

FRENCH AT VERDUN ARE VICTORIOUS

In Sudden Offensive Germans Are Forced Back Two Miles on a Six-Mile Front.

Paris.—As his last act before assuming the chief command of the French armies on the western front, General Nivelle smashed the German line east of the Meuse along a front of six miles. The victory advanced the French positions two miles, and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive. The military authorities describe the victory as complete and crushing, and carried out without a hitch.

Although the Germans offered a desperate defense, the attack was so powerful there was no withstanding it, with the result that the Germans were pushed back along the line by the French, who only ceased on orders when the objectives had been gained.

The number of German prisoners taken, according to the latest counting, is 11,387, including 284 officers. The war material captured or destroyed includes 115 cannons, 44 bomb throwers and 700 machine guns.

The French losses during the attack were unbelievably slight. The German artillery seemed to fire at random, probably disorganized by the absence of German aviators, who were kept in complete subjection by the French aviators.

ROUMANIAN ARMY IS REPORTED SAFE

Paris.—The Roumanian army is now safe, according to news received in Paris, says the Petit Parisien. The paper says that the survivors are now beyond the Sereth river at Jassy and in Bessarabia, where they are being regrouped and refitted for further operations. The entire Roumanian front is now stated to be held by the Russians alone.

After the Bucharest-Ploechti line was lost, the story says, the Russians sent divisions and forces of cavalry to support the retreat of the Roumanian army. King Ferdinand fell back as rapidly as possible, assured of the possibility of reforming behind the shelter of the Russians and continued the withdrawal without halting until the Sereth was crossed.

WALLACHIA IS WON

Berlin Regards Military Operations in Roumania as Terminated.

Berlin, by wireless to Sayville, N. Y.—The following comment on the military situation in Roumania and the Verdun sector of France is given out for publication by the Overseas News Agency:

"Operations in Wallachia can now be considered as terminated. Buzeu, which has now fallen into the hands of the central powers, is the last important railroad point in Wallachia. The allies (Teutonic) now control two-thirds of the Roumanian railroad lines. The Buzeu and Jalomitzza rivers form the second and third strategical lines, in which were secured corn and oil stores.

"The most recent German successes finally have provoked a greater activity on the western front, but the great new attack on the Meuse, launched by the French after strong artillery preparation, cannot modify the general situation. Such offensive thrusts, carried out with all available means are always successful at the beginning."

Greeks Give in to the Allies.

Athens.—The Greek government's reply, accepting demands of the entente allies, is complete compliance with their ultimatum and an expression of the hope for resumption of "traditional relations with the entente nations, based on reciprocal confidence."

Russia Wants War to Go On.

London.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Petrograd says:

"The duma has unanimously passed a resolution against the acceptance of the German peace proposals, after a spirited speech by the minister of foreign affairs."

Will Not Now Attempt to End War.

Rome, via Paris.—Pope Benedict has no intention of attempting to mediate among the belligerents at present, according to a statement issued by the Vatican.

RECESS OF CONGRESS BEGINS SATURDAY

Trouble Encountered Finding Sources of Funds to Finance Government.

Washington.—With a holiday recess planned to begin next Saturday and extend until January 2, congressional leaders do not hope to accomplish anything before adjournment except the passage of a few appropriation bills in the house, and possibly the disposition of the Sheppard prohibition bill for the District of Columbia in the senate.

The judiciary committee's favorable report on the Webb nation-wide prohibition measure probably will be submitted at the end of this week. A rule for consideration of the resolution will not be asked until after the recess.

The federal suffrage amendment resolution has been received by the house, and a rule probably will be asked on it early in January also.

The house ways and means committee is working hard in an endeavor to find funds to finance the government next year, and it has its hands full. Chairman Kitchin says he is at his wits' end to discover new sources of revenue.

Would Spank Railroads and Men.

Reports that railroad and brotherhood heads in peace conferences have planned to propose the repeal of the Adamson act and the substitution of a working agreement of their own making for it, aroused Representative Adamson, author of the law, to declare that congress would "spank" both sides to the controversy if necessary.

Neither labor nor congressional leaders here have official reports as to just what phases of the railway situation the conferees have taken up. Belief is current, however, in congressional circles that the foremost feature of the final agreement will be an interpretation of the Adamson law so satisfactory to both sides that the suit to test the act's constitutionality now before the supreme court may be withdrawn.

Wilson Not to Offer Mediation.

President Wilson decided to forward the central powers' peace notes to the entente allies without any mediation offer by the American government.

The president's determination to have the United States act only as a medium for exchange of the notes between the hostile belligerents was made after a prolonged cabinet meeting.

Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, said after a 10-minute visit with Secretary Lansing:

"We did not discuss peace terms in any way. I have not received any formal terms and the American government knows officially that no formal terms have been proposed. All Germany has suggested is that the belligerents get together and talk."

640-Acre Bill is Passed.

All the disputed points in the Ferris bill to provide 640-acre homesteads, principally for grazing purposes, were smoothed out in conferences between house and senate and the measure goes to the president now for his signature.

The bill has been supported by the interior department and western congressmen as a measure of further opening the public domain.

EMBARGO IS NOT IRONCLAD

Northern Pacific Will Accept Needed Shipments to Eastern Points.

St. Paul.—Although declaring that shipments of grain and lumber from far western points are now under restriction by the Northern Pacific railroad, President Hannaforf denied that an ironclad embargo had been placed on such shipments.

"The Northern Pacific is ready to receive shipments from any point on its line so long as it has assurance that there is an actual demand for the freight, and that it will be unloaded promptly on reaching its destination," he said.

Mr. Hannaforf said that owing to the congestion of cars in the east, shipments from the far west to points beyond the Twin Cities cannot be accepted indiscriminately. He said the Northern Pacific must see that the rolling stock remains on its own lines.

Radium Falls in Cancer.

New York.—After exhaustive tests the use of radium as a cure for cancer and tumors has been found to be a failure, according to the annual report of Dr. Francis Carter Wood, head of the Crocker Cancer Research Fund of Columbia University made public. For cases on which operation is not possible, radium is successful as a palliative only, the report says.

Hughes Named for Bar Presidency.

Albany, N. Y.—Charles E. Hughes has been named for the presidency of the New York State Bar association by the nominating committee of that organization.

HUGO MUNSTERBERG



Hugo Munsterberg, noted German psychologist of Harvard University, who dropped dead while lecturing to students.

FARM CROP VALUES SET NEW RECORDS

Washington.—All records for the value of the country's important farm crops were exceeded this year, despite the smaller size of the crops. Their value was placed at \$7,641,609,000 by the department of agriculture in its final estimates of the year. That is \$1,750,000,000 more than the same crops were worth last year. Higher prices, due partly to reduced production and partly to the demands for American food from the warring nations of Europe were responsible for the vast increase in value.

Four crops each were worth more than \$1,000,000,000. Corn, with a total value of \$2,295,783,000, showed the greatest increase, being worth \$573,103,000 more than last year's output. Cotton, the second most valuable, with a total of \$1,079,598,000, increased \$475,378,000 over last year.

Wheat, the third, was worth \$1,025,765,000, or \$83,462,000 over the year before, when the production was almost 400,000,000 bushels more.

CROPS TO GET OLD RATES

New Eastbound Tariff Suspended Until Western Products Are Marketed.

Washington.—The Pacific coast's entire season's output of dried fruits, canned goods, wine, beans, barley and other foods will move east under prevailing freight rates, notwithstanding authority given to the railroads to advance them 10 cents per 100 pounds. Such a decision has been reached voluntarily by the transcontinental railroads and communicated to the interstate commerce commission.

The new freight rates, which were to go into effect December 30, will be suspended by the railroads' own action till March 1 next. By that time, it is thought, the entire product of the orchards, vineyards and truck farms of California, Oregon and Washington for 1918 will have been delivered in eastern markets.

Railways and Men Seek Settlement.

Evansville, Ind.—W. G. Lee, of Cleveland, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, publicly announced here that negotiations are under way between the leaders of the brotherhoods and those higher up in the chambers of the operating departments of the railroads, looking to a settlement of their entire controversy out of court before January 1, when the Adamson law is scheduled to go into effect.

Woolmen Oppose High Grazing Fee.

Heppner, Or.—Strong opposition to the proposed 100 per cent increase in the grazing fees on national forests was one of the principal actions of the Oregon Wool Growers' association at its 19th annual convention.

Pershing to Be Promoted.

Washington.—Brigadier-General J. J. Pershing, commanding the American expeditionary force in Mexico, has been nominated to be a major-general.

THE MARKETS.

Portland. Wheat—Club \$1.36; bluestem \$1.40; red Russian, \$1.32; forty-fold, \$1.36. Barley—No. 1 feed, \$26 per ton. Hay—Timothy, \$21 per ton; alfalfa, \$18. Butter—Creamery, 34c. Eggs—Ranch, 35c. Wool—Eastern Oregon, 36c; valley, 35c. Hops—1918 crop, 6@10 1/2.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem \$1.42; club \$1.38; forty-fold, \$1.38; red Russian, \$1.35; fife, \$1.38; turkey red, \$1.42. Barley—\$26 per ton. Butter—Creamery, 39c. Eggs—36c.

A New Year's Allegory

A CROSS the snowbound earth the New Year stepped buoyantly. A splendid youth he was, with radiant eyes, full red lips and the star of hope set above his brows.

Life called to him, called with a thousand eager voices, and he smiled as he listened, remembering that for a whole year the world and the men thereon were his.

Far away under the frozen sky a blaze of light shone like a jewel, and he quickened his steps as he turned toward the city.

And, though the lights shone boldly when he entered it, most of the streets were empty. Only a few men were about, and as the wind whirled at corners they ran for shelter.

In one of the streets the New Year met a woman. A dark veil fluttered around her, so that he could not distinguish her form, but her face was very sweet as she bent and clasped a child to her heart. The New Year gave her greeting.

"You are Charity, I know," he said. Charity laid her hand in his and smiled. And for all his youth, her smile set him dreaming of green woods and golden sunshine, of vague, sweet things that were still unknown to him. Indeed, so deeply did he dream that as he walked he collided with another woman.

Another woman! A glittering gas moth this, with a pert, powdered face, curvilinear lips and hard bright eyes.

"All hail!" she cried mockingly. "I shall be your constant companion, for I am Sin, and where men are there you will always find me."

The New Year shrank back, and his face darkened. But Sin pressed close to him, laughed loudly, and tearing a rose from those at her breast, tossed it to him, as with a rustle of silk she passed on. The rose fell on the snow powdered walk, and when the New Year would have picked it up, lo, it was scentless, and as its crimson petals fell asunder he saw that a worm was hid in its heart.

Another form came in sight—in the garb of a monk with a dark hood about his head, and his eyes were upon the tranquil face. His eyes were upon the monk, and his lips moved in prayer for all mankind. So tender and pitiful was his face that even before he cried, "Misereere Domine!" the New Year guessed that his name was Mercy.

Very cold it grew as the New Year turned into a mean street, so cold that he sought refuge in the porch of a darkened house. Yet there prevailed such a grateful warmth that he pressed back to learn its cause and so brushed against a boy—a boy with a wan, beautiful face, tangled hair and rapt eyes. Shabby, desolate and tired he looked, yet the New Year was wonderfully attracted to him.

"Why are you here alone?" he asked. "I am never alone," corrected the boy, and he stepped aside so that the New Year caught the fragrance of his breath and saw that two great wings were furled behind him, and in the shadow of his wings an old man and an old woman crouched together. How tired, how poor, they looked! But an expression of ineffable tenderness shone on their pinched faces as they lay, white head against white head, chilled breast against chilled breast.

"I am all they have," whispered Love as tears filled his wonderful eyes. "They have never failed me, and I shall stay with them until the end."

"I am the End!" called another voice, and a grim figure mounted the steps. "Not yet," begged Love, and he tried to bar the stranger's way. But at sight of the scythe the other bore Love's great wings drooped.

"Mine is the best gift of all," whispered the newcomer as he bent over the forlorn couple.

Silently the New Year walked alone with the night and the stars and the scurrying snow. And as he hurried on the darkness faded into the eerie pallor of dawn. He stretched out his arms and welcomed his first day.

"Charity, Sin, Mercy, Love and Death," he cried—"all mine! How shall I choose from among you?"

A shadow fell across him; there was a sound as of wings beating the air and Love, rosy, triumphant and eternal, caught his hands. "Let me go with you all your days," he pleaded. "For mine is the gift which sweetens Charity, vanquishes Sin, glorifies Mercy and fears not Death."

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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week. Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

F. C. Marley has been elected as Mayor of Astoria.

The new concrete bridge at Independence has been opened for traffic. It cost O. A. C. \$295 per football man to maintain a team in the season just passed.

The Oregon Woolgrowers' association met at Heppner for the nineteenth annual session.

Dice games, punch boards, raffles and card games for trade checks are under fire in Pendleton.

Indications are that there will be but little road-building in Polk county during the coming season.

The report of county superintendent W. L. Jackson shows that Linn county has 8052 children of school age.

Wild dogs, or tame dogs running wild, have killed 50 sheep belonging to F. A. Stewart, near Roseburg.

The Northern Pacific Brewing plant, at Astoria, has been purchased and will be converted into a milk condenser.

The first of the Willamette Valley interscholastic debates will be held on Friday evening, December 22 at Lebanon.

Twohy Bros., of Portland, have received an initial contract to build 200 freight cars for the Union Pacific railway system.

The National Mohair Growers association, in sixth annual convention at Galveston elected U. S. Grant, Dallas, Or., president.

Rev. O. H. Holmes, of Forest Grove, has tendered his resignation to Governor Withycombe as a member of the state parole board.

In a duel in which at least eight shots were fired, Salvatore Amato was killed by his brother, Frank, in the latter's home in Portland.

Total resources of all the banks in the state of Oregon on November 17 last were \$204,355,342.51, an increase as compared with November 10, 1915, of \$39,884,215.37.

Farmers of southern Klamath county are beginning a strenuous campaign towards the extermination of jack-rabbits, which are becoming a serious pest in that section.

The contract was let last week for the erection of the government coast guard building at the mouth of the Siuslaw river near Florence, to H. R. Kibler of Portland. His bid was \$8589.

W. D. Barnes of Tumalo, A. L. Mackintosh of Bend and L. E. Smith of Redmond have been appointed as members of the county court of Deschutes county, created at the November election.

So great has been the demand for flour in Grant county that the Prairie City mill has been running 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is so far behind orders that a second mill will be opened at John Day.

The Klamath irrigation project stands second in the list of 23 government projects now in operation for its cash value returns in crops this year, according to the annual report of Secretary Franklin K. Lane.

The total assessed valuation of the state for this year, including property assessed by county assessors and that assessed by the state tax commission is \$878,753,944.71, as compared to \$934,495,032.25 for last year.

One fatal accident was reported to the industrial accident commission during the past week, this being Fred Coombs, a box factory worker, of Klamath Falls. A total of 307 accidents were reported for the week.

Steps to organize a Willamette Valley Corn association with eight counties represented, was a feature of the closing of the Marion county corn show and the exhibit of the Marion County Potato Growers' association at Salem.

The Eugene chamber of commerce has sent F. Small, a San Francisco manufacturer, samples of flax grown in Lane county for the purpose of testing it in the manufacture of fishermen's twine. This twine is now selling for \$2.25 a pound.

The state tax levy for 1917 will be \$2,599,250. These figures were arrived at by the State Tax commission by taking the last years tax levy, arbitrarily adding 6 per cent to it, and leaving it up to the legislature to keep within the amount designated.

The famed MacRae ranch of 8000 acres in Grant county, known as one of the most efficiently conducted cattle ranches in the west, has been sold by its owner, Mrs. Lillian MacRae, to C. P. Ragsdale of Joseph. The price was \$200,000 and the deal was cash.

Percy Cupper, assistant state engineer, has sent letters to the secretaries of the 17 irrigation districts of the state suggesting that the districts form an association in connection with the Oregon Irrigation congress to promote the interests of irrigation generally and of the districts in particular.

Members of the Hood River commercial club unanimously endorse a proposed tax of \$1 a horsepower on automobiles. The club further recommends that the fund so raised be used toward matching federal appropriations for state road work under the Schakelford road bill.

In a report issued by State Labor Commissioner O. P. Hoff, he states that capital of \$23,619,902 is invested in plants and equipment in the timber industry of the state, this being exclusive of timber holdings and working capital, including only buildings, machinery and other equipment.

Senator Chamberlain has been formally notified by the secretary of war that, after referring the matter to the local military authorities, it has been decided to be highly inadvisable to return for muster out battery A, artillery, and troop A, cavalry, of the Oregon national guard, as there are no troops available to replace them.

In its closing sessions at Hood River the 31st annual convention of the Oregon State Horticultural society went on record as decidedly opposed to proposals that have been advanced at different northwestern fruit centers to lower the standard of grading rules. A resolution adopted recommended that the strict rules that have heretofore prevailed be maintained.

Although the army engineers have not yet sent to Congress the report called for last session on the advisability of further improving the entrance to Yaquina bay, Representative Hawley has received unofficial notification that the local engineers have recommended an appropriation of \$485,000, half to be appropriated by congress and half by the local community.

Figures furnished from the records indicate that the taxpayers of the of a number of counties over the state different counties have been required to pay an average of more than \$3000 a year per county, beginning with 1911, for the publication of the delinquent tax lists.

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For a consideration reported in the neighborhood of 125,000, the entire sheep plant of the J. E. Smith Livestock company, at Barnhart has been sold to A. K. Smythe, of Portland, and Dan P. Smythe, of Pendleton, members of the firm of Smythe Bros., who already own plants at Arlington. By this deal the Smythes become the largest breeders in the northwest.

Three thousand acres of raw land in the west end of Umatilla county will be brought under irrigation and cultivation next season according to L. A. Rineaman, county watermaster. The land consists of 1000 acres under the Furnish project, 1000 acres under the Western Land and Irrigation project, 500 acres under the Umatilla project and 500 acres under the west extension.

A larger and more complete normal school is the programme of the Oregon normal at Monmouth, which is planning on a big expansion in training school activities, the beginning of regular extension work, larger dormitory space, an addition to the main building, and minor campus improvements, to be embodied in a bill for an appropriation for \$86,000 when the legislature meets.

Although Secretary of State Otcott urged cancellation of a contract, whereby Jason Moore is to be allowed to remove salts from Sumner and Abert lakes, in Lake county, the state land board has refused to take that action and the matter remains in status quo. The question of the lease and contract on the lakes has been hanging fire since 1914 and six extensions of time have been granted.

Announcement of plans for the construction of a three-story, 80 by 250 feet, reinforced concrete addition to the plant of the Oregon City Manufacturing company at Oregon City, and the complete re-arrangement of the plant—improvements which will increase the capacity of the mill 50 per cent and make it the largest woolen mill west of the Mississippi river—was made by Adolph Jacobs, president of the company.

With the money in the state school fund piling up and loans being paid up practically twice as fast as the money is loaned out, the state land board has decided to increase the amount allowed to be loaned from the school fund to any individual from \$2500 to \$5000. At the same time it was tentatively decided that the board will ask the next legislature to reduce the interest on school fund loans from six per cent to five per cent.

The board of directors of the Portland schools will ask the legislature through a bill already drafted and ready for submission, to untie its hands in the management and administration of the public schools of the city by giving the board authority to transfer teachers from place to place as occasion requires; to discontinue the services of women teachers marrying while in the service; to dismiss teachers without the right of appeal after a hearing at which neither the board nor the teacher shall be represented by counsel. The bill also lengthens the probationary period prior to definite tenure of office from two to four years.