

CROOK COUNTY JOURNAL

BY GUY LAFOLLETTE

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WOODROW WILSON AGAIN

But little has been said comparatively about the inauguration of President Wilson for his second term.

The nation has been busy caring for the immense business which its people in almost every line are enjoying, and the official life at Washington has been crowded to its utmost in meeting the different foreign complications as they have arisen.

It has now been four months since the people decided that Wilson was a safe man to rule the destinies of the nation in its most difficult conditions, and since that time the people who were proclaiming that the country would go on the rocks before Christmas have had their theories blasted, and their arguments have vanished into thin air.

The most powerful men in the nation, the greatest publications on earth, many of which are of the Republican faith, are strong in their support of the president.

He is the president of all the people, and no one can doubt his desire to care for the destinies of the nation as they should be.

We believe that he has faced and successfully passed more critical conditions during the past four years than all the presidents up to the time of his first inauguration, and it is to be hoped that the ensuing term will be as successful in this regard.

ABOUT TAXATION

On two recent occasions, County Commissioner J. F. Blanchard has expressed himself publicly in positive terms that the assessed valuations in Crook County are about 25 per cent of the actual cash values, and that large numbers of livestock and notes that are held by people who make a business of loaning are not being taxed at all.

We believe, from the statements made by Mr. Blanchard, that he knows what he is talking about, and that if this condition actually exists, a great injustice is being done to the class of people who have small amounts of property.

The man who has a homestead and a few head of livestock is usually honest enough to give every particle of his property in when the assessor or his deputy calls, and to him falls the lot of paying an un-

just share of the burden that should be carried by the fellow who has thousands of acres of land, large herds of livestock, and money loaned to his neighbors.

The statement that valuations are far less than they should be is worthy of consideration, and will be looked into by a committee from the Commercial Club, who will cooperate with the county court and assessor in an attempt to adjust the matter as it should be, without any injustice to anyone.

It has been considered good business to assess a piece of land at a fraction of its real value, but there are a number of reasons why that is no longer true, and local valuations, like many other issues, should be adjusted to the new condition.

The problem of compelling an individual to give the assessor a complete list of his holdings is an old one, but the facts are that a law exists whereby the man who fails to do this can be punished as he no doubt should be.

This is not a matter in which the assessor is at fault, but rather a condition in which he needs the moral support of citizens, and just at this season, such assistance is extremely appropriate.

We think that Mr. Blanchard is right on this matter of taxation, and that through the correction of this evil a number of helpful changes will result.

There is no branch of the stock business that is so irregularly supported as the raising of hogs. There are less hogs in this part of the state just now than for many years, and from the prices quoted it would seem that this general condition prevails over much of the northwest. The high prices of grain discourage the industry, but a few good hogs are profitable on every farm.

During the next thirty days spring will be upon us. Now is a good time to secure the seed and have it properly cleaned for planting, and to plan the work for the big spring drive.

Remember, the Prineville country leads the west in the quality of cattle produced, and the quantity is rapidly increasing.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Art Shop

Has moved back to its old stand between First and Second Streets where it will continue as before with the addition of a

Needlecraft Department

We have in stock

Royal Society Crochet Cotton

and package goods. This line will soon be enlarged. Call and see our line.

THE ART SHOP

F. E. LAFLER, Prop.

The Journal is only \$1.50 a year.

ZIMMERMAN ADMITS PLOT AGAINST U. S.

Berlin, via Sayville wireless.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann justified Germany's action in seeking to ally Mexico and Japan against the United States.

Such a course, he said, was merely a defensive measure—not to be carried out except in case the United States declared war on Germany. Moreover, he said, it was no more a "plot" than the "plot" which was reported in South American newspapers as having been undertaken against Germany by the United States when America sought, according to South American and other newspaper reports, to line up the American republics in common action against Germany. The foreign secretary commented on America's proly sympathies. He refrained from admitting specifically his authorship of the letter to Minister Eckhardt at Mexico City and his entire discussion of the matter was, he was careful to state, based on "English reports" of the "German plot to get Mexico to declare war against the United States and to secure Japan's aid against the United States."

VILLA THOUGHT ELIMINATED

State Department Informed British Chief's Forces Are Scattered.

Washington.—Practical elimination of Francisco Villa as a factor in the Mexican situation has been reported to the state department. An American consul is authority for the statement that Villa is practically eliminated because of his physical condition. General Murguía, Carranza commander, was quoted by another American official to the same effect.

The belief is expressed that the Villa forces have been pretty well dispersed and that the question of peaceful conditions in northern Mexico has largely resolved itself into one of policing.

Austrian Chief of Staff is Dismissed.

London.—Emperor Charles of Austria has dismissed Field Marshal Conrad von Hoetzendorf, Austrian chief of staff, according to a Vienna dispatch to Reuter's by way of Amsterdam. Baron Strauzenberg succeeds Von Hoetzendorf.

Bernstorff to Have Seat in Reichstag.

Amsterdam, via London.—Count von Bernstorff, former German ambassador to the United States, has been nominated as a candidate for the reichstag in place of the late Herr von Neiding, according to the Telegraph.

25 Americans on Laconia.

Washington.—All the evidence on the Laconia's destruction now compiled at the state department shows that 25 Americans were put in jeopardy of their lives by the German submarine. Three were killed.

Germany Takes Church Bells.

Copenhagen, via London.—An order appropriating bronze church bells for war requirements after March 1 is published in the German press.

GIANT SNOWSLIDE IS FATAL

Fifteen Were Killed and Many Injured in Idaho Mining District.

Boise, Idaho.—Fifteen men were killed and 15 injured when a giant snow slide destroyed the bunk house, compressor house and warehouse of the North Star mine, 12 miles northeast of Halley, Idaho.

Work of searching the wrecked buildings for the remaining bodies was delayed because of the imminent danger of bringing down a slide from the opposite side of the gulch.

The injured men were brought to Gimlet station in sleighs and from there were taken to Halley on the train.

Borah Wants Six Millions for Food.

Washington.—Appropriation of \$6,000,000 for federal relief in the present food situation and future investigation to devise better marketing and distribution methods was proposed in a resolution introduced by Senator Borah, of Idaho. Action upon the resolution was deferred.

Spuds Rise \$1 a Mile.

Gaston, Or.—Oregon potatoes increase in value at the rate of \$1 a mile as they travel east. A car of 655 sacks standing on the track here is worth \$2500. When it reaches the New York market, its value rises to \$6000.

Churches Make Big Membership Gain

New York.—The net increase in 1916 in church members in the United States was 747,000, a gain of 204,000 over the increase for 1915, according to figures made public here.

Panama Would Help Guard Canal.

Panama.—The national assembly of Panama adopted unanimously a resolution expressing sympathy with the United States and a desire to cooperate in the defense of the canal zone.

Use Better Flour! The price you pay for flour does not assure you the satisfaction you should demand. You are entitled to the most loaves of the best quality and delicious flavor Standard Flour guarantees just that. Satisfaction or your money refunded PRINEVILLE FLOUR MILLS

STATEMENT ISSUED TO COUNTRY BY WILSON

Washington.—President Wilson informed the country in a statement that he may be without power to arm merchant ships and take other steps to meet the German submarine menace, in the absence of authority from congress.

An extra session of congress, the president says, is required to clothe him with authority, but it is useless to call one while the senate works under the present rules which permit a small minority to keep an overwhelming majority from acting.

The president proposes therefore, that the special session of the senate, which he called to meet Monday, revise the rules, "to supply the means of action and save the country from disaster."

"A little group of wilful men," says the president in his statement, "representing no opinion but their own, have rendered the great government of the United States helpless and contemptible."

BRIEF WAR NEWS

In the Tigris region, the British in quest of Bagdad, are following up the Turks recently driven out of Kut-of-Amara.

Hamadan, in Persia, 240 miles northeast of Bagdad, the goal of the present advance in Mesopotamia, has been captured by the Russians.

No notable changes in positions have taken place in either the Austro-Italian or Macedonian theaters, where small engagements and artillery duels continue to prevail.

In a raid on Russian lines west of Lutsk, Volhynia, which were penetrated nearly a mile, Berlin says the Germans destroyed the Russian works and took 122 prisoners.

British troops maintain their daily progress against the German lines on the Ancre front in France. The capture of Gommecourt was followed by the driving of the British line 1000 yards northeast of that place.

Figures vouched for in London show that German submarines destroyed 490,000 tons of merchant shipping in February. This figure is less than half the 1,000,000 tons which Berlin has contended would result from unrestricted submarine warfare.

Plot Revelation Due to Guardsmen.

Houston, Texas.—Four men, one non-commissioned officer and three privates of the First Indiana Infantry, and not secret service operatives of the government, arrested the messenger of Ambassador von Bernstorff, en route to Mexico to deliver the plotting note of Alfred Zimmerman to the German Ambassador at Mexico City.

This was learned from two men who participated and were members of the border patrol. Their story was substantiated by officers of the United States army.

Roosevelt Won't Talk With Bryan.

New York.—Theodore Roosevelt has declined an invitation of representatives of the Congress of Forums to debate the subject of preparedness in this city with William Jennings Bryan. Mr. Bryan, it was explained, had accepted the invitation.

In the heart of the city The Portland Hotel Invites the citizens of the empire east of the Cascades to sojourn under its hospitable roof whenever they visit the City of Roses. Generous in size and superior in environment The Portland offers to its guests every luxury and convenience. European Plan \$1.50 and Upwards Richard W. Childs Manager

Munz Hardware of REDMOND, OREGON Invites your inquiries for anything in the hardware and implement line. We carry the most complete stock in Central Oregon. Orders Filled Same Day as Received. Try Our Parcel Post Service Our Motto Best Quality, Lowest Price Prompt Service

New Sleeping Car Service via OREGON TRUNK RY. Central Oregon Line A Standard Pullman Sleeping Car is now operated between Portland and Central Oregon points as follows Lv. Central Oregon Monday, Wednesday, Friday Lv. Portland Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday This is in addition to the Daily Tourist Sleeping Car Service which is continued BOTH SLEEPING CARS are handled from Portland on North Bank Limited No. 2, leaving at 7:10 p. m. instead of on Local Train No. 8 as formerly, leaving at 6 p. m., arrive Bend 7:20 p. m. Call on or address agents J. T. HARDY Trav. Frt. & Pass. Agt. Portland 1764 R. R. CROZIER Asst. Gen. Pass. Agent

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