BUILDING OF WOOD SHIPS WILL GO ON

Bowles Promises More Coast Contracts.

Steel Construction Has Precedence With Government.

MONEY ADVANCED TO YARDS Auditorium Hotel last night.

Southern Mills Fell Down, Forcing Board to Go to Coast for Materials.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-Ington, Dec. 28 .- "We shall continue to contract for the construction of wood ships on the Pacific Coast, provided their construction does not interfere with the building of steel ships. Precedence, however, will be given to steel

This was the testimony of Admiral Bowles before the Senate commerce ommittee today, given to correct an easily as the human flag-pole. impression formed from his testimony of yesterday which has been construed to wood ships. He went further today and voiced a desire to build more woodwherever they can be turned out rap-

In response to questions by Senator Admiral Bowles produced a tistics section. statement showing that the Shipping Board had advanced money to three new shipyards on the Pacific Coast to assist them in establishing and equip-ping their yards to handle Government contracts. To the Grant Smith-Porter-Guthrie Company \$344,953 had been advanced on their yard at St. Johns, and Hood River Austrian Says He Would \$32,567 for their yard at Aberdeen, and \$345,427 had been advanced Sanderson & Porter to aid them with their yard on Willapa Harbor.

Reimbursement Provided For.

Other than these three instances, the to new yards established on the Pacific Coast. These advances, it was explained, would be deducted from the contract price to be paid the yards for vessels they are building on Government account

Admiral Bowles also said that con-tracts for four wooden hulls had been

Incident to the Admiral's testimony ber mills had fallen down on their contracts, and made it necessary for for big keel and framing timbers to yards.

Admiral Bowles said Southern yards notwithstanding their failure, had twice advanced the price of ship lumber, once from \$35 to \$40 per thousand and again to a higher figure, which he could not give. Independent contracts with the Shipping Board at \$50 per thousand, saying they could Blanchfield. get that much out of lumber sold to the War Department for cantonments. etc. Admiral Bowles refused to pay (Concluded on Page 3, Column 5.)

STRIDES ARE MADE BY MINING INDUSTRY IN OREGON.

Oregon's mineral resources are playing an important part in the world conflict. Iron, copper, gold, silver, lead, zinc, nickel, tin, tungsten, chronium, antimony, molybdenum, platinum, manganese and quicksilver are the war metals and never before has the industry been called upon to produce them in such enormous quantities. Almost without exception these metals are found in Oregon and many of them are being produced on an extensive scale.

The mineral output of Oregon has nearly tripled since the war began, the total production of the past year amounting in value to about \$4,000,000. A much greater expansion of the industry will follow next year. Mining in Oregon now is conducted along practical lines and offers excellent opportunities for capital and the highest type of executive ability and scientific skill.

The story of Oregon's mining progress will be among the special features presented in the annual edition of The Oregonian, which will appear next Tuesday, January 1, 1918.

SUMNER WEDDING SET FOR JANUARY

BISHOP OF OREGON TO BE MAR-

Miss Myrtle Mitchell, of Negaunce, Mich., Bride-to-Be-Churchman Is Honored at Banquet.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28 .- (Special.) -The Right Rev. Walter T. Sumner, Episcopal bishop of Oregon, and Miss Myr-SPEEDY WORK IS ESSENTIAL CODAL Mitchell, of Negaunee, Mich., will GERMANY'S OFFER ANSWERED e married on New Year's day. During the week Bishop Sumner is visiting in Newtown and renewing friendships made during his tenure of the deanship Vital Nature of Allies' War of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Miss Mitchell will arrive in town on Monday. She will stop at the Blackstone.

The annual Christmas banquet of the Forty Club of Chicago was held in the Guests of the evening were Bishop Walter Taylor Sumner, bishop of Ore gon; Captain W. A. Moffett, command ant of the Great Lakes naval training station, and Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Merrimac fame.

Bishop Sumner was presented with solid silver breakfast service, the club's wedding gift.

HOW DEEP IS A TRENCH?

Unless It's a-Plenty, Two-Thirds of This Professor May Show.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 28 .- (Special.)-If Professor John Ashton's sworn statement is to be believed by the local exemption board, that worthy registrant, who is a school teacher at Cascade Locks, should qualify very

Mr. Ashton makes the statement in his questionnaire that he is nine feet as indicating his unqualified hostility and six inches tall and weighs 123 pounds. The statement gave the mem bers of the board the surprise of their en ships suitable for ocean service busy lives as they perused Ashton's wherever they can be turned out rapblack and white, however, inches", according to the physical sta-

Ashton was formerly a Clackamas County boy and originally registered in this county.

ALIEN IS SELF-CONVICTED

Fight for Native Land.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 28 .- (Special.)-As a result of his reply to a questionnaire, John Wostl, native and but it insisted that restitution and repcitizen of Austria, will likely be interned. Wostl says in his question-naire that he would, if he were able, fight with the armies of his native country.

The local exemption board reports that-Buestionnaires are slow in being returned. Having failed to return their answers within the time limit of seven days, the names of the following mer awarded the Grays Harbor Motor Com- have been advanced to the first class pany since the first list of awards was under the next draft: Lindley Charles Wilton, Orlando Bendenilli, Elvis Kersten, Tony Beneditti, Milward Crosby today, further interesting facts were Tane Kosaka, Samuel H. Douglass developed showing how Southern lum- Richard Paul Strahl and Henry Schultz

the board to go to the Pacific Coast GERMAN NAME IS DISLIKED

used in Atlantic and Guif ship- American Citizen Wants to Shed Germs With Country.

"John Otto Blankenfeld" is a name of undoubted Germanic origin, and be sides, it's a hard name to remember declares its possessor in a petition filed Southern mills had undertaken to make yesterday in the County Court asking that his name be changed to John Otto

The petitioner asserts he was born in Germany but took out his final citizenship papers five years ago and is now an American in every sense of the word. As his final step in renouncing his fatherland, he now desires to eliminate all the "germs" from his German name and adopt the name more suited to the tastes and needs of his adopted

The netition will come up for hear ing later before Judge Tazwell.

HIGH COST HITS HONOLULU Bananas Jump to Unheard of Price

of Cent Apiece. HONOLULU, T. H., Dec. 16 .- (Spe-

cial.)-Like every other spot on the globe, Honolulu is beginning to experice the pinch and the cost c. living is rising rapidly. Up to a few months ago bananas

could be purchased for 5 cents a bunch; a bunch consisting of abo . two dozen bananas. During the past week bananas have risen to the unheard-of price of 25 cents a bunch and the territorial food commission is investigating this fact because apparently there, there are thousands of bananas rotting in local warehouses for lack of cargo space to ship them to the mainland.

\$36,450,382 SUIT FILED

Equitable Trust Company Wants to Recover Money From Rallway.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28 .- A suit against he Denver & Rio Grande Raftway Com pany for the collection of \$36,450.82 was filed in the Superior Court today on behalf of the Equitable Trust Com-

pany of New York. The action, according to attorneys for the trust company, is the result of a judgment obtained in the United States District Court of New York, against the railway and is for the sum which still remains unpaid. Four Chicaro banks have been served with writs of attachments for any funds they may have belonging to the railway.

Mankind's Freedom and Peace at Stake.

Purposes Outlined.

MILITARISM TO DISAPPEAR

Significant Declaration of British Attitude Made in Letter Written by Premier to Special National Labor Conference.

LONDON, Dec. 28 .- Premier Lloyd ence, declared:

"Achievement of the purposes for which the allies are fighting is essential to the faure freedom and peace of mankind."

The Premier also asserted that a statement on war aims could be made only in agreement with Great Britain's allies. The question of issuing a fresh joint declaration, he added, was being allied governments. The Premier's statement is regarded

peace offer. The labor conference was convened here today by the parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress and the executive of the labor party consider a "memorandum on war aims."

A pronunciamento was adopted, with a virtually unanimous show of hands, declaring that in continuing the war lapor is actuated by a determination to make the world safe for democracy Sympathy for Conquest Lucking. No sympany was expressed in the

text of the statement with attempts to convert the war into one of conquest aration, also certain territorial readjustments are necessary if the renewal of armaments and war is to be avoided. Adoption of the memorandum is considered especially significant in view

of the peace negotiations between Germany and Russia. a demand for the restoration and rehabilitation of Belgium at the expense of Germany. It also dealt with Albace Lorraine, Italy, the Balkans, Poland, Turkey and German Africa colonies of

lines similar to those suggested in earlier documents on these subjects. Main Features Intact. The original memorandum was disussed and adopted early in August at a special conference of the labor party and was a sequel to the abortive Stock holm conference of last Summer.

terms have since been considerably amended by various sub-committees, but the main features had been re-tained in the memorandum discussed

Following the formal opening of the conference, a letter from David Lloyd (Concluded on Page 3, Column 2.)

WIDOW GIVES EIGHT BOYS TO COUNTRY

BELTS, PILOT ROCK, ENLISTS.

Three Patriots Are in Navy, Two in Infantry and Three Are on Trial for Aviation.

Mrs. Henry Belts, a widow of pilot Rock, Umatilla County, has given her eighth and dast son to the service of her country. This record, which is not believed to be duplicated in the United States, was completed yesterday when Clyde Belts enlisted for the Aviation lorps and was sent to Vancouver Barracks.

United States Marshal Alexander was eated in a downtown barber shop yesterday when a stalwart young man, wearing a broad-brimmed sombrero unmistakably fixing Eastern Oregon as his residence, entered.

"Hello, are you here to enlist?" cas-ually inquired the Marshal, who saw the young man within the draft age and who always is on the alert for the

"No, I have already enlisted," replied young Belts. "My other seven brothers have joined one branch or the other of the service and I thought it was about time for me to be going, too.' the service were John, Frank, William

Clay, Wilfred, Francis and George Three went into the Navy, two enlisted George, in a letter which he sent today in the infantry service and the other to the special national labor confertwo, with Clyde, have applied for duty

ZEPPS USED IN SPYING

Norwegians See German Airship Signaling Off Coast.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- Use of Zepconstantly kept in view by the entents pelins in connection with the German spy system in neutral countries, as well as for surveying navigation for the trebly important, as it involves the as the British reply to the German benefit of submarines is described in return of a million and a half German an official dispatch received today from France.

The message tells particularly of how the inhabitants of Mandal, a small port on the Norwegian coast, obin the central hall at Westminster to served a Zeppelin sailing low and signaling, apparently to persons in the

BABY JIM" SIMONS DEAD Heaviest Man in World for Years

Circus Side Show Sight.

PHILADELPHIA. Dec. 28 .- "Baby | Jim" Simons, colored, said to be the today. He weighed 800 pounds and for imalists must be considered and han-years had been one of the sights of heaviest man in the world, died here years had been one of the sights of circus side-shows. He was 37 years old and is survived by a widow and two small children.

"The chaos is most evident in the manufactories and railway shops, where the workmen's and soldier's del-

two small children. transportation it was necessary to charter an entire freight car.

Pendleton Mills Asked by Govern ment to Increase Output.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 28 .- (Special.) The Pendleton Woolen Mills Company has received a request for an increase of their output of Government blan- dustries are operating at only kets. At present the Government con-At present the Government contract is being handled at the Washougal

Allies Urged Not to Abandon Russia.

COUNTRY IN CHAOTIC STATE

German Cunning Works Ceaselessly to Wreck Nation.

American Railway Commissioner to Russia Now in Japan, Points Out Vital Need of Entente Giving Support to Slavs.

TOKIO, Dec. 27 .- John F. Stevens, chief American rallway commissioner to Russia, arrived at Nagasaki on December 19 from Vladivostok with 320 nembers of his staff.

In a statement to the Associated Press, Mr. Stevens said he expected oon to return to Russia to assist in the reorganization of Russian rail communication. He denied the report that he was returning to America. Mr. Stevens regards the Russian situation as one of the most important in the

"The Russian situation," he said, "is and Austrian effectives and gives unlimited possibilites to the German organzation of Russia's resources and wireless tonight to locate an Army

Country Without Rule. Russia at the present presents

completely chaotic condition, permeated by the most clever German propaganda. Nevertheless, I believe the better judgment of the mass of the people will be asserted and Germany will not succeed in forcing a separate peace, Such a peace cannot be concluded if the allies promptly give their help and sug-

The Maximalists now in control ar much stronger than generally credited. In any future reorganization the Max-

The body will be taken to the former egates are in absolute control. They home of Simons in Texas. For its work or not, as they please, and every-Women are doing much of the work in the shops, along the railway tracks and in the fields, and even acting as MORE BLANKETS WANTED brakemen. Where one woman is working 500 men are loafing ..

Soldiers Add to Chaos. "A hundred thousand soldiers are crowding the stations, attempting the management of the trains and porting themselves on a small daily allowance to which they add by thievery and smuggling. "The railways and all other in-

plentiful, but is not being distributed. ing of Government goods.

This will mean a curtailment of the usual output of civilian goods for both mills are now working to capacity.

Stock of wheat and other staples, but refuse to sell because the ruble has greatly depreciated in value or is regarded by them with suspicion.

"The government evidently is

BLIZZARD LASHES ALL MIDDLE WEST

TEMPERATURE 50 DEGREES BE LOW AT SOME POINTS

Snow Falls Over Wide Area; Thirtyfour Mile Gale Sweeping Eastward Will Chill Ohio Valley.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28 .- (Special.)-Winter played a return engagement in and around Chicago today, riding into this territory on a fierce blizzard. The temerature moderated somewhat tonight

out intense cold is coming. Predictions are for 5 degrees below ero by morning, perhaps lower. Minnesota points reposted 50 degrees below zero tonight and the mercury

vas dropping. Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, the Dakotas and states farther west and northwest all reported very cold weather. The zero wave was riding on a

rate of 34 miles an hour.

This means that the Ohio Valley dis rict will be served with a fine brand of frigidity by Sunday morning, and the Eastern states will feel its force by Sunday night or Sunday morning. Heavy snow fell in and around Chi ago during the early morning hours Advices from the Northwest and Western points, from the Indiana line to the Rocky Mountains, show that much now has fallen over a wide area.

Southern United States will not feel the ard effects of the present storm. Considerable apprehension is over the scanty supply of fuel here and in adjacent states, but the authorities believe there will be enough, if properly distributed, to stand the siege.

Dispatches tonight indicate that

San Antonio Gas Bag With 7 Flyers

Believed to Be in Mexico.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Dec. 28.-Offi- Treasury Department two hours later cials of the Army balloon school here under instructions to continue their were making efforts by telegraph and balloon commanded by Captain McCul- general. lough and carrying six student aviators, which left here at midnight last

night Another balloon, leaving at the same lime, commanded by Captain Cole and also carrying six students, landed 80 miles from Fort McIntosh late this afternoon. The missing balloon, officials believe, has been forced to land in

FRENCH LOAN IS EXCEEDED

Francs Above 10-Billion Mark.

francs asked for in the third war loan director-general decides that a better has been exceeded, according to a state- system can be devised. ment made in the Chamber of Deputie today by M. Klotz, the Minister of Fi- most expeditious routes opens the way

nance M. Klotz said that the returns for fore, the loan were still incomplete, but that right to route his freight and leaves the subscriptions, not including those from abroad, aggregated 10,276,000,000 manager.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature 62 degrees; minimum, 59 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain; fresh southeasterly winds. War. Hoquiam editor tells of seeing Verdun. Page 4. Republic proclaimed in White Russia.

Hugh Gibson writes of auto dash from Brus-sels to Antwerp. Page 4.

John F. Stevens says allies should not desert Russia and let German propaganda win. Foreign.

Teutons' peace offer unsatisfactory, say Brit-ish newspapers. Page 2. France wants no premature peace, says For-eign Minister. Page 2. Liody George makes, strong declaration for continuation of war to victory. Page 1. National.

Coast shipbuilders demand too much, says Admiral Bowles. Page 1. Nation's railroads pass into Government's hands. Page 1. More wood ship contracts promised Pacific Coast. Page 1. Senate committee summons Hoover to sugar inquiry. Page 5.

Domestic.

Bishop Sumner, of Oregon, to be married January 1. Page 1. Middle Western states in grip of severe bliz-zard. Page I. Eight thousand men in American camps ill because of inadequate supplies. Page 4. Meat retailers in grasp of packers' trust. Page 3. Sports.

Mazamas prepare for hike. Page S.

red Fulton signs to meet Jess Willard. Page 8. Tennis stars to play in Honolulu tournament in February, Page 8. Commercial and Marine Grading and inspection will benefit Oregon potato industry. Page 17.

Corn higher at Chicago, owing to low tem-peratures and storm. Page 17. Low-priced ralls are feature of strong stock market. Page 17. American steamer Westland passes into con trol of United States Shipping Board Page 14. Pacific Northwest.

Western Washington threatened with serious floods. Page 7.

Lieutenant Walter R. McClure writes from France. Page 8.
Williamette Valley Chautauqua decided to hold complete sessions in 1918. Page 6.
Burning of Roy Omart's barn, near Turner, supra officers to action. Page 6. State Lime Board presents first annual re-port. Page 7. Portland and Vicinity.

Elks plan swift Red Cross drive. Page 7. Vocational education urged before teachers' convention. Page 14. Portland joins movement to promote social welfare of soldiers. Page 18, Traffic violators crowd court again. Page 12.
Wholesale dairy supply dealers meet to devise methods of cutting down surplus deliveries. Page 9.

Weather report, data and forecast. Page 14. Oregon widow gives her eight sons to country's service. Page 1. Portland to be host to hundreds of fighting men from tonight until Tuesday. Page 11. Exemption Boards called upon to induce registrants into military branches that are open to them. Page 5. Grading and inspection planned for Orego: potato crop. Page 14.

liveries Page 9.

ROADS PASS INTO FEDERAL CONTROL

Director-General Assumes Control.

UNIFICATION WORK IS BEGUN

Country's Lines to Be Welded Into Single System.

ENGINEER WILL RETURN tempest southeast and eastward at the RAILROAD BOARD DRAFTED

McAdoo Issues First Order to Speed Up Freight Movement and Full Co-operation Is Pledged by

Various Executives. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- The railroads of the United States passed into Government possession at noon today President Wilson as director-general of

railroads, was delegating to the rail-

roads war board the task of operating them for the present. The war board, comprising five of the country's foremost railroad execu-ARMY BALLOON IS MISSING tives who have been in supreme charge of the roads for the last nine months was called into conference at 11 o'clock to discuss plans for welding all transportation lines into a single Governent-operated system. They left the functions and to submit immediately a plan of operation to the director

McAdoo Issues First Order.

Tonight Mr. McAdoo issued his first formal order designed to speed up freight movement, telegraphing all ailroad presidents and directors instructions to move traffic by the most convenient and direct routes. At the same time he ordered them to continue operation of their lines in conformity with the President's preclamation, put ting them under Government control.

There was no indication tonigh whether Mr. McAdoo intended eventu-Subscriptions so Far 275,000,000 ally to displace the war board with an organization of his own or to continue its organization for the duration of the war. It was made clear, however, that PARIS, Dec. 38 .- The 10,000,000,000 it will continue to function until the

The order that freight for a pooling of traffic, illegal hereto-It takes from the shipper the the routing to the railroad traffic

Board Organization Drafted.

Thus far the director-general has made no plans for a staff. He asked he war board today for a complete chart of its organization, which was furnished.

board organization the director-general. takes over the services of all the oard's committees. He obtains the services, as well, of the board's car service commission, which now is assisting the Interstate Commerce Commission in distributing the cars. Pooling of railroad equipment, al-

drafting into service the war

ready started by the war board, be carried much further under Government operation. Common use especially will be made of terminal facilities. An early measure to relieve congestion, it was intimated tonight, will be a denial of transportation to non-es-

sential commodities. Traffic that is

onsidered unnecessary will be cut off. including both passenger and freight. Lovett Has Authority. This subject will be left largely to Robert S. Lovett, governor-director of priority, who attended today's confer-The railroad heads today told Mr. McAdoo that there should be named immediately a manager for Government traffic, who should recommend to Mr. Lovett the order in which war supplies should move, co-ordinating the

ing from various Government depart There was a question tonight as to whether the great mass of railway em ployes in the country-nearly 2,000,000 in number-now become Government uployes. Some officials hold that they do not, on the ground that the

hundreds of priority orders now issu-

OREGON CHAIR COMPANY UN-ABLE TO FILL VACANCIES.

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 2.)

Since war was declared last April, 15 young men, experienced in their trade, quit their employment with the Oregon Chair Company and enlisted in some branch of the Army service. Inability to replace these men with skilled labor has forced the company to operate with a #

reduced force of 90 employes. The management reports that the company's output is holding up in values, but not in quantity, due to increased prices on one hand and the substitution of an eight-hour day for one of ten hours on the other.

The plant is crowded to the limit in its efforts to fill orders. Every month the company disburses about \$7000 among its

SEASONABLE COMMENTS.

