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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Informa- tion of Our Readers.

Baker's first automobile show was held last week.

The Marion County Potato Growers' association held its annual meeting at Salem.

The 44th convention of Oregon state grange is to be held May 8 to 12, 1917, at Astoria.

There will be no immediate call for a special session of the legislature to consider war measures.

The steam schooner Johanna Smith, the largest vessel constructed on Coos bay, was launched at North Bend.

The coldest March in 37 years, was the month just closed, according to the report from the weather bureau.

The Bend Water, Light & Power company will begin at once on the erection of an addition to its plant.

Leonard Saxby, 23 years old, was electrocuted in the new generating plant of the Hawley Pulp & Paper company at Oregon City.

The Oregon state Federation of Women's Clubs will start a fund immediately that shall be known as "the Oregon Federation Hospital fund."

The Eugene chamber of commerce has taken up the plan of cultivation of all city lots to aid the nation in time of war by keeping down the cost of living.

Preliminary steps are being taken in Douglas county to vote on a county bond issue for road improvement. The total amount of the issue has been fixed at \$550,000.

Several of the farmers of the Gold Hill district have been shipping in carloads of beet pulp from the Utah-Oregon Sugar factory at Grants Pass to feed their stock.

The Coos county court, has arranged for an appropriation of \$20,000 as part of the fund for constructing an armory in Marshfield for the coast artillery company.

Subjects of interest to livestock growers will be considered at the fourth annual meeting of the Cattle and Horse Raisers' association to be held at La Grande on April 24 and 25.

The United States department of labor, with headquarters at Washington, D. C., will hold its second annual citizenship convention at Portland for three or four days this coming Summer.

The next annual conference for Oregon of the United Evangelical church will be held in Portland, beginning March 29, 1918, according to action taken by the conference while in session at Salem.

A new "honor lodge" at the state penitentiary has perfected organization. The lodge has 300 members and is organized to promote better feeling between the prisoners and the prison administration.

The number of employers subject to the workmen's compensation law during the second year's operation of the law was 6594, according to the annual report of the state industrial accident commission.

Assisting the farmers of the state in the production of larger and better crops of fiber flax, will be a branch of the work taken up by the extension service of the Oregon Agricultural college this month.

The industrial accident commission received reports of 277 accidents during the week between March 3 and April 5 inclusive. One of the accidents reported was fatal, the victim being Joseph Francis, of Baker, a railroad employe.

With war clouds threatening the continuance of athletics in the coast colleges later in the spring, the O. A. C. relay carnival of April 21 stands as the only major tract event of the season which is sure to be held on the coast this year.

In co-operation with similar departments all over the country, the extension services of the O. A. C. has announced that a vigorous campaign will be started immediately for the purpose of increasing the food preparedness of the country.

There were 50 fires in 31 towns during the month of March, according to figures issued by Insurance Commissioner Harvey Wells. The total losses amounted to \$75,145. The largest loss for the month was a \$10,000 building in Portland.

The people of Oregon are to be asked to subject to the referendum two of the school measures enacted by the last legislature—the teachers' tenure bill and the bill shortening the

terms of school directors from 5 to 3 years. Referendum petitions have been prepared.

A statement issued by the industrial accident commission says that there was a decrease of 64 per cent in the number of personal injury cases where the relation of employer and employe existed, heard before the Oregon supreme court in 1916, from the number in 1914. The total number of cases, however, decreased but 10.4 per cent.

Reports from the upper McKenzie river territory state that there is from 10 to 15 feet of snow in the mountains and that serious high water in the Willamette and McKenzie rivers is probable in the event of one continued spring rains.

Convinced that gold, platinum and other valuable minerals are to be found in the Deschutes basin deposits near Terrebonne, Deschutes county, central Oregon, a number of Portland men have incorporated the Deschutes Mining and Milling company.

The financial statement of the industrial accident commission, issued for the close of business on March 31, this year, shows a total balance with the State Treasurer of \$992,931.99. Receipts from November 5, 1914, to March 31, 1917, totaled \$2,002,395.76, and disbursements \$262,477.58.

Determined to gain access to Marion county's free ferry, the road to which has been blocked on the Polk county side by a fence along the right-of-way going to the old private ferry landing, about 150 Polk county farmers, living in the vicinity of West Salem, sawed down the fence and did away with the barrier.

Should a special session of the legislature be called by Governor Withycombe to make provisions for dependent families of soldiers called into service, the 6 per cent limitation amendment will have no binding effect on any bond issue that might be provided, according to lawyers who have studied the situation.

Information coming from several directions leads to the belief the Southern Pacific Railway company contemplates railroad extensions in the Marshfield vicinity, probably from Beaver Hill junction, 12 miles from Coos bay, to Bandon, by way of Beaver slough and down the Coquille river to the coast.

W. P. Wilson and his son, J. L. Wilson, of Olalla claimed the largest varmint bounty ever paid in Douglas county for the capture of varmints from one family, when they presented eight coyote puppies about two weeks old to the county clerk at Roseburg for bounty. The total amount paid was \$160, being \$20 each.

Attorney-General Brown received notice that he had won another of the F. A. Hyde land fraud cases. Decision in favor of the state has been rendered by Circuit Judge G. F. Skipworth of Lane. This is the fifth out of seven Hyde land fraud cases, which have been won by the state. The other two are undecided.

Seventeen bricks of gold, weighing 1221 ounces and valued at \$23,199, said by milling men to be the largest clean-up ever yielded by a southern Oregon gold mine, were brought to Grants Pass by James Logan, owner of the Simmonds-Logan placer mine at Waldo, about 40 miles southwest of Grants Pass. The mass of gold was the result of a 10-day run.

The legislative road bond committee has decided to hold a statewide rally in Portland, April 28. This will not be in the nature of a convention, but will be a rally to which are invited delegates from all organizations in Oregon interested in the road movement. Governor Withycombe will be invited and the three state highway commissioners will be in attendance.

Insurance business in the state is increasing by leaps and bounds, according to figures compiled by Insurance Commissioner Harvey Wells. During the first three months of this year the fees of his office amounted to \$121,910.98, as compared to \$97,524.43 for a similar period last year. When the new insurance code goes into effect the amount of the fees of that office also will be greatly augmented.

The first two weeks the rural credits amendment has been actually in operation show that 67 applications have been made for loans from that fund, and out of this number 44 have been approved. The loans asked for average about \$2000, although some run as high as \$5000 and others as low as \$300. Approximately \$90,000 worth of loans have been approved out of the \$140,000 worth applied for.

Central Oregon communities are responding with liberality to the request

CLEAN UP and Get Next to Godliness

The City Council of Weston has designated Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 18, 19, 20 and 21, as "Clean Up Days."

Clear your premises, burn what rubbish you can and put the rest in readiness for free cartage by the city.

Every citizen and property owner of Weston is invited and urged to co-operate with the Council in this movement for a brighter, cleaner, healthier town.

City Council of Weston

of Robert E. Strahorn for aid in the financing of the Oregon, California & Eastern railroad which, when built, is to serve Crook, Klamath, Harney and Lake counties. Klamath Falls has voted \$300,000 in municipal bonds; Burns, \$125,000; Lakeview, \$20,000. Bend has contributed \$35,000, and is preparing to vote \$100,000 in bonds in aid of construction. Surprise valley citizens are taking steps to vote \$100,000 in bonds.

Treasurer Kay has directed letters to the Oregon delegation in congress, asking that steps be taken to regulate food prices. He asserted in his communication that speculators have taken advantage of the war to run up prices, even on American-made goods, the manufacture of which are not affected in any manner by the war, and that as a result the wage-working classes throughout the United States would soon be reduced to the condition of the people in European countries if some remedial legislation is not enacted.

WILSON SALUTES FRENCH PRESIDENT

Washington.—In response to President Poincare's congratulations upon the entrance of the United States into the war, President Wilson sent this message:

"In this trying hour, when the destinies of civilized mankind are in the balance, it has been a source of gratification and joy to me to receive your congratulations upon the step which my country has been constrained to take in opposition to the relentless policy and course of imperialistic Germany.

"It is very delightful to us that France, who stood shoulder to shoulder with us of the western world in our struggle for independence should now give us such a welcome into the lists of battle as upholders of the freedom and rights of humanity.

"We stand as partners of the noble democracies whose aims and acts make for the perpetuation of the rights and freedom of man and for the safeguarding of the true principles of human liberties. In the name of the American people I salute you and your illustrious countrymen."

AMERICAN WAR NEWS

General Pershing has informed the war department that there are no signs of German intrigues on the border and that he does not anticipate

any trouble.

Nearly 100 German vessels in American ports which were taken over by the treasury department probably will be utilized in the government service.

The resolution declaring that a state of war exists between the United States and Germany passed the senate by a vote of 2 to 5. Senators who cast the negative votes were Gronna, of North Dakota; La Follette, of Wisconsin; Norris, of Nebraska; Lane, of Oregon; Stone of Missouri, and Vardaman, of Mississippi.

The war resolution passed the house by a vote of 373 to 59. The Oregon delegation in the house voted for the resolution. In the Washington delegation, Representative La Follette, republican, and Representative Dill, democrat, voted no. The Idaho members stood with the president.

Miss Rankin, the only woman member of congress, on the second rollcall arose and said in a sobbing voice: "I want to stand by my country, but I cannot vote for war."

Chile to Remain Neutral.

Santiago, Chile.—Chile will maintain an attitude of neutrality in the war so long as she is not made the object of a direct attack, according to assurances given by government officials.

Oregon Labor Law Upheld.

Washington.—The supreme court upheld as constitutional the Oregon law limiting labor of men in mills, factories and manufacturing establishments to 10 hours a day.

THE MARKETS.

Portland.
Wheat—Club \$1.81; bluestem \$1.86; red Russian, \$1.78; forty-fold, \$1.82. Barley—No. 1 Feed, \$44.50 per ton. Hay—Timothy, \$22 per ton; alfalfa, \$20.

Butter—Creamery, 40c.
Eggs—Ranch, 29c.
Wool—Eastern Oregon, 40c; valley, 40c.
Hops—1916 crop, 4@7c; 1917 contracts, nominal.

Seattle.
Wheat—Bluestem \$1.90; club \$1.85; forty-fold, \$1.85; red Russian, \$1.81; fifty, \$1.85; turkey red, \$1.90. Barley—\$44 per ton.
Butter—Creamery, 42c.
Eggs—31c.

The Proof of Littleless.
No sadder proof can be given by a man of his own littleless than disbelief in great men.—Thomas Carlyle.

PLO ER ARE BLAMED

Infernal Machine Said to Have Caused Fatal Blast.

Chester, Pa.—With 122 dead and between 125 and 150 injured, the majority girls and young women, the authorities are trying to place the blame for the explosion at the plant of the Eddystone Ammunition corporation.

Samuel M. Vauclair, head of the munition company, said:

"We are unable to account for the explosion in any way other than the act of some maliciously inclined person or persons."

President Alba B. Johnson, of the Baldwin Locomotive works, changed his theory that the explosion was due to an accident after a visit to the plant.

"Although we have only circumstantial evidence," Mr. Johnson said, "it looks as if someone touched off a bomb or a time clock with an explosive attached."

The explosion was felt in Philadelphia, a distance of 15 miles.

Several bodies were fished out of the marches, 200 yards from the building. All were mutilated.

NO STRIKES DURING WAR

Nation's Safety First Consideration, Says Labor Defense Committee.

Washington.—No strikes or labor disputes of any kind during the war is the program of the labor committee of the Council of National Defense's advisory commission, headed by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

In a report unanimously adopted by the council and commission, the committee declares "the defense and safety of the nation must be the first consideration of all patriotic citizens," and proposes that whenever emergencies arise requiring a change of standards, such changes should be made only after investigation and approval by the Council of National Defense.

Martial Law in Guatemala.

Guatemala City.—Martial law has been declared in Guatemala. The action was taken on information of disturbances along the Mexican and Salvadoran frontiers, supposed to have been created with German assistance.

Intensive Cultivation Ordered.

Washington.—Cato Sells, Indian commissioner, has ordered intensive cultivation of all Indian reservations during the year because of the war situation.

Spain Declares She is Neutral.

Madrid, via Paris.—The Official Journal publishes a decree declaring the neutrality of Spain in the war between the United States and Germany.

CUBA DECLARES WAR

Island Republic Decides To Support the United States.

Havana.—The republic of Cuba has declared war with Germany.

In a joint resolution passed by the senate and approved by the house, the island republic ranged itself as an ally of the United States in the war against the German government.

President Menocal signed the war bill immediately after it was transmitted to him by the house.

The wildest scenes of enthusiasm greeted passage of the measure. Not one of the leaders neglected to mention the "gratitude Cuba felt toward the United States and not one of them failed to receive thunderous bursts of applause at such references.

Fruit Growers Elect Head.

Spokane.—Paul H. Weyrauch, prominent fruit grower of Walla Walla, Wash., was elected president of the Fruit Growers' Agency, an organization of fruit growers and shippers of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho, at the first annual convention of the organization.

Plotters Burned Elevators.

Minneapolis, Minn.—The metal remnants of what is believed to have been a bomb cap were found in the ruins of the Quinn-Shepherdson grain elevator, which together with the Marfield grain company's elevator here, was destroyed by fire, by persons searching the ruins. The finding of the pieces of metal tends to confirm the suspicions of the military and federal authorities that the fires were of incendiary origin.

Berlin Will Not Reply.

Berlin.—The foreign office let it be known that the German government will not officially reply to the American declaration of existence of a state of war.

\$6,750,000,000 IS ASKED FIRST YEAR

Will Issue Bonds for Five Billion and Allies Will Borrow Three Billion.

Washington.—President Wilson's policy, outlined in his address to congress, of paying America's war bill, so far as possible, while the war is being waged, leaving a minimum debt to posterity, was reflected in a virtual decision by leaders in the house and senate to raise 50 per cent of the first year's expenditures by taxation.

Under this program congress will be called on to raise war revenues of \$1,750,000,000 through new and increased taxation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918. This is exclusive of the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue, authorization for which will be sought. The total demand upon the financial resources of the country during the first year of war, under this program, would be \$6,750,000,000.

Of the bond issue, \$3,000,000,000, it was definitely stated, would be loaned to the entente allies.

The facilities offered by bankers and others who have asserted that they would place their services free of charge at the government's disposal to aid in making the bond issue a success will be accepted. Assistance also will be sought of federal reserve banks, national banks, state banks, insurance companies, private and investment bankers and of every governmental agency, such as the internal revenue offices and the postoffices, in floating the issue.

The terms of the bonds are yet to be decided on, as well as the denominations, but it is likely that there will be little change in the plan to issue them in denominations as low as \$25. Once the authorization is granted, it is possible that the big issue will not be placed before the investing public in one lump sum, but will be issued from time to time as the money is needed.

Creation of a general munitions board was announced by the Council of National Defense. It will be headed by Frank A. Scott, a Cleveland manufacturer, and will be charged with supplying the army and navy with munitions and equipment. One of its chief functions will be to decide between the country's military and its industrial needs.

The board's establishment puts into the hands of a group of army and navy officers and industrial leaders virtually the same task given the British minister of munitions.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEVERED BY AUSTRIA

Washington.—Austria-Hungary, ranging herself unreservedly with Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States, precipitating a situation which generally is expected here to lead to war.

Baron Erich Zwiadinek, the Austrian charge, asked the state department for passports for himself, his staff and the Austrian consular force in this country, and simultaneously American Minister Stovall reported from Berne that Austria had announced the break in relations to the American embassy in Vienna.

Immediately the treasury department ordered the seizure of all Austrian merchant ships in American harbors.

TO ARREST FLAG INSULTERS

Warning Against Desecration of National Emblem by Aliens Issued.

Washington.—A warning against desecration of the American flag by aliens has been issued by the department of justice. The following notice was sent to federal attorneys and marshals:

"Any alien enemy tearing down, mutilating, abusing or desecrating the United States flag in any way will be regarded as a danger to the public peace within the meaning of regulation 12 of the proclamation of the president, issued April 6, 1917, and will be subject to summary arrest and confinement."

Make Your Gift Useful.

The weakest among us has a gift, however seemingly trivial, which is peculiar to him, and which worthily used, will be a gift also to his race.—Ruskin.