

OREGON FIRST, DUE TO GEORGE A. WHITE

Ability and Energy of Adjutant-General Put State in Lead for Patriotism.

EFFICIENCY IS WATCHWORD

Extraordinary Results Obtained Shown to Be Due to Wonderful Preparation by Military Head and Not to Lucky Chance.

George A. White, Adjutant-General of the Oregon National Guard, went fishing yesterday.

This is worth chronicling at some length because it is the second time since February 23 last that General White has taken a day off from the duties of his office, whether for fishing, Sunday, holiday or anything else. Putting the "first" in "Oregon first" has kept him too busy for so small a matter as a day of rest.

For, as it said here and now, that General White, more than any other man, is responsible for the "first" in "Oregon first."

Perhaps you thought Oregon "just happened" to be the state that has led the Union in patriotic response to President Wilson's call to arms—that it was one of those "lucky accidents" that occur sometimes. Guess again. Those things do not "just happen." Always there is a reason for them, and a very good reason, too. In this case the reason was General White.

Laurels Not Won by Accident.

It was no mere accident, indeed, that Oregon was one of the first states in the Union to mobilize its National Guard infantry last March and report it all ready for active duty in that tense period before the war was declared when nobody knew just what emergency might arise.

Oh, no; that was not accidental. Oregon's troops mobilized so quickly and so efficiently because just such a contingency had been provided for long beforehand, even to the smallest detail.

It was no more accidental than the fact that a year ago, in July, 1916, when troops were called to handle the Mexican situation, Oregon's Third Infantry had been assembled at Clackamas, entrained for the border, fully equipped, and was actually in active service on the frontier before troops of most of the other states had left their armories.

In both cases General White was the man who had planned and worked out, long before, down to the smallest detail, the whole mobilization machinery that worked so smoothly.

Efficiency Shown Throughout.

It was no more accidental that directly after the speedy mobilization last March Oregon was the first state to be able to report its regiment, again the Third Oregon, recruited up to full war strength of 56 officers and 2002 men.

No more was it an accident that following this mobilization and on top of the military duties of the Adjutant-General's office, Oregon was one of the first four states to report complete readiness for the taking of the war census.

Nor that it was one of the earliest to forward to Washington complete tabulated returns from the war census.

Nor, again, that in place of being among the last to mobilize because of its area, the remoteness of many of its counties, some of the long distances from a railroad and the great distance of the coast, Oregon was one of the very first to report "We are all ready for the draft."

Praise Comes From Afar.

Nor, still again, that when other states were called in to regular Army and National Guard quotas, so many of Oregon's sons had enlisted in the National Guard and that the state's quota in the first draft is only 717—the lowest quota in the United States, and a showing that caused the National Service bill to call "Oregon, the Volunteer State."

No, not one of these things was accidental. They didn't "just happen."

They were the result of the most careful planning, the most thorough organization, the most trying, unending and exhausting work, a never-dying enthusiasm and the initiative and courage, besides, when red tape got in the way, ruthlessly to cut that red tape and explain afterwards.

And, furthermore, when politicians sought favors here and exceptions there, brought "influences" to bear in the state and offered to "play ball" with the nerve to kick them out—and to kick hard.

It was because he did these things that Adjutant-General George A. White is the man who made possible the "first" in "Oregon first" and then put it there.

Unceasing Energy Required.

It has meant, for practically five full months, being on the job 15 hours a day, morning, noon and night, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday again—15 hours a day, when it wasn't 24.

It has taken some grit to work 15 hours a day for a week or two weeks, but to do it five months takes enthusiasm. You may have noticed that most men who make good on a great big job possess enthusiasm. General White radiates it.

The remaining troops of the Oregon National Guard were mobilized last Wednesday and again it was not an accident that everything went exactly according to programme. And when mobilization completed, war census ended and the war draft machinery in such shape that hereafter it will run itself with an occasional oiling, General White declared a strike yesterday and went fishing.

When he comes back, after whipping all the trout out of a stream or two, you may wager large stakes on it that he will be ready again to tackle any further big work that remains.

Active Service Sought.

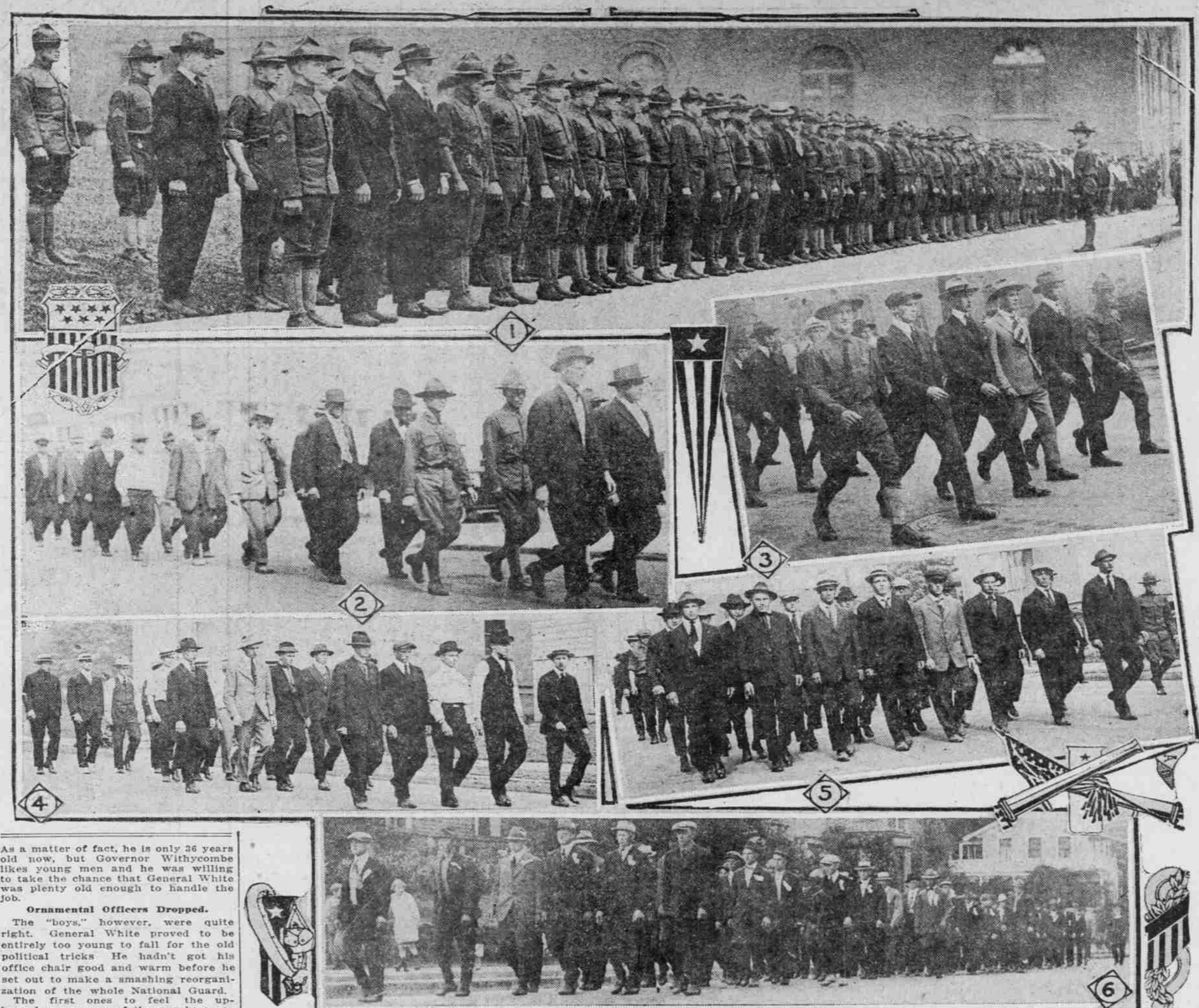
That is, so long as he remains in the state. For Adjutant-General White is no swivel-chair soldier. With most of the vitally important work of preliminary state preparation ended, it is currently reported that he has applied for active service in the field with troops.

There is nothing in the least spectacular about the work of the Adjutant-General of a State National Guard in war time. Least of all is there anything spectacular about the work of General White.

Only those who have actually seen the inner workings of an office such as that maintained by him can possibly realize the immense amount of administrative and detail work it involves and can appreciate what it has meant on top of the mass of National Guard routine to handle the war census and war draft machinery—and at the same time to make it "Oregon first" not in one case only, but in every case.

When Adjutant-General White was appointed by Governor Withycombe and took office February 1, 1914, there were cries from some of the disappointed boys that he was "too young."

ENLISTED PORTLAND MEN CALLED OUT BY NATIONAL GUARD'S MOST RECENT MOBILIZATION ORDER, DRILLING WHILE AWAITING EQUIPMENT AND MOBILIZATION AT CAMPS.



1—Left to Right, Eighth Company, Sixth Company and Twelfth Company of Coast Artillery Corps. 2—Battery B, Field Artillery, Going Through the Preliminary Paces on the Streets. 3—Troop B, Cavalry, on a Break Street Hike. 4—Troop C, Cavalry, Marching to Mess. 5—Company C, Engineers. 6—Company B, Engineers.

As a matter of fact, he is only 36 years old now, but Governor Withycombe likes young men and he was willing to take the chance that General White was plenty old enough to handle the job.

Ornamental Officers Dropped.

The "boys," however, were quite right. General White proved to be entirely too young to fall for the old political tricks. He hadn't got his office chair good and warm before he set out to make a smashing reorganization of the whole National Guard.

The first step was to get the ornamental "Colonels," "Majors" and the like, who usually make up what is known by courtesy—or in satire—as "the Governor's staff." Out these gold-laced soldiers went, in a tumbling heap and with no soft place to light on.

Of course, terrible yells went up and cries of "politics!" As to that, the cries were weak, for it so happened that the victims of the new Adjutant-General's ruthless sweep were all Republicans, of the same political persuasion as the Governor and himself. Governor Withycombe backed General White to the limit, as he always has done and the first big step in re-making the Oregon National Guard had been accomplished.

From then on, General White worked rapidly. His whole new National Guard scheme was based on one word—"efficiency." If an officer was efficient, he had an opportunity to prove himself. If not, he was out with little warning and no mercy. Retirements came fast for a spell.

Merit Brings Promotion.

It was a stormy period in the National Guard, but at its conclusion nobody could deny that the military efficiency of the state's defense force had been vastly increased. General White was "young" enough and enthusiastic enough to declare military and not political efficiency to be the aim and purport of a National Guard, in which, again, he had the stout backing of the Governor.

From that time on, appointments and promotions of officers were made on their showing in examinations. An examining board was established to examine officers and find out what they knew.

In the process of weaning the Guard from politics, General White made a host of enemies as enthusiastic as himself. But his system and his ideas were strikingly justified when the call came in July, a year ago, for National Guard infantry troops on the Mexican border.

Mexican Situation Cited.

The Mexican situation had been boiling along for so many months, there had been so many cries of "wolf" and no sheep dog, that many scoffed at the possibility that action would result. General White, however, thought differently. More important, he prepared a complete plan for mobilization, requisitioned supplies and equipment and had things ready for whatever happened.

On July 18, he issued orders to the entire National Guard to hold itself in readiness. These orders gave instructions in detail for mobilization, if troops were called.

That night at 10 o'clock, the call for troops came from Washington. General White was in his office at the time and by midnight every organization commander in the state had his orders to move.

With everything prepared so thoroughly beforehand, it was largely a matter of letting the machinery work itself. The call went out Sunday night at 10 o'clock. Troops immediately began assembling in their local armories. By Wednesday morning, the first companies were arriving at Camp Withycombe fully equipped.

Neighbor State Outdistanced.

And on July 27, the Third Oregon Infantry was entraining by battalions for the border. They arrived there and were on actual patrol duty, together with Troop A, Oregon Cavalry, and Battery A, Oregon Field Artillery, before the Washington National Guard troops had so much as left their home town armories.

As before remarked, General White is no swivel-chair soldier. When the troops were ready to move to the front, he resigned as Adjutant-General and became captain of Troop A, Oregon Cavalry, the first Oregon troops and among the first National Guard troops,

except those of border states, to arrive at the border.

General White was with his troop on the border for eight and one half months. He remained with his men until the troop was ordered home and mustered out of Federal service. Then he became Adjutant-General again.

This was on February 23 of this year. Since which time, as already explained, he has averaged 15 hours a day and took his second day off yesterday, when he went fishing.

Events have moved rapidly since February 23. Many Army and National

Guard men did not see them coming. General White did.

The moment he took up again his work as Adjutant-General, he began preparing in haste for the next mobilization, which he was certain would be ordered. Once more complete plans, down to every slightest detail, were arranged. He telegraphed requisitions for supplies and hastened the recruiting of the Guard troops up to full peace strength.

On March 28 there was to be a convention of the National Guard Association in New York, which he was

expected to attend as vice-president. He made arrangements to leave Portland Friday, March 23.

That afternoon he became so concerned that mobilization orders were inevitable that he canceled his reservations in order to remain on the job ready for emergencies.

The following Sunday night, March 25, he was again in the office, as on the previous call, when the mobilization order came by telegraph.

The War Department wanted troops, and it wanted them in a hurry. Right there was where General White began cutting red tape. If a regulation stood in the way of action, he ignored the regulation. It gave some of the men in authority who were accustomed to doing things strictly by War Department rule severe cases of "nerves," but it got results.

The mustering officer for the Third Infantry, National Guard officers say, wanted certain red tape complied with which General White had ignored, and ordered a hot street recruiting campaign started immediately, regardless of expense. It was not in accord with regulations, but it brought in the recruits, and the bills were paid.

War Strength Reached.

On April 9 the War Department gave orders that recruiting be stopped. The order came too late to affect the Third Oregon, for it had been brought up to maximum war strength of 2002 men, the first regiment in the United States to achieve that honor.

This early mobilization period was a time of intense stress in the Adjutant-General's office. Everybody was overloaded with work, which simply had to be done, that it was a case of remaining on duty 24 hours a day and sleeping on the floor whenever one could.

On top of this came the war census, which General White handled as the official representative of Governor Withycombe. Its success is too recent to require detailed explanation.

It is enough to remark that in order to educate the people of the state in their confusing war census duties, General White instituted a publicity campaign in which he asked the patriotic co-operation of all newspapers in the state. He established a press bureau which kept them supplied with facts about the war census.

Papers Give Assistance.

The response was a most patriotic one. Columns of war census news were run in every paper in the state. By the means of co-operation it took on a short time to educate the people as to what was required of them.

The result was almost 100 per cent registration, a striking absence of "slackers" and little confusion. It was again "Oregon First."

The efficient organization of the state that carried the war census through without a hitch also proved most effective in enabling the state to complete its preparations for the draft among the first. In this work, as well as in the taking of the war census, the unselfish and efficient assistance of Sheriffs and other county officials was invaluable.

The Provost Marshal had set the date of July 7 as the first on which he expected returns from the states announcing that the draft machinery had been prepared. On July 5 General

White was able to announce that all was ready.

Two weeks later some of the states much closer to Washington were still holding up the drawing of the serial numbers because their draft machinery wasn't completed.

The handling of these important measures threw a vast amount of work on General White and his office force. In five months his offices expanded from three rooms to 14.

One chief clerk was broken down by the strain and is still ill. His successor was called to the colors. The one now on the job is the third since February 23. In that time, also, so terrific has been the pace, not a person who was working in the office on February 23 is there now, except General White himself.

General White has obtained his results by direct methods. Sometimes his directness has made him unpopular with the toes of whomever has been in the way. He has hurt numerous feelings by his impatience of red tape, when red tape was holding up the work. He has overridden opposition of all kinds, and he has bitterly, bitterly offended the politicians. He won't even take the time to excuse them when they come to the office.

But he has obtained results. He has put the "first" in "Oregon First."

JITNEUR PROVES SLEUTH

AUTOIST GIVES "LIFT" TO 20 QUARTS OF WHISKY.

Three Men Who Ask Hide Are Now Under Arrest Charged With Violating Prohibition Law.

"Give us a lift," said the merry three. "Pile in," replied the seeming jitneur.

And this was on the Linton road yesterday morning. The car bowed along for a block or so when the passengers requested a halt. The jitneur aided them in lugging a jingling, clinking sack from a nearby house. The expedition proceeded.

And then Patrolman Crane stepped into the road. The auto stopped again. When it started the three passengers were under arrest and on their way to the police station, for the jitneur had been revealed as Patrolman Russell. The jitneur was charged with violating the prohibition law.

The alleged violators are John Smith and J. H. Carson, longshoremen, and Virgilus Keester. The sack, which the pseudo-jitneur had aided them in carrying, contained 20 quarts of whisky.

Hearings will be given before Municipal Judge Stevenson Monday.

Acting on a "tip" received at headquarters that a party of three were en route to the city on the Linton road with a cargo of liquor, Patrolman Russell and Crane removed the police insignia from a department car and drove forth to assist. While the former looked for his fares, Patrolman Crane lingered by the roadside to break the news. The ruse worked flawlessly.

Lumber Worker Dies From Fall.

DALLAS, Or., July 28.—(Special.)—A. C. Foster, an employe of the Willamette Valley Lumber Company, fell 40 feet from a trestle at Black Rock yesterday. He was taken to the Dallas Hospital by Dr. Starbuck, but lived only 24 hours.

SHRINERS TO SAIL ON RIVER

Al Kader Temple to Give Moonlight Excursion Thursday.

The feet of the Arabs of the gorgeous patrol of Al Kader Temple, Mystic Shrine, accustomed to the dry and parched sands of the desert, will dangle refreshingly over the side of the barge Swan in the cool waters of the Willamette when the patrol sails away next Thursday night on its moonlight excursion.

Members of the patrol have invited many friends, and elaborate preparations for entertainment on the trip have been made. Dancing will be one of the big features.

The cruise will begin at the Stark-street landing at 7:30 P. M. The members of the committee in charge are: Herman Van Borstel, Herbert Carpenter, Robert Jordan, Harvey Wells and J. E. Buckingham.

Tongs to Be Explained.

"Tongs and tong wars and all their 'whys and wherefores' will be the subject discussed at the luncheon of the Rotary Club at the Benson Hotel Tuesday noon, and R. P. Bonham, inspector in charge of the United States Immigration Service for this district, will be the principal speaker. He will discuss the origin of the tong organizations and their purpose and the meaning of tong wars. J. A. Collier, assistant District Attorney, will talk on the local tong war situation and the steps that are being taken by the police to check them.

JEWISH CHARITY LARGE

MORE THAN \$2,000,000 RAISED FOR WAR RELIEF WORK.

European Distribution Committee Gets More Than Half of Contributions From America.

A financial statement has just been issued by the central committee for the relief of Jews suffering through the war, the headquarters of which are in New York, showing collections of \$2,047,122. The collections were made from 36,283 contributors. Other contributors. Less than \$70,000 of this sum was required to carry on the work, which is regarded as a remarkable record. The balance of the sum was distributed in widely different ways and to many places.

Of the receipts, \$1,461,559.49 was sent to the joint distribution committee of the funds for Jewish war sufferers, of which Felix M. Warburg is chairman, for distribution in Europe. Other beneficiaries are: General relief in Palestine, \$13,459; Palestine fund, \$11,000; Austria-Hungary, \$5307; institutions in Palestine, \$180,911.93; individual relief, \$147,198.55.

Effort is being made to touch the hearts of the Jews through a special appeal issued in connection with the celebration of Tisha B'ab, a great religious festival of the Jewish year, marking the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A. D.

Carnivals, dances and other entertainments are being held at the Summer resorts, at the same time, and in the meantime, wherever there are any considerable number of Jewish vacationists gathered together.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL GEORGE A. WHITE, ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE OREGON NATIONAL GUARD.

—Photo by Cutberth.