

TO ADVERTISERS.

The East Oregonian has the largest paid circulation of any paper in Oregon, east of Portland and over twice the circulation in Pendleton of any other newspaper.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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Forecast for Eastern Oregon by the United States Weather Observer at Portland.

Fair tonight and Sunday.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

# GERMANY ANGRY OVER REJECTION OF WAR DECREE

### Teutons Will Not Curtail Their Right to Sink Armed Merchant Ships Declare Leading Papers.

## SITUATION APPEARS TENSE

### America Will Not Agree to Decree Which Orders German Submarines to Make Attacks Without Warning—Berlin's Attitude Is Not One of Business to Inquire.

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 18.—Reports that America will not submit to the Teutonic decree of warfare upon armed merchantmen, have caused indignation in Germany, advisers declared. The Cologne Gazette stated the Teutons will not curtail their right to sink armed ships because reckless neutrals insist upon traveling on belated vessels. Other papers were astonished at Washington advices but mostly awaited confirmation before commenting editorially.

It was declared Germany will not withdraw her decree merely because England has given assurances that runs will be mounted only for defensive purposes. Such assurances, they said, have been broken and English armed merchantmen have taken the offensive against submarines.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—Germany has said the last word in the Lusitania case. She will not prepare another note, according to strong indications among officials. Though not commenting for publication about reports that Lansing will not recognize the Teuton right to torpedo armed merchantmen, the official attitude is known to be that Germany does not believe America should interrogate her closely about when her new policy should be enforced. The method is a naval secret which Germany regards as a purely military question concerning herself and her allies.

Berlinists have been fully instructed about the Lusitania case and was permitted to make a change in the proposed settlement which was suggested at the recent conference with Lansing. Officials declare the Lusitania case really was closed at the conference and that the new warfare plans will have nothing to do with the case.

# Du Pont Chemical Company Plant is Swept by Flames

### DAMAGE OF HALF A MILLION DOLLARS—MAY HAVE BEEN INCENDIARY FIRE.

MEMPHIS, Feb. 18.—The plant of the Du Pont federal dyestuff chemical company at Kingsport caught fire and was damaged half a million dollars. The plant was engaged in making picric acid, a constituent of explosives. A watchman saw a stranger in the yards who fled before being questioned. The fire started soon afterward. The plant was worth two million dollars.

### Unavoidable Accident, Says Jury.

That Tom McMahan, who was killed early yesterday morning at Pilot Rock Junction while coupling an engine to a train, came to his death as the result of an unavoidable accident was the substance of the verdict brought in yesterday afternoon by a coroner's jury that investigated the matter. The jury was composed of J. H. Gwinn, Fred Bowman, Harvey Elder, Frank Mirybs, Doss Turner and Mel Shurtam. The funeral of Mr. McMahan will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Catholic church. The Knights of Columbus will have charge.

### Train From Pasco This P. M.

For the first time since Monday, the N. P. train from Pasco is expected to arrive this afternoon. The train left Pasco at noon upon receipt of a message that the damage done by the washout in Vandyke canyon had been repaired.

### Says Washington Liked.

TACOMA, Feb. 19.—Because Paul Hasser wrote a letter which was published in a Tacoma newspaper describing George Washington as a profane man and inveterate drunkard, Col. Albert Joab, a leading citizen of Tacoma, swore out a complaint charging Hasser with criminal libel. Joab will produce statements of Hamilton, Jefferson and others to prove Hasser a "falsifying blackguard." It is probably the first criminal action ever taken in such a case.

# COMMISSION MAKES ASTORIA RATES THE SAME AS PORTLAND

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The interstate commerce commission today decided the now famous rate case in favor of Astoria, placing her on an equal rate basis with Portland, Tacoma and Seattle.

Undue discrimination was found to exist in favor of Puget Sound. The decision orders the North Bank railroad to reduce its rates. The commission remarked that Astoria cannot develop into a great port while discriminatory rates prevail. Heretofore Astoria has paid 20 cents more a ton than Seattle, Tacoma or Portland. Taking evidence begun in June 1914, the city of Astoria filed a complaint against the Spokane, Portland and Seattle railroad, which is the only railroad reaching there. The Astoria people consider the decision removes the only obstacle in preventing the city becoming one of the biggest ports on the Pacific coast.

A sweeping revision of rates between the Inland Empire and Pacific coast cities, will result from the decision. It is expected this will divert huge shipments of grain and produce raised in the Columbia Basin, which heretofore has been sent to Seattle and Tacoma, because of the lower rates. The city of Astoria, in making its protest, claimed the river mouth was the natural outlet for produce of the Inland Empire. The commission assumed that Portland later will ask for lower rates to the Inland Empire because of being 100 miles nearer than Astoria. It was said a reduction in the Portland rate does not necessarily follow as an inevitable consequence of the present reduction. Commissioner Harlan writes the decision.

# MOST OF COUNTY OFFICERS TO BE UP FOR RE-ELECTION

With the possible exception of District Attorney Frederick Steiner, there is a strong probability that all of the present office holders of this county will seek re-election. County Clerk Frank Selig, about whose candidacy there has heretofore been some doubt today filed his petition of candidacy for the republican nomination and Surveyor Willard Bradley also announced his candidacy for re-election.

Sheriff J. D. Taylor, Recorder B. S. Jurovich and Treasurer A. W. Bradley have not yet filed their petitions but it is understood they will all seek to succeed themselves. County Surveyor Young made his filing several days ago. Assessor C. P. Strain has announced that he would remain in office if the people so desire, or that he would be willing to seek a place on the state public service commission.

Judge Phelps and Judge Marsh are hold-overs. District Attorney Steiner's term expires this year and he has not yet decided whether he will seek to retain his office. In the event that he declines, it is probable there will be several candidates out.

# Farmers Predict Bumper Crops for the Coming Season

## GROUND HAS RECEIVED MORE MOISTURE THAN FOR MANY PAST YEARS.

There is deeper moisture in the ground of Umatilla county right now than there has been in years, according to many farmers who have had occasion to make tests. A number place the depth of the moisture at six feet and declare there is enough stored up now to insure two good crops.

The greater part of the moisture in the unprecedented snows has seeped into the ground, especially upon the lands where there is little or no slope. The snow has gone off so gradually that little of the water has had a chance to run off into the streams.

So wet is the ground, particularly in the summer fallow, that it is almost a mire. Billy Ferguson, well known farmer of Athena, brought in a story yesterday that gave some indication of the amount of moisture in the ground.

During the time the ground was frozen, he said, he pulled a wagon across his barnyard and left it standing in one corner. This week one of the hired hands undertook to move the wagon. A span of mules was hitched to the wagon but both the vehicle and the animals became mired down. The more the mules struggled, he said, the deeper they sank until finally one of them had little more than his head sticking out. For three hours the animals were imprisoned before another team could drag them out of the mud.

# Will Wilson Pick One of These for Secretary of War



WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Who will be the next Secretary of War, is the all-important question in official circles at the present time. Many conjectures are being made as to the man whom the president will select to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Luddie M. Garrison. Among those mentioned for the place are Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane; Col. E. M. House, often called the "president's private diplomat," and Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy.

Another rumor shifts Secretary of State Lansing to the war portfolio and puts Col. House in as secretary of state.

# England Will be Reminded She Has Not Answered Our Protest Over Mail Seizures

## Chicago Wheat is Up a Few Points

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—May 101 1-8; 127 5-8; July 124 1-8-122 3-8.

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 18.—(Cl.) 94-105; Bluestem, 107-112.

Liverpool, LIVERPOOL, Feb. 18.—Wheat—Spot No. 1 Manitoba, 14 9/16-15; No. 2 hard winter, new, 13 5/8. In American terms the highest price at Liverpool at present is \$2 12 1/2 per bushel.

# Starts Children's Fund to Build Battleships



NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—More than 150 including one dollar from former President Roosevelt, has been contributed to the fund started by Miss Marjorie Sterrett, a thirteen year old school girl, to build a new U. S. battleship to be called the America.

Miss Sterrett conceived the idea of building a sea fighter for Uncle Sam's navy from dime contributions by school children all over the country. The contributions are pouring in from every quarter of the Union and some have been received from Canada. Navy officials are interested in Miss Sterrett's plans and recently authorized her aboard the cruiser Washington, now lying in the Brooklyn navy yard.

# U. S. Flag Will Not Protect in Submarine zone

## GERMANY MUST DISREGARD NEUTRAL RIGHTS IN FIGHTING FOR EXISTENCE.

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Germany must disregard neutral rights in fighting for her own salvation, unless the allies soon agree to peace, Maximilian Aulen declared in the Zukunft, which has been resumed under a government permit, according to the Times.

"If England gains for proof that we cannot wound her heart with submarine warfare and aircraft, if she will not discuss peace until this has been proved, America must reconcile herself to the conviction that further hesitation will not cripple our submarine warfare and that the stars and stripes will not protect ships in the war zone."

He declared Germany would have been content with defensive measures six months ago but now dares not wait upon such a course. Instead she must pursue the offensive to prevent her own extinction. He said that although Germany's economic position is not yet embarrassing, she must reach out for fresh conquests and strive heavily to relieve the threatened situation.

"It is still a short space of time in which Germany might come to terms. Peace offers might include little disarmament, a little international socialism and a proposal to pool the war expenses. If these proposals are refused, Germany will have paid her last debt she owes the world and humanity and can proceed to be more fruitful than ever with complete indifference to the views of neutrals, particularly with the United States."

Another rumor shifts Secretary of State Lansing to the war portfolio and puts Col. House in as secretary of state.

# Slavs May Strike at Constantinople From the Eastward

## BOYS GIVE CLEVER PARADE TO ADVERTISE BASKETBALL

LONDON, Feb. 18.—Under protection of warships, Russian troops are landing 70 miles east of Trebizond. Feeble resistance was offered. Petrograd indicated these forces will move westward to join the troops released by the fall of Erzerum. It is believed Grand Duke Nicholas plans an aggressive Armenian campaign with a junction with the British in Mesopotamia or an expedition toward Constantinople. It is now thought that not more than 20,000 Turks were captured at Erzerum. The defenders abandoned their heavy artillery after unsuccessfully attempting to destroy some of it.

# Londos and Ajax Will Meet on Mat at Rock Tonight

## WRESTLERS WILL STRIVE FOR HONORS—BOTH MEN HAVE GREAT RECORDS.

Jim Londos, one time mat star of the Olympic club in San Francisco and at present rated as one of the greatest light heavyweights in the world, will wrestle two matches in Umatilla county within the next few days. Tonight at Pilot Rock he will wrestle Tony Ajax of Los Angeles, the grappled who threw Eddie O'Connell of Portland at London, twice, in 19 minutes and who vanquished the much-touted Ben Jackson of Dayton in 11 minutes, on Monday night at Elsie he will wrestle Ted 'Three of The Uddies' a matman who has gained considerable renown lately.

Both matches are expected to be closely contested. The only match Londos has ever lost was with Alex London two years ago and he is known to retain top honors. Both men are masters of physical perfection. L. K. Harlan of Heppner is promoting the matches and expects to stage others in these parts.

# Investigation is Ordered Into U. S. Aviation School

## CHARGES OF INEFFICIENCY WILL BE PROBED BY AN APPOINTED BOARD.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Auditing Secretary of War Scott ordered an exhaustive investigation into the government aviation school at San Diego. He appointed a board of investigation into charges of inefficiency and empowered them to take any action. The board begins work on Monday.

Whether army aviators have fallen to death from rickety machines, due to mismanagement is the real purpose of the probe. Scott indicated the board of investigation had been organized long ago. Chairman Hay of the house military committee, said if Senator Robinson's charges are correct there should be an immediate investigation.

# TEUTONS TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM THEIR BLUNDERS

## Berlin Made Mistake in Issuing Submarine Order is Interpretation Put Upon German Attitude.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Germany blundered when she issued the decree of warfare against merchantmen and is now trying to find a way out of the difficulties, according to the interpretation some officials placed upon Carl Ackerman's Berlin dispatches saying Germany does not want to be questioned closely regarding her methods of pursuing submarine warfare. It is thought the story constituted a hint the Teutons realize they have placed themselves in an awkward position.

It is thought Berlin may willingly yield her position to America, but she is puzzled how to do this without raising an outcry in Germany. Lansing declined to comment on Ackerman's dispatch. Another department official said:

"Austria and Germany have blundered. They made a mistake in issuing the decree which, in effect, is an ultimatum. The principal effect thus far is to impair seriously the relations between America and Germany. When there was some sympathy with the contentions about armed ships, the Teutons issued a decree which American could not possibly accede to. Our position already has been officially expressed and is that any modification of the armed merchantmen phase of international law can only be achieved by an agreement of all concerned. It is as much an usurpation of authority for the central powers to make such a declaration as for America to change the international law on the subject."

# Pretty Little Dog Story Shows We're All Feeble Minded

## ANIMAL IS USED AS MENTAL TEST—MOST PENDLETONIANS FALL DOWN ON IT.

"I saw in the street a pretty little dog. He had curly, brown hair, short legs and a long tail."

Can you repeat that word for word, without hesitation and after hearing it but once, if you can't you are feeble-minded, according to the much-advertised Binet mental test. But cheer up! You'll have plenty of company right here in Pendleton, for a more or less general application of the test has proved, according to Mr. Binet's standards, that Pendleton is largely made up of feeble minded persons and imbeciles, and they are not in the Eastern Oregon state Hospital either.

In fact the majority of our city and county officials, the heads of our largest institutions, our leading lawyers and physicians, our school teachers and plain, ordinary citizens have failed to meet the qualifications imposed by the French psychologist. After long experimentation he declares that a child that cannot repeat the "long simple sentences after hearing them read once has something the matter with its mental machinery. About 90% of ten adults, who have been successful in life, have failed to do so on the same test.

# BOYS GIVE CLEVER PARADE TO ADVERTISE BASKETBALL

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTHS WILL END THE SEASON WITH GAME WITH LA GRANDE.

The parade held yesterday evening by the high school students proved to have the attracting power of the Sells-Floto circus. Half the town lined the streets in the course of the parade to watch the procession. The parade led by three damsels of the High school was almost two blocks long. Next came "Butch" Carney and his famous band. Even the coat of the Central Meat Market had to put in an appearance.

"Jumbo" the elephant came plodding down the street. A doctor, fisherman, tennis sport and all representations of the business man of today were shown. Delos Sloan was the millionaire of the day. Pinky Boylen in an attempt to expand in dimensions of his body, had his special carriage drawn by Joe Narkaus and in the front end a large bottle in which he carried the diet of the human race when babies.

Watch for the date of the basketball game with La Grande, the last one of the season.

# PENDELTON GIRLS DEFEAT WALLA WALLA GIRLS 25 TO 16

## LOCAL BASKETBALL PLAYERS TURN TABLES ON OPPONENTS IN PAST GAME.

The Pendleton High school girls basketball team defeated Walla Walla High last night on the latter's own floor 25 to 16. This is quite a surprise to local fans, as Walla Walla defeated Pendleton on the local floor 22 to 27, two weeks ago Friday.

Tonight the girls will play Wainwright another game to decide who is supreme in Astoria, Oregon and southern Washington. By the comparative score, Walla Walla is about twice as fast as Wainwright. By this time the girls should have an easy victory tonight, over Wainwright.

# Senator Lewis Defends President From Attack

## WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—Senator Lewis, addressing the senate, defended Senator Root's resignation from the administration, was more than satisfied and lacking in atmosphere.

# NEWS SUMMARY

General. Astoria gets reduction in rates. Germany said to have made blunder in submarine orders. England will be reminded she has not replied to U. S. protest on mail seizures.

Local. Practically all of present officials will seek re-election. Six feet of moisture in ground, say farmers. Binet test proves most of Pendletonians weak minded.