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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Infor- mation of Our Readers.

The Crook and Deschutes county agricultural council held a meeting in Redmond.

There are 53,254 children between the ages of 4 and 20 years in Multnomah county.

Mrs. Rosalie McMahan, 78 years old, died at Salem. She crossed the plains to Oregon in 1846.

The Douglas county court has appropriated \$50,000 to buy liberty bonds to be held as a court house fund.

Every one of the 71 residents of the town of Isee, in Grant county, has joined the Red Cross. It is reported.

Frank Wienert, a young man, resident of Albire, was drowned in the Luckiamute while helping on a drive of logs.

As soon as the right of way between Bend and Fort Rock can be secured the Straborn railroad will begin construction.

Jason Machado, a pioneer merchant of Coos county, is dead. He was a resident of Myrtle Point, where he had accumulated a large fortune.

Petitions are being circulated in outlying parts of Lincoln county demanding recall of County Judge Miller and Commissioners Hurt and Wakefield.

A barreling plant will be established in Albany in time to handle next year's crop of strawberries, loganberries, phenomenal berries and other small fruits.

By a vote of 194 in favor to 81 against, the Central Oregon Irrigation district was formed in Deschutes county at the election held on the project.

Coos county dairymen claim that more thoroughbred dairy stock has been purchased there in the last three years than in any other section of the state.

The second and third companies of the Oregon coast artillery were each presented with a Christmas gift of a phonograph by the girls' honor guard of Eugene.

The federal government has sent Miss Anna Barrows as its representative in food conservation work to Oregon Agricultural college from December 31 to January 5.

Members of the Loyal Order of Moose in Oregon will organize a state field day association at the time of dedicating the new Moose temple in Portland, January 2.

State Game Warden Shoemaker has issued an order to close commercial fishing on Tillamook lake, on the Southern Pacific railway, between the Umpqua and Siuslaw rivers.

The state highway department has prepared for submission to the government for approval a project for hard surfacing 21 miles of the Pacific highway in Marion county from post road funds.

The heavy rainstorm of the past week did considerable damage in Lincoln county. Two bridges were damaged on the line of the Corvallis & Eastern railroad near Harris on Mary's river.

After a long and remarkably brilliant career as a minister of the gospel, ten of which he spent as pastor of the First Congregational church, of Portland, Dr. Luther R. Dyott died at his home in that city.

Attorney General Brown has informed the state industrial accident commission that pension awards made to citizens of Austria-Hungary are suspended during the war on the ground that they are alien enemies.

E. D. Cusick, of Albany, state senator from Lane and Linn counties, has announced his candidacy for the republican nomination for state treasurer. Mr. Cusick is the first aspirant for this office formally to declare his candidacy.

Approximately 15,000 men are building ships in Oregon, according to a report which has been compiled by R. P. Bonham, United States immigration inspector in charge at Portland, for forwarding to the department of labor.

Discovering that the Southern Pacific has cars in the firewood service with racks that will only hold from eight to nine cords of wood, Public Service Commissioner Buchtel wrote the company asking that it immediately remedy the situation.

Farmers living near Harrisburg have formed a co-operative association and propose to build 25-barrel mill at that city. Plans for the structure have been ordered drawn up and the mill will be financed by a stock company

of farmers living in that section.

Bank aid to boys and girls on farms who wish to join "pig clubs" is being arranged for throughout the state by J. G. Allen, leader of pig club work. Under the conditions arranged by Mr. Allen the banks agree to lend the children money for purchasing pigs or brood sows at 6 per cent interest. Only pure-bred stock may be raised by the club members. The children have meetings and demonstrations and are organized through the aid of school officials.

William Albert, C. C. Chapman and W. B. Dodson, of Portland, were named by Governor Withycombe as members of a commission to investigate creamery and dairying conditions in the state. These men will act with Dairy and Food Commissioner Mickle and W. K. Newell.

W. K. Newell, of Portland, assistant federal food administrator for Oregon, will go to Washington, D. C., to be present at a conference of state administrators to be held there January 8 and 9. He will represent W. B. Ayer, state administrator, who but recently returned from a similar session.

Monmouth high school has the honor of having raised more money per capita for the Y. M. C. A. fund than any other high school in the state, according to figures just made public by the state organization. With an apportionment of \$50 the school raised \$283, or 564 per cent of the quota asked for.

During the past week 596 industrial accidents were reported to the state industrial accident commission. Of this number four were fatal, as follows: Adolph Asplund, Scappoose, logging; Alfred Latsel, Powers, logging; Carl Everest, Portland, steel works; and M. Hansen, Westport, sawmill.

Oregon will promise Chairman Hurley, of the United States shipping board, that 150 wooden hulls can be completed in 1918 for government purposes in yards along the Willamette and Columbia rivers and those at Oregon coast ports. On a basis of 2500 tons, deadweight for each ship, that will mean 325,000 tons.

Captain W. A. Arnold, who has been organizing the loggers and lumber workers of Coos county, has visited all but one logging camp in the county and has signed approximately 1150 members in the Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumber Workers. All camps returned practically 100 per cent of the employees as members.

The state board of eugenics, which comprises members of the state board of health and superintendents of both insane asylums, warden of the penitentiary and superintendent of the institution for feeble minded, has approved for sterilization several cases at the Oregon state hospital for the insane and at the state penitentiary.

State Highway Engineer Nunn has started assembling a force of men to resume work on the Svensen and Clatskanie jobs on the lower Columbia river highway. Mr. Nunn has served notice on the Warren Construction company of the termination of their contracts on these jobs because of alleged discrepancies in handling the work.

The Valley & Siletz railway company, which has just completed its line as far as Valet, in the Siletz basin, will begin the operation of regular passenger and freight trains on January 1. The road will operate between Independence and Valet, and will tap some of the richest agricultural and timber lands in western Oregon.

Hood River valley produced only about two-thirds of its 1916 apple crop, according to a special apple report, just issued by the bureau of crop estimates. A better showing in the rest of the state tends to make up for this decrease, although the state as a whole will fall a little short of last year, producing 650,000 barrels, or 1,950,000 boxes, in 1917.

Governor Withycombe has announced that at the request of Mayor Hackett, of Oregon City, and Sheriff Wilson, of Clackamas county, about half of the force of special agents that have been stationed in that county to watch for troubles which might arise because of differences between paper-mill employers and employees will be retained for a time at least.

Oregon students will visit and speak at nearly every high school in the state during the university Christmas holidays and encourage the pupils to continue their education rather than give it up at the end of their high school course. All boys under the draft age will be urged to enter college and prepare themselves for more efficient service when they are called or needed.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company has filed with the public



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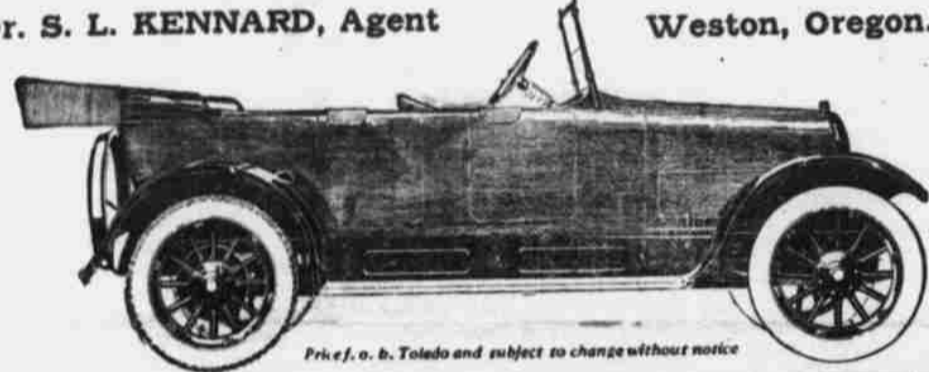
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service establishment a proposal for the establishment of a new system of long distance rates in Oregon, the proposed system to be established on the zone or block basis, similar to the systems used by the telegraph and express companies. It is stated that, under the proposal, if it is accepted by the commission, a reduction will be shown in 53 per cent of the rates, while about 22 per cent will remain the same and the balance will show increases.

Reclamation directors of the federal government have approved the reclamation of the lower Klamath lake marshlands by use of a gate installed at the Southern Pacific company's crossing over Klamath strait. This marks the end of five years' effort devoted to providing reclamation for a tract of 54,000 acres of the most fertile land in this locality. It is probable that 40,000 acres will be available for pasture next year. The gate already is installed. An effort will be made at Washington to have the national bird reserve now on this land removed to ground unsuitable for agriculture.

Hunt Is Legally Arizona's Governor. Phoenix, Ariz.—Ending a bitter political fight of more than a year, the supreme court of Arizona handed down a decision holding George W. P. Hunt is legally governor of Arizona. The decision displaces Thomas E. Campbell, who has been acting governor since January 23, 1917.

Halifax Dead are Estimated at 1500. Halifax—The latest estimate of dead in the Halifax disaster is 1500.

THE MARKETS

Portland.

Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$57 per ton.
Barley—Standard feed, \$55.50 ton.
Corn—Whole, \$75; cracked, \$78.
Hay—Timothy, \$27 per ton; alfalfa, \$24.
Butter—Creamery, 49c per lb.
Eggs—Ranch, 45c per doz.
Potatoes—\$1.25@1.50 per hundred.
Poultry—Hens, large, 20c; small, 18c; geese, 14@18c; ducks, 20c; turkeys, live, 23@25c.

Seattle.

Butter—Creamery, 52c per lb.
Eggs—Ranch, 44c per doz.
Potatoes—\$32@35 per ton.
Poultry—Hens, 22@25c; dressed, 24@28c; broilers, 30c; turkeys, live, 26@28c; dressed, 33@35c.

GERMANS REPORTED NEAR PETROGRAD

Teutons Are Pushing Commercial Interests to Their Utmost Limit.

London.—Many news dispatches from Petrograd speak of the supposed impending arrival of the Germans there, which is said to be the universal topic of discussion in the city, but every one seems to have a different version. Many of these stories center around reported concentration near the capital of a large force of released German war prisoners, to whom arms are being handed over, according to some of the reports. Referring to these rumors, the Petrograd correspondent of the Post says that unquestionably thousands of German war prisoners are flocking towards Petrograd from all parts of Russia, but he believes that at present a more important phase of the situation is the active and thorough manner in which the Germans have been pushing trade with Russia since the frontier was opened. He reports they are making the most of a commercial opportunity such as the world has never seen before, inasmuch as Russian industries are nearly dead and the Germans have no competition.

Bolshevik leaders, the Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post says, appear to be becoming conscious of hopeless failure, while the correspondent of the Daily News writes:

"There is a tremendous and growing opposition to the Bolsheviks among all classes. Men who formerly supported them are turning against them and 'German hirelings' is a common term of denunciation.

In consequence of the postponement of the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk, because the Germans were not ready to reply to the Russian terms, the Russian delegates are reported to be returning to Petrograd, where apparently they are expected to await the arrival of the delegation from the enemy powers which is to participate in a conference for discussion of the political aspects of an eventual peace conference.

It is getting so now that a man can do almost as much with machinery as a woman can with hairpins.

BRIEF WAR NEWS

In the Champagne around Moronvilliers, French troops carried out successful raids.

Speaking in the house of commons David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines, he declared, were decreasing, while shipbuilding was increasing.

The situation in Russia continues obscure, although such reports as are coming through indicate that the Bolshevik movement is losing ground in the face of the opposition from the Ukrainians and the followers of General Kaledines.

Further progress by the forces of General Allenby in Palestine was reported in a statement issued by the British war department. Since the Turks were driven out of Jerusalem they have been conducting guerrilla warfare in the north and east of the city, splitting up into numerous small bodies to attack British outposts.

Not only are the Italian lines holding in the Monte Asolone region, on the northern front, where a threatening salient was driven in them early last week, but practically all the lost ground was recovered. The Italians have negated much of the enemy advance, and even the German accounts of the fighting concede that for the present the aggressive is on the Italian side, with the Asolone heights the objective of repeated attacks.

FOOD TRUST RAISED PRICES

War Used as Cloak to Cover Advances in Meat Stuff, Says Heney.

Washington.—That a food trust organized by the big beef barons used the war-made opportunity to boost prices, is alleged by Francis J. Heney, federal trade commission examiner.

Subject to the mandate of this secret merger, he declared, are prices of meat, poultry, dairy products, leather, grain and canned goods.

Heney promised to uncover the track of this food merger in a series of public hearings to follow the commission's sessions here last week, which disclosed the financial ledger-keeping by which control of the Chicago stockyards was obtained by the big packers.

One trouble with so much of our free speech is that the donors insist on giving it to all corners.

CROZIER BLAMED FOR ORDNANCE SHORTAGE

Inventor of Lewis Gun Tells of Controversy With Chief of Ordnance.

Washington.—Responsibility for ordnance and rifle shortage in the American army was laid on General Crozier, chief of ordnance, by Colonel Isaac Lewis, inventor of the Lewis machine gun, in testimony before the senate military affairs committee.

Colonel Lewis repeatedly stated to the committee that General Crozier's attitude toward him and his invention was the result of prejudice and personal animosity. He declared General Crozier was autocratic, responsible for alleged failure to properly equip the American armies and for alleged lack of progress in American ordnance.

Supporting Colonel Lewis' testimony, President A. E. Borie, of the Savage Arms company, which has the exclusive American license right to make the Lewis gun, also told of the refusal of the war department to adopt the Lewis gun and the achievements of that weapon. Both he and Colonel Lewis predicted that sufficient numbers of the new Browning gun, adopted by the war department, would not be available for the American forces. Other manufacturers have testified that the production would be sufficient.

Developments of investigation. Investigating committee members, asked to sum up their impressions of the several inquiries, gave their views of what had been developed thus:

The military investigation has shown beyond question that the war department did not avail itself of from 40,000 to 50,000 machine guns it might have had, because the Browning gun had been purchased for more than \$1,000,000. This gun has never had a field test. All the machine guns Pershing's army has were furnished by France, and cantonments in this country have a few French guns with two makes of American guns.

Foresight of riflemakers who saw the war coming before the war department did, has resulted in insuring the rapid and continuous rifle production from now on, although there was much delay because of official hesitation to decide on minor changes in rifle design. This official hesitation, coupled with departmental red tape, caused a long delay in furnishing initial shipments of rifles, so that thousands of men in cantonments are still without arms.

Artillery Delivery Delayed. Artillery delivery has not yet begun and there is no assurance when it will begin in quantity. For many months to come the American army abroad must depend on France for artillery.

Thousands of troops in cantonments have been given shoes and overcoats too small for them and months passed before the department took steps to correct the condition.

The council of national defense has virtually taken over the purchasing power of the quartermaster department and has delayed some deliveries in the interest of getting lower prices.

Feud Among Sugar Refiners. Sugar inquiry has disclosed that a bitter feud of long years' standing among sugar refiners has been continued since the food administration took over the regulation of the sugar business last October.

The beet sugar farmers of the west are refusing to plant beets because they declare they are not being given a "living price" for their beets.

The shipping investigation revealed that Chairman Hurley of the shipping board has discarded by-law under which the board and the emergency fleet corporation operated independently as to authority and responsibility, and centered in himself complete control over both bodies with the responsibility for construction and operation of ships.

The work of shipbuilding has gone on steadily. In the opinion of Chairman Hurley and his aides, progress from now on will be steady and satisfactory.

Canada to Increase "America Dry" Ottawa, Ont.—Canada has been added to the dry territory on the North American continent. Importation of intoxicating liquor into Canada after Christmas eve was prohibited by order of the prime minister. Manufacture of intoxicants in Canada will also be prohibited at a date to be determined by investigation.