

U. S. GAINS 629 NEW SHIPS IN 5 MONTHS

American Merchant Fleet Now Amounts to About Ten Million Gross Tons.

LAUNCHINGS ON INCREASE

Progress in Single Month in 1918 Almost as Great as That for Entire First Year of European War.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—The steady growth of the American merchant marine in all classes of vessels was revealed today for the first time since the war began in statistics from the Department of Commerce. These figures showed that in the first five months of this year there has been built in this country and officially numbered by the Bureau of Navigation a total of 629 vessels of 887,955 gross tons. The merchant fleet of the United States now amounts to approximately 10,000,000 gross tons, not including merchant craft under control of the Army and Navy as transports and supply ships. At the beginning of January, 26,742 merchant vessels of 9,243,234 gross tons were flying the Stars and Stripes on trips across the Atlantic with food and munitions, into the Caribbean and Pacific with American products for foreign customers and on the lakes and rivers of this country as part of the Nation's domestic transportation system. This tremendous fleet is second to the merchant tonnage of Great Britain. It includes all the new vessels built under the direction of the Shipping Board and thousands of other ships, smaller in individual tonnage but greater in aggregate carrying capacity, which play so large a part in commerce and the maintenance of a favorable balance of trade. There has been a steady increase in new ships this year, the May tonnage being three times as great as the January output. In the first month of 1918 there were 57 ships of 64,795 tons given official numbers. In February, 84 ships, of 117,601 gross tons were numbered. March saw a notable jump in the production of small ships, numbers being awarded to 138, the tonnage being 147,148. The record in April was 165 ships of 162,950 tons, and in May 188 ships of 194,964 tons. In a single month this year the American merchant fleet has seen a growth almost as great as during the entire first year of the European war.

GRANGE AGAINST BEER

OREGON ASSOCIATION OPPOSES BREWING IN WARTIME.

Salem Convention Indorses McNary Bill, Now Pending, Directed Against Profiteers.

SALEM, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—It was nearly 3 o'clock this morning when the Oregon State Grange closed its convention here. Among the eleven-hour matters to be decided was a move to urge Congress to stop the brewing of beer during the war and a resolution recommending the passage of a bill by Senator McNary against profiteering. The initiative measure providing for normal schools in Eastern and Southern Oregon was approved. It being decided that the present is no time to establish such schools. The legislative committee was instructed to take up with the Legislature the question of having farms ready for sale to soldiers returning from the war and also to secure passage of a law requiring the killing of digger squirrels. The Grange went on record as standing behind the Governor in his opposition to the opening of the Oregon & California land-grant lands at this time, that the lands may be opened when the soldiers return from the front, and that the soldiers be given a preferential right on such lands.

BANDITS KILL SCORES

TRAIN ATTACKED AT LAS OLAS, DURANGO, MEXICO.

Town in Zacatecas Raided and Hundred Members Home Guard Slain.

EL PASO, Texas, June 8.—Sixty train guards and passengers were killed when bandits attacked a passenger train at Las Olas, Durango, near Tepic, Mexico, May 27, according to a delayed message which was received here tonight from Durango City. A rail was removed from the track and the train wrecked. The train guard of federal soldiers was killed during the attack which followed. Three wounded passengers were burned to death when the bandits set fire to the train after robbing it of \$6,000 pesos that was being sent to pay the Durango troops. The first information of a raid made on the town of Valparaiso, Zacatecas, on May 29, was also received here tonight. One hundred members of the home guard were killed and a number of girls and women carried off by the bandit band which numbered 800. Six Villa followers were captured and executed near Olimes, Chihuahua, yesterday, according to information received here today from Presidio, Texas.

PICNIC VOTED SUCCESS

LINN COUNTY PIONEERS ENJOY BROWNSVILLE REUNION.

A. M. Templeton Elected President for Enning Year—Red Cross Benefits Through Auction.

BROWNSVILLE, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—The three days' picnic and reunion of the Linn County pioneers, which came to a close Friday night, was one of the most successful celebrations ever conducted and enjoyed by the Pioneer Association of this county. The programme was good from start to finish, especially the addresses by Wal-

ter Pierce, President Kerr, of the Oregon Agricultural College, and Samuel Garland. The programme was fittingly patriotic in character. A flagpole newly cut and brought from the foothills of the Cascades was erected with fitting ceremonies at the entrance of the park and grove and a large flag waved over the thousands of visitors who autted into the grounds from points afar. The exhibits of produce and handicraft in the various booths on the picnic grounds were of especial interest inasmuch as their relation and application to the winning of the war was always pointed out to the visitors. A tour home city leaves conducted at the evening pavilion not far from the speakers' stand and each day wig-wagged hungry hundreds into his establishment to dine. For the benefit of the war savings stamp drive and the Red Cross and various other war activities, booths were established. An old-fashioned auction was held each day, in which quilts made by the pioneer women of the county were sold for the benefit of the Red Cross. In this way several hundred dollars were raised. The Brownsville grove was selected as the next meeting place and the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: A. M. Templeton, president; C. E. Standard, vice-president; directors, William Moore, of Brownsville, and Farmer Rice, of Harrisburg.

NOTABLES ARE HONORED

TAFT, ROOSEVELT AND OTHERS GET NEW DISTINCTION.

Dignitaries Are Made Honorary Members of Fathers of Soldiers and Sailors' Organization.

New honors have been thrust upon William Howard Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, William G. McAdoe, Franklin K. Lane and Josephus Daniels. They have all been elected honorary members of the Fathers of Soldiers and Sailors, a Portland-born organization, which is now spreading to the four corners of America. As yet some of these distinguished gentlemen do not know of their election, but the certificates are all nicely made out and signed by President Sanford Macdonald, who will mail them to the dignitaries at once. No man may become a member of this organization unless he has a son in the service of the United States. This explains why Woodrow Wilson, Herbert Hoover and King George have been passed up by the fathers of Oregon. The Fathers of Soldiers and Sailors will give a dance and entertainment complimentary to all the mothers, wives and immediate relatives of men in the service of the United States and the allies June 13 at the Masonic Temple. Sanford Macdonald, president of the association, has just returned from a trip to San Francisco, where he chartered a new California chapter of the Fathers. He says the organization is spreading all over the United States and that Portland is recognized as the leader in the movement.

LINN REGISTRATION SMALL

Rosters of Service Flags Afford Reasonable Explanation.

LEBANON, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—Many were surprised at the small registration June 5 of young men reaching 21 during the last year. Only 167 in the entire county were registered when the estimate had been placed at 300. This may be easily accounted for when the Lebanon district, which covers the communities are investigated. For example, the Lebanon High School flag has 53 service stars on it, and the entire Lebanon district, which is 21 years of age a year ago and many of them are still under 21. There were only 27 registrations in all the Lebanon district, which extended from this city to Foster, 20 miles east of here.

FATHER AND SON BURIED

John Webster and Horace A. Webster Laid to Rest Together.

DALLAS, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—One of the saddest funerals ever held in Polk County was conducted by Rev. Mr. Johnson, of the M. E. Church, last Sunday over the body of John Webster and his son, Horace A. Webster. John Webster was born June 10, 1848, in Hadley, Mich., where he resided for a number of years, coming to Oregon with his family in 1888, locating near Dallas, where they had since made their home. Mr. Webster had been ailing only a short time and passed away on May 31 within 24 hours of the demise of his son, Horace A. Webster, who was born in Dryden, Mich., January 31, 1871.

Committee Officers Chosen.

REUBEN, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—At the Columbia County Republican Central Committee meeting held at St. Helens, May 29, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Glen R. Metaker, St. Helens; secretary, James Gattens, Deer Island; State Committeeman, T. C. Watts, Reuben; Congressional Committeeman, Glen R. Metaker, St. Helens; executive committee, G. R. Metaker, chairman; James Gattens, secretary; Harry West, Captain Mason and Charles Graham.

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SURVEY WILL START

Professor to Study Plan of State Consolidations.

COMMITTEE WILL REPORT

Recommendation as to What Boards and Commissions Can Be Merged Will Be Made to Members of Legislature Next Winter.

Under the direction of the Consolidation Commission, authorized by the last Legislature, Professor J. M. Mathews, of the University of Chicago, this week will begin a survey of various state departments, boards and commissions of this state for the purpose of determining what consolidations and eliminations are feasible. Dr. Mathews is the author of the present organization of the Illinois state government and is considered an expert. Herman von Borstel, secretary of the Consolidation Commission, which was appointed by the Governor, was yesterday advised that Dr. Mathews will arrive in the city probably tomorrow. This commission was authorized by the last Legislature to make an investigation and submit recommendations as to consolidations and eliminations considered practicable to the 1919 session.

Agreement Is Reached.

At a meeting a few weeks ago, the commission tentatively agreed upon what amounts to a commission form for the state. Under that general plan, the only elective state officers would be members of the Supreme Court, Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer. The duties and functions of all other state officials, boards and commissions will be assembled for administrative purposes under eight proposed departments which have been designated as follows: Law, finance, education, public welfare, public domain, agriculture, industry, and commerce and labor. The plan further proposes that the Governor shall appoint a director or commissioner to head each of these departments. Selection of all subordinates, including clerical assistance, is delegated to the directing head of each department. To date, the commission has not undertaken to classify with respect to the eight proposed general departments the various boards and commissions now maintained and supported by the state. This will not be worked out by the members of the commission until Dr. Mathews has made his survey and submitted his recommendations as to the best arrangement. Corvallis Man Chairman. The members of the consolidation commission, which will meet at Salem Friday, are: J. J. Johnson, of Corvallis, chairman; Herman von Borstel, Portland, secretary; Frank Patton, Astoria; T. J. Scroggin, La Grande; John Carlin, Medford; Charles Rudeen, Portland; and Judge J. C. Fullerton, Roseburg.

KLAMATH ROAD IS RUSHED

New Line Destined to Develop Great Inland Empire.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—The rails for the new municipal railroad from Klamath Falls to Dairy, 20 miles east, and the first link of the great Strahorn system which is destined later to develop the great inland empire of Oregon, have reached Olene, and it is expected that active operation over the entire line will be instituted at an early date. While some work remains to be done on the big rock cuts and fills, the

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greater portion of the route between Olene and Dairy is waiting for rails, which will be laid as soon as the grade is entirely completed. Officials assert that the Klamath-Dairy link is now about 8 per cent completed. When Dairy is reached Mr. Strahorn plans to complete his grades to the Sprague River, 20 miles north.

NEOPHYTES BRAVE JEERS

Six Embryo Newspaper Men Join Sigma Delta Chi.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, June 8.—(Special.)—While the thermometer played around the 85 and 90 marks yesterday, six embryo newspaper men of the university, garbed in full evening dress, walked, rode, spoke and sang for the amusement of the onlookers around the campus and on the streets of Eugene and Springfield, as part of the ceremonies of their initiation into Sigma Delta Chi, National Journalism fraternity. Between class periods in the morning each of the neophytes was requested to give a five-minute talk from the steps of the university library. Those who were accepted into the organization are William Hazelvine, Harry Crain and Alexander Brown, of Portland; Douglas Mullarky, Redmond; Orlevast Peasart, Jefferson, Or., and Leith Abbott, of Ashland.

NIGHT SHIFT IS ORDERED

Output of Silverton Sawmill Is to Be Increased.

SILVERTON, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—The Silver Falls Lumber Company will start a night shift to work on Monday, June 11, finding the demand for timbers so great that it will have to add 200 men to its already large force of 500 workmen in the sawmill and nearby camp, which is working to capacity. The mill started its year's run April 15, employing only a day force, but recent orders have called for an increase in output and the management decided that a night shift would have to be employed to fill contracts. This will mean a big increase in Silverton's already large payroll, as the company aims to employ Silverton labor as far as possible.

PORTLAND MEN OFFICERS

Several Commissions in Reserve Corps Granted.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, June 8.—Several Portland men were granted commissions today in the Officers' Reserve Corps. They were: Charles Colin Patrick, to be Captain, Aviation Section, Signal Corps; Henry Theodore Helgesson, 662 Thurman street; Kenneth C. Tomlinson, 520 Elizabeth street, and Spencer Biddle, 710 Kings Court, Second Lieutenant, Aviation Section, Signal Corps; Wilson Johnston, 309 Alameda Terrace, Captain, Medical Corps; Hiram U. Welch, Captain, Inspector-General's Department. Tracy E. Huber, of Camp Lewis, Wash., was commissioned First Lieutenant, Sanitary Corps.

Oregon Man Is Promoted.

NORTH BEND, Or., June 8.—(Special.)—Information has been received here that Dr. Ira B. Barrie, formerly city physician, now stationed at Camp

Gray's Twenty. It's Gray's Profit-Sharing Cash Policy, through which the customer is enabled to save real money on the clothes he buys. We save you half the profit you will have to pay other stores if you buy your clothes of us. Don't take our word for it. Look at their clothes first, then look at Gray's Twenties and Gray's Thirties and see for yourself that we save you from \$5 to \$15 on the suit. Money saved is money made. Compare Gray's \$20 Suits with the suits other stores sell for \$25 and \$30. Compare Gray's \$30 Suits with the suits other stores sell for \$35 and \$40. After you've made your comparisons, there's no question but we'll sell you the clothes. Because Values Will Tell R.M. GRAY 366 Washington at West Park. Lewis, has been promoted to a Major-Lieutenant, was soon afterward made a Captain, and the last promotion advanced him to ranking medical officer of the 44th United States Infantry.

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