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LENTS, MULTNOMAH CO., OREGON, THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1915.

Vol. 13. No. 51

WORLD WATCHING CHINESE EMPIRE

Conditions in That Country Make the Old Form More Desirable. According to China's Leading Men—Japan Had Warned Her Not to Abandon the Republican Form.

The action of the Chinese council of state in offering the throne to President Yuan Shih Kai has aroused keen interest all over the world, as it is most unusual for a republic to return to the monarchical form of government once the American method has been given a fair trial. But it is pointed out that conditions in China make the old form more desirable.

Indications that the republic, which was established on Feb. 12, 1912, after centuries of Manchu rule, would be succeeded by a monarchy, with Yuan Shih Kai as emperor, began to appear in August, 1914. The movement to restore the monarchy has received great impetus because of the humiliation of China by Japan last spring. Although China escaped, for a time at least, the necessity for accepting the most menacing of the Japanese demands, the weakness of the republic in the face of its powerful neighbor was fully exposed, and Chinese patriots looked to the re-establishment of a monarchy as a method of increasing the country's strength.

Many dispatches received recently from China have expressed fear that Japan may take active steps to prevent the return to a monarchy. The abortive attempt at a revolution in China a few days ago originated in Shanghai, where the revolutionists were armed and supported by foreign influence, it was said.

In opposing the return to a monarchy Japan has had the support of the other entente powers, which made representations before the announcement on Nov. 7 that fifteen of the eighteen provinces had voted in favor of a monarchy, urging that a change was undesirable as tending to lessen the stability of conditions and possibly to lead to internal disturbances which might endanger the peace of the orient.

The Answer to Japan.

China's reply was that the government of China was well able to control internal conditions and that there would be no such danger as the entente powers apprehended. It was made clear that China had decided to disregard all protests by an official mandate dated Nov. 15. This read:

"According to the report of the minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Obata, the Japanese charge d'affaires, has under instructions from his home government tendered friendly advice to the Chinese government, requesting the latter to postpone the adoption of the monarchy to the future on the ground that if the change is brought about too suddenly it may cause some unrest or disturbance in the country which would jeopardize the interests of the various friendly powers, etc. The possibility of some unrest or disturbance which the Japanese government mentions in the advice has already been anticipated by the government, and inquiries have already been made by the headquarters of the commander in chief of the army and navy of the civil and military authorities in the provinces on different occasions regarding their ability to maintain peace and order in the different localities of the provinces in the event of a change in the form of state being brought about.

"The provincial officials, both civil and military, have all replied, expressing full confidence in their ability to maintain peace and order. The anxiety manifested by the Japanese government for the peace and order of this country may probably have been caused by its lack of full information about the real internal conditions in this country, and hence its friendly advice. The Japanese government, it must be understood, had declared that its advice to the government of this country should not be interpreted as an interference with the internal affairs of this country, nor should it be considered that the Japanese government is insisting upon our following its advice. The matter should be clearly explained to the press and other similar organs in this country and warnings given against the publication of any reckless comment on this subject, which, it is feared, might tend to injure the friendly relations between this country and other powers."

One armed Michael McCarthy was shot and killed by two men who held up a St. Louis saloon because at their command of "Hands up!" he raised only the arm left him. One sleeve of McCarthy's coat hung empty, its end in the coat pocket. The robbers apparently thought he was reaching for a revolver.

Half a dozen men were in the saloon when the robbers entered. At their command all hands went up. The robbers took one glance at McCarthy's hanging sleeve, fired and fled.

COUNTY TAX WILL BEAT ALL RECORDS

"The Tax Liberator" of Roseburg says: "Who put the soup houses Portland?" It then proceeds to produce in full the Chamber of Commerce's compilation of tax statistics of Multnomah County for the past ten years. At the bottom of the columns of segregated items are the totals for the years and only a moment's study will be necessary to see that only once in the history of the county has the county tax exceeded the amount that must be raised this next year. In 1912, when times were reasonably prosperous, the county tax collected amounted to \$2,365,538.94 on a valuation of \$335,112,074. This year provision is made to collect a tax of \$2,138,452.86 for county purposes, based on a valuation of \$303,002,530. The valuation last year was \$315,119,240, and the tax collected was \$2,187,550.22; the per capita was \$23.10 last year, and this year it will be \$25.40.

The totals above do not include the total taxes raised in the county. In addition there is a state, school and city tax. The total tax last year was \$7,409,913, and the total this year will amount to \$7,910,014.39. Thus it is very evident why the per capita is higher this year. We are required to raise a larger fund than when conditions were more favorable than they are now, and that is not saying much for our financial credit, or rationality of management. The exposure of these things by the Tax Liberator or other papers of the state will not help conditions in this county.

In 1912 when the total amount raised for taxes broke all records the rate of levy, based on the valuation of that date, was even lower than it is today.

It is evident that there are some people in Multnomah County who are more prosperous than conditions would indicate. Perhaps they are on the county pay roll. Perhaps they forget, in their scramble for local improvements, that there are a lot of people in the county this year who will not be able to pay their taxes. There were several thousand in that condition last year. There will be more this year. There are more idle people in the county this year than ever before. The raising of a tax to make certain improvements will not help this class of people. We were promised last spring that the money to be spent on the roads would noticeably relieve the citizens of the county who were dependent on day labor. We dare say that not ten percent of the people who worked on the roads last summer were citizens of the county, and taxpayers. A good share of the money paid out for that work left the county, state, and nation.

There is no question that many of the things proposed are good things, and that we should have them under favorable conditions, but candidly, are those conditions prevalent today. We were assured last spring that the levy for road purposes would be greatly reduced as soon as the "trunk lines" to be built under bond issue, were disposed of. The amount provided for road district work last year was \$614,831.43. This year it is proposed to use \$536,800, some slight reduction, but not what it should have been to balance the financial depression.

The trouble seems to be that we are run by a lot of plungers who can think of nothing but their own ambitions who want to accomplish as much for the state and county in public improvements in two years as other more wealthy states and countries have required decades for doing. The result of it all is just as the Tax Liberator points out, capital is wary of Multnomah County. The man who has a big proposition will look for a field where public expenses are not so high, where the people are not so extravagant. The soup houses will thrive and the bread line will grow, until we learn to be more economical. Then business that fears to face the certainty of public waste or excess will hunt other locations.

MORE BOYS BORN IN WAR.

Belief May Be Unscientific, but Statistics Provide Proof.

Despite the argument that there is no basis in science for the belief that more boy babies than girls are born in war time, the statistics of thirty-six large towns in England and Wales break all records in that country for boy babies.

From January to March for every 1,000 girl babies there were thirty-two more boys. For April and June there were forty-three and for July and September fifty-five more. The marriage rate for England and Wales in the last three months was the highest ever recorded, being 21.8 in every 1,000 population.

Christmas Musings

There are warmer handshakes on this night than during the bygone twelve months. Friend lives in the mind of friend. There is more charity at this time than at any other. Poverty and scanty clothing and fireless grates come home to the bosoms of the rich, and they give of their abundance. The very redbreast of the woods enjoys his Christmas feast. Good feeling incarnates itself in plum pudding. The Master's words, "The poor have ye always with you," wear at this time a deep significance. For at least one night on each year over all Christendom there is brotherhood. And good men, sitting amongst their families, or by a solitary fire, when they remember the bright light that shone over the poor clowns huddling on the Bethlehem plains 1,900 years ago, the apparition of shining angels overhead, the song "Peace on earth and good will toward men," which for the first time hallowed the midnight air—pray for that strain's fulfillment, that battle and strife may vex the nations no more, that not only on Christmas eve, but the whole year round men shall be brethren, owning one father in heaven.

WED TO DEAD SOLDIER.

Government Will Recognize Ceremony and Grant Pension to Widow.

The custom of marriage by proxy, which has come into vogue during the war, has placed a young Parisian woman in a curious situation. She was married by proxy on Nov. 17 to Sergeant Joseph Conduche. On Dec. 1 she was informed officially that Sergeant Conduche had been killed at Souchez on Sept. 28, several weeks before the marriage.

Although the marriage is invalid in law, the authorities, taking account of Sergeant Conduche's intentions, will give a widow's pension to the bereaved woman.

Hope For Hairless.

Dr. Robert R. Clark of Monroe, Wis., insanity expert, says hairless domes indicate sanity. He said: "I have examined several hundred patients as to their sanity. I have had the opportunity of studying many hundreds of others, and in all my experience I have yet, with a single exception, to see an insane man who was baldheaded."

Powell Valley School Standardized

The latest school in the county to comply with requirements of a standard school is Powell Valley. Superintendent Armstrong attended a meeting at the school house last Friday evening and gave them authority to nail "Standard" over their door. The next school to aspire to the honor is Orient. It will prepare to entertain the Superintendent January 7.

Free Dinner for Poor Boys

Mrs. Alice Crofts, formerly of 57th Ave., and 71st St., S. E., informs us that a philanthropist on the West Side wishes to dine 200 little boys under fifteen years of age on Christmas day. The number is short by something over a hundred. Any one knowing of little boys in destitute circumstances, under fifteen, may secure plates for dinner by applying at the Pension Department, Court House.

OREGON NEWS NOTES

Echo has let a contract for a \$10,000 city hall.

A telegraph cable is being laid across Coos Bay.

A planing mill in Eugene will manufacture baseball bats.

The creamery at St. Helens is now in operation.

Lebanon has shipped two carloads of Christmas trees to San Francisco.

Farmers plan to open a co-operative store in Albany.

A new style spark plug is to be manufactured in Grants Pass.

Gaston has let a contract for a \$7000 water system.

North Bend business men are considering an increase of payrolls.

Work trains are crossing Coos Bay on the new Willamette Pacific Bridge.

A carload of clover seed shipped from Albany to Chicago was valued at \$13,000.

A well will be started two miles north of Stanfield to get water to irrigate 6000 acres of land.

PERISCOPE HALTS MASHERS.

Little Mirror on Hat Makes Flirting Dangerous and Difficult.

The newest turn in millinery in Chicago is the periscope bonnet, by means of which the path of the home town masher has been paved with thistles. The novel skylight has a mirror placed at a convenient angle in the upper deck, and the wearer can see all that occurs for a distance of a block behind her.

When a masher turns, admires, adjusts his cravat and starts on the big pursuit the wearer of the periscope novelty can begin making ready to bring the old family umbrella down with accuracy and force upon a reasonably vacant pate.

Three young women acting as mannikins for a millinery establishment walked down State street and gave what was for a time an almost uncanny exhibition of "sensing." As soon as any of the idle and beautiful mashers who are to be found in State street began to follow the three lasses they turned at a signal and stared at the hurrying Lothario in their frostiest manner. For a time it was considered very mysterious, but a glint of the sun caught the mirrors and explained all.

Mrs. Goetz Gives Musicale

Mrs. C. C. Wiley entertained Mrs. C. E. Goetz at a musicale for Mrs. Goetz's Lent's Class last Saturday night, consisting of solos and duets on piano and violin. Mildred Turner and Katherine Goodman played as a solo, "L'Allegro," (Blöse) at the same time, and executed it in excellent rhythm, tho they are only nine and ten years of age. Beethoven's "Country Dances," eight hands, was played with good effect. Fennimore Walrod played violin selections from Il Trovatore, Verdi and Cavalleria Rusticana, and Mascagni.

Mrs. Sells and Mrs. Goetz gave vocal numbers, accompanied by Esther Wiley. After the program all joined in singing popular old time songs. Those on the program were Marjorie Smith, Esther Wiley, Dorothy Sells, Katherine Goodman, Mildred Turner, Eva Walrod, Fennimore Walrod and Gordon McNeil.

LOCAL NEWS NOTES

Duke Bros., are preparing to do some repair work on their store building.

Dr. Fawcett is reported as somewhat improved.

Miss Stella Berry is ill this week of the grip.

Dr. O'Donnell is expecting a visit from his mother, who will come from Colorado, for a few weeks.

Roy Peterson came home from Spokane Wednesday to visit his father, F. R. Peterson, and the family. He is looking fine and prosperous.

W. H. Bair of Canby has shipped over 30,000 Christmas trees to California.

By a vote of 970 to 233 voters of Salem defeated an experimental pavement lien law against property.

Oregon Woodmen of the World are planning a \$100,000 building in Portland.

CONVENTION WILL DIS- CUSS LABOR LEGISLATION

Highly explosive questions, such as the seamen's law, the New York state industrial commission and health insurance, are to be handled at the discussions held during the annual convention of the American Association For Labor Legislation at Washington Dec. 28-29.

Does the La Follette seamen's law seriously hamper American ship owners, or is it necessary for the protection of the American seamen? This problem will be presented before many well known economists and sociologists attending the convention by the ship owners themselves and the seamen's leader, Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, who fought for the law during the twenty years it was before congress.

Professor Henry W. Farnam, who has directed an investigation into the conditions of our seamen, will report on the results. Each side will try to find ammunition in the Farnam report for the struggle on the seamen's law which is threatening to come up again in the new congress.

Is the New York state industrial commission working on right lines? The association, which was largely instrumental in establishing the commission form of government in the New York labor department, will discuss the work of the commission during the first half year. During the last year alone four more states—Indiana, Colorado, Nevada, Montana—have adopted a similar form of commission.

The question of compulsory health insurance is going to be thrashed out. Nearly a dozen European countries have divided the cost of sick benefit and medical care for the worker between the state, the employer and the worker on an insurance principle, while the government of this country still leaves the sick worker to sink or swim as best he can. The best means of bringing America up to time in caring for her millions of sick workers will be sought.

The Association For Labor Legislation, which is felt more and more each year in the legislatures of the country, is the means through which many of the most highly trained men and women in America—lawyers, doctors, statisticians, insurance experts, economists and sociologists—give their best services to the country unpaid. Its only interest in labor laws is in the protection and betterment of human life, and a number of the best laws of recent years have been drafted in its office by legal experts who give their service in the interests of better legislation.

This year's president of the association is Professor Henry R. Seager of Columbia university. Among the vice presidents or on the executive committee are Miss Jane Addams, Mr. Louis D. Brandeis, Morton D. Hull of Chicago, Robert W. de Forest of New York city, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Professor John R. Commons of Madison, Wis.; John Mitchell, Dr. Royal Meeker of the United States bureau of labor statistics, Miss Ida M. Tarbell, Miss Anne Morgan, Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson, Secretary of Commerce William C. Redfield and others.

RATS IN FRENCH TRENCHES

"We Literally March on Top of Them," Says Soldier in Letter.

There is a plague of rats along the British and French lines in Flanders and France. A soldier describes the invasion as "worse than the Germans" in a letter, which adds:

"Trenches, communications, fields, woods, houses, cellars and barns are choked with them. We have them holding congresses at night in the busiest roads and giving concerts by day in the most crowded villages. We literally march on top of them.

"They are beginning to be tortured by hunger, and the shortage of food makes them capable of anything. The other morning I saw a cyclist whose tires had been half devoured by a platoon of rats.

"Woe to the man who gets to sleep with a morsel of chocolate in his trousers! He will wake up to find himself without his chocolate and almost without his trousers."

Cleveland Has Armless Judge.

An armless judge will sit on the bench in Cleveland, O. David Moylan, just elevated to a municipal judgeship, lost both arms eleven years ago. He has learned to write with his teeth and studied law by turning the leaves with his tongue. Seven years ago he passed the state bar examination, ranking in the first ten in a class of 205.

Advertised Letters

Advertised letters for week ending Dec. 18, 1915: Cooper, Thomas Wm.; Gibbs, Mrs. S.; Green, Mrs.; Hansen, Jennie Mrs.; Irish, H. E.; Jones, Mrs. J. O.; Mondy, Mrs. Lizzie; Myers, Mrs. Lena; Marshall, Edna; 6347, 83 St. (2) Geo. W. Spring, Postmaster.

ANCONA SINKING COST 205 LIVES

New York Woman, One of the Most Prominent Passengers, Supplied Details on Which Wilson's Drastic Note to Austria Was Based—Shots Fired as Persons Left Ship.

The sinking of the Italian steamship Ancona, which brought about a crisis in the diplomatic relations between Austria-Hungary and the United States, occurred on Tuesday, Nov. 9, off the north coast of Africa, near the naval station Bizerta, with the loss of 205 lives. Eleven American citizens were among the victims. They were Alexander Patatino, his wife and four children; Mrs. Francesco Mascolo Lamura, Pasquale Laurino, Mrs. Giuseppe Torrisi, Mrs. Louis Cupo and her three-year-old son. Mrs. Cupo was the wife of a druggist at 94 St. Mary's avenue, Rosebank, Staten Island. She went to Italy in July for her health.

Two other Americans were cabin passengers on the Ancona. They were saved. These were Dr. Cecile L. Grell of New York and Giuseppe Torrisi.

The Ancona, according to the officers and the survivors among the passengers, was attacked without warning about 1:15 p. m. by a big submarine flying the Austrian colors. The first shells were fired from a distance of five miles. The commander of the Ancona stopped his ship immediately, because most of the 425 passengers on board were women and children. The submarine then approached the steamer at full speed, firing from a gun in her bows. One of the shells carried away the chart room on the bridge. In the meantime the passengers were ordered to take to the boats. Panic ensued.

Dr. Grell said that one shell entered the porthole of her cabin, killing the maid as she was getting her papers together to leave the ship.

Many Shots Hit Vessel.

While the boats were being lowered from the deck, filled with women and children, Dr. Grell said, the submarine continued to fire all around the ship, which threw the passengers into greater terror. Many of the shots pierced the hull of the Ancona above the water line. The vessel did not commence to sink until after a torpedo had been fired at her from a distance of 300 yards.

The conduct of the commander of the submarine in firing when helpless women and children were trying to get into the boats alongside the Ancona was incomprehensible, Dr. Grell said. If he had ceased firing for fifteen minutes the officers could have calmed the people, and many more lives could have been saved. As it was, the confusion was so great that three of the lifeboats were overturned before they could get clear of the davits, and the occupants were thrown out and most of them drowned. Eight boats got clear away before the vessel sank.

The Austro-Hungarian admiralty declared on Nov. 14 that the Ancona tried to escape after the submarine had fired a shot across her bows and that she stopped only after several shells had been fired at the ship. The commander of the submarine further asserted that the passengers and crew had forty-five minutes to abandon the vessel and that after that time expired she was torpedoed.

The report that shells were fired while passengers were getting into the boats was denied by the Austrians.

Following dispatches from Ambassador Page in Rome to the state department confirming the report that eleven American citizens had been killed, a note was sent to the Austrian government asking for details. This was delivered to the foreign office in Vienna by Ambassador Penfield on Nov. 22. No reply having been received, the ambassador repeated his request on Dec. 2.

Mission at St. Peters

Rev. Albert Schott of The Redemptorist Order, is preaching a Mission at St. Peter's Church, Lents. The Mission will continue all week. The Rev. Schott has given missions all over the U. S. and is a very forcible speaker.

Announcement

A series of bible lectures is now in progress five doors south of Lents Station, conducted by C. W. Blair, formerly of the Seventh Day Adventist persuasion. Subject for tonight: "The Captives are Free." All are invited.

Self-Sustaining Department

The State Banking Department under Supt. Sargent has taken another step towards becoming self sustaining.

Instead of three examiners in the field it will have two at \$106 a month and office assistant at \$135.

The legislature gives this department \$15,000 for two years but only \$9000 of this will be used.

The bank department collects fees and it is Mr. Sargent's plan to make it self-sustaining after 1916.