The seats are not on the pontoon, but higher, in the center of the plane, and the wings are in the form of a broken V.

FIRST BATTLESHIP THROUGH CANAL



This photograph shows the battleship Missouri in the west chamber of the Pedro Miguel locks as the first battleships to pass through the Panama canal were going through. At the right is one of the electric towing mules.

IRISH HERO AND FATHER



The return home on short leave of the popular Irish Guardsman hero, Sergt. Michael O'Leary, V. C., who "practically captured an enemy's position by himself," killing eight Germans single-handed and taking two others prisoners, at Culinchy, did not pass unobserved. The king sent for him to Buckingham palace and pinned the cross on his breast, with the queen and princess warmly congratulating the sergeant; Cork gave O'Leary an ovation as he drove through the city with the lord mayor. We see him here at his cottage home at Inchigeelah, near Macroom, County Cork, with his father, to whom Sergeant O'Leary is showing his cross.

KINDNESS ON THE BATTLEFIELD



War is not always as supposed by most people. Even the officers of the armies find other things on the field than mere fighting. Pity creeps forth even from the hardest of hearts. The photograph shows a German officer helping a wounded Russian soldier. The soldier had crawled for shelter into a large hole dug by an exploded shell. Here he lay patiently awaiting the end of the day's battle. A German officer passing noted the plight of the Russian and stopped to minister to his wants.