

# WESTON LEADER

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## OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

### Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

H. D. Edwards, pioneer of 1854, died in Eugene, aged 69 years.  
Charles Walker Young, for 65 years a resident of Lane County, died in Eugene, aged 87 years.

The annual convention of the Oregon Irrigation congress is being held in Portland January 2-5, inclusive.

It is reported that the new highway from Clatskanie to Mint was considerably damaged by the recent heavy rains. Several large slides occurred. The report of the financial condition of Lincoln county just issued shows that for the first time in many years the county is practically out of debt. Upward of 1000 delegates from towns of Oregon were in attendance at the annual meeting of the Oregon State Teachers' association at Portland.

Revised figures of the recent drive for subscriptions to the war libraries fund show that Oregon far exceeded its quota of \$9000 and actually subscribed \$19,940.68.

Total farm products of Oregon for 1917 showed a value of \$327,063,000 compared with \$325,865,000 in 1916. This year's value is the greatest known in the state.

What reserves of food are being held in local markets will be determined by the government in a survey which will start immediately. The "inventory" will be nation-wide.

A 15 per cent increase in freight rates, except on fuel wood, was granted by the public service commission to the Portland Railway, Light & Power company on all the interurban lines.

The stormy weather for the past two weeks, causing numerous slides and washouts has resulted in an almost total absence of the usual crowd of midwinter visitors at Newport.

A substantial growth in the light producing industry in Oregon during the past year was shown at the annual meeting of the Willamette Valley Mint Growers' association held at Albany.

Multnomah and Clarke counties will realize a net profit of more than \$110,000 a year in receipts from the interstate bridge, according to figures and estimates which have been compiled.

The aircraft production board has advised Senator McNary that it is strongly disposed to award contracts for airplane construction to properly equipped factories on the Pacific coast.

The Valley & Siletz railway, which was to have commenced operations as a common carrier January 1, 1918, had its line blocked by several landslides near Hoskins, due to the heavy rains.

The Portland Railway, Light & Power company has filed with the public service commission its application for an increase of rates in the passenger fares on the interurban lines out of Portland.

Gus C. Moser, president of the Oregon state senate, has made public announcement of his candidacy for the republican nomination for governor at the coming primary election which will be held on May 17, 1918.

The Northwestern Electric company has let contracts in Portland for the immediate construction of an additional plant by which the company's capacity for supplying electrical power will be increased 50 per cent.

The outlook for the lumber industry in the lower Columbia river district for the coming year is most encouraging and the indications are that the output of the plants will be greatly in excess of that of the present year.

The secretary of the interior has withdrawn from entry for power site purposes 196 acres of public land on the Big Sandy river below the mouth of the Salmon river. The land may be used only for power developments.

Whether or not the Grange, Farmers' Union and State Federation of Labor shall unite in fostering the organization of the Farmers' Non-Partisan League in this state will be decided by those organizations within the next month.

Until it receives definite information as to the plans of the government in handling the railroads of the country, the public service commission will pursue its accustomed course in all matters coming before it pertaining to railroads.

For the first time in the history of Hood River valley, vinegar and cider manufacturing plants find it necessary to import cull apples from other northwestern districts in order to keep their presses running and to fill their

tanks throughout the winter season.

Suit to quiet title of 2,573,661 acres of Oregon-California grant lands was filed in the federal court at Portland by the government against the Southern Pacific company. The government, through the court, seeks to quiet title to all lands the company sold prior to the forfeiture suit and to compel it to account for money secured by alleged illegal sales where purchasers bought more than 100 acres or paid more than \$250 an acre.

An appropriation of \$500,000 will be asked of congress by Senator McNary to enable the government in co-operation with the city of Portland to improve Columbia slough from Sandy river to the Willamette, in order to provide an outlet for sewerage and drainage.

The Coos County Good Roads association at a meeting held in Coquille, decided to ask the state highway commission for the 26 miles of asphalted concrete highway 16 feet wide between Coos Bay and Myrtle Point, the same as was promised by the commission.

Oregon-grown potatoes are to be graded and inspected officially just as soon as the public service commission, through its grain inspection department, can establish the grades, district the state for purposes of inspection and formulate a schedule of inspection charges.

The anti-picketing ordinance of the city of Portland was declared void by the state supreme court. The court held the ordinance invalid because it prohibited strikes and boycotts as well as picketing. The decision declared that strikes are countenanced by all state and federal courts.

For a consideration said to be in the neighborhood of \$125,000, Smythe Brothers, prominent Oregon sheepmen, have purchased the sheep ranch and plant of Horst & Wheelhouse, southwest of Arlington. Included in the deal are 2000 acres of land, 130 head of cattle, 2000 sheep and all equipment.

Three of the 394 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending December 27 were fatal. They were those of E. G. White, of Canby, killed in railroad operations; Louis Winert, of Airle, killed in logging operations; and James A. Conway, of Portland, killed in ship-building operations.

Sixty-eight soldiers from Vancouver barracks, Wash., have arrived at Marshall field to work in the Smith-Powers logging camps at Powers, to hasten the production of airplane and ship lumber. This is the first detachment sent out by Colonel Disque. Several hundred more are expected to join the various camps soon.

The Malheur Irrigation company has filed a petition with the state water board asking for an extension of two years, from January 1, 1918, in which to complete the works and apply the water in connection with its irrigation project near Brokan, in Malheur county. The company's operations have been delayed on account of litigation.

Finding that the Central Oregon Irrigation company, which has a large Carey act project in central Oregon, has been giving better water service to some land holders than others, the public service commission has issued an order directing the company to install water measurement devices and make other improvements before the beginning of the 1918 irrigation season.

The federal authorities have begun an investigation of the report of an arson plot, having for its purpose the destruction of a chain of mills and grain warehouses extending from Gaston, Washington county, to Salem and other Marion county towns. The existence of such a conspiracy has been strongly suspected since the mysterious burning of a grain elevator at Carlton.

Oregon is looking forward to the biggest harvest of winter wheat ever garnered in the history of the state. During the last fall farmers of Oregon have sown a larger area of this grain than those of either Washington or California. According to statistics of the department of agriculture, Oregon has 562,000 acres seeded to winter wheat, or an increase over the previous year of 25 per cent.

In submitting the annual report of the state lime board to Governor Withycombe, Warden C. A. Murphy, of the state penitentiary, said that the board would probably not be able to put any lime on the market until next June. The delivery of the machinery has been delayed, and after its arrival it will require considerable time to install it and put the plant into operation, he said. The board has selected the Freeman quarry near Gold Hill for its operations.

Representative McArthur, who recently received telegrams from par-



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**35**  
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Model 85-Four  
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The farm offers blessings the city man envies. He gets an Overland for his family and enters into the country.

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Get an Overland and keep in touch with affairs, both business and social! Be up to date!

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Only an Overland gives all the advantages your family needs in a motor car at the price it is wisdom to pay.

No other gives such roomy comfort, such power and economy, such beauty and modern equipment at anywhere near the price.

Its generous upholstery and long wheelbase afford extra room and riding comfort.

Nothing is skimped—

Liberal room for five passengers; superabundance of power in the 35 h. p. in bloc motor, and cantilever rear springs.

Also, electric starting and lighting system; magnetic speedometer and 32 x 4 inch tires, non-skid rear.

Also, vacuum gasoline system; ample speed; 112-inch wheelbase; beauty and luxury.

Now you know why you must get your order in at once to avoid disappointment.

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ents of Oregon boys, members of the 23d engineers, charging that conditions at Camp Meade, Maryland, are far from satisfactory, and that the men are being subjected to hardships. Interviewed a dozen Oregon troops at the camp. Without exception the soldiers said that they were comfortably quartered, that they had abundant clothing of the right sort, and that food was plentiful and good.

If registrants for army duty who are adapted for service in logging camps and saw mills desire to fill their part in the war by performing the work they are best suited to do, they may be granted their wishes, according to instructions received in Portland by Colonel Bruce P. Disque, from Provost Marshal General Crowder. None can be enlisted now, but they may apply to their district exemption boards and those who are acceptable will be admitted to the service of the spruce production division of the United States signal corps.

entire Cossack Territory Mobilized  
London.—The spirit of civil war is active in the Cossack territory, and the entire population of the Don valley has been mobilized, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the Times. Thousands of officers of the regular army have joined General Kaledin, who is now said to have more than 20,000 commissioned officers.

## THOUSANDS IN EAST SUFFER FROM COLD

Chicago.—The densely populated regions of the United States are in the icy grip of the most severe cold wave of the present winter. In view of the shortage of fuel at many points, the degree of suffering, especially among the poor, is intensified.

From points in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and other Atlantic seaboard states come reports of temperatures from 6 degrees above to 10 degrees below.

Throughout the middle west reports indicate the most severe winter storm of the season. It includes in its wide sweep the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, the Dakotas and Nebraska. The temperatures range all the way from zero at Chicago to 35 below at points in South Dakota. All records for December cold were reported broken in South Dakota, where the minimum was 30.

## PRICES DECLARED TOO HIGH

Admiral Bowles Says Coast Ship-builders Demand Too Much.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Bowles, assistant to the general manager of the Emergency Fleet corporation, testifying before the senate committee investigating the shipping situation,

declared that Pacific Coast shipbuilders were anxious to get contracts but only at very high prices. Pacific Coast plants, he said, had increased their demands \$15 to \$20 a ton on steel ships, making the prices asked from \$180 to \$185 a ton, while some even are asking \$200 a ton.

Mr. Bowles denied he had stated the wooden ship program was a flat failure. He said he believed the shipping problem would be solved by building steel ships and that wooden ships should be built only when tonnage could be increased more rapidly by that means.

More Wages for Railway Men Refused  
Washington.—The railroads have definitely refused the demand of their organized employes for 40 per cent increases in pay and have turned the responsibility entirely to the government.

French War Loan is Over Subscribed.  
Paris.—The French war loan, which has just been concluded, was over-subscribed \$55,000,000. It was announced. The loan was for \$2,000,000,000.

THE MARKETS

Portland.  
Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$58.50 ton.  
Barley—Standard feed, \$35 per ton.  
Corn—Whole, \$75; cracked, \$76.  
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, 22@24c; geese, 20c; ducks, 25c; turkeys, live, 25c.

Seattle.  
Butter—Creamery, 52c per lb.  
Eggs—Ranch, 54c per doz.  
Potatoes—\$32@35 per ton.  
Poultry—Hens, 22@25c; dressed, 24@28c; broilers, 30c; turkeys, live, 26@28c; dressed, 33@35c.

Umatilla county tax levy is 7 1/2 mills.

## BRIEF WAR NEWS

The British forces under General Allenby continue their victorious march against the Turks in Palestine.

Cold weather and snow in the European fighting zone have reduced military activities to a minimum in most sectors.

France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war, Foreign Minister Pichon declared in the chamber of deputies.

Three British torpedo boat destroyers were sunk through being struck by torpedoes or hitting mines off the Dutch coast with a loss of 13 officers and 180 men.

In the Italian theater the infantry for the present is idle, but the big guns continue to carry out mutual bombardment against points in the hill region, from Asiago plateau eastward to the Piave river.

German divisions, fresh from the Russian and Roumanian fronts, are in Turkey, operating with the sultan's forces in an effort to wrest the holy land from the British and restore the falling Moslem morale, according to official reports.

The German emperor, returning with his staff from the Verdun front, had a narrow escape during the reprisal raid of a British air squadron on Mannheim. The emperor's special train left the station an hour before it was partly destroyed by several bombs.

Seattle Isolated by Floods.  
Seattle.—As the result of floods throughout western Washington, Seattle had no railroad connection with the outside world except by way of Portland. Because of the loss of the Milwaukee and Northern Pacific bridges over the Yakima river, there will probably be no trans-continental train service direct from Seattle for at least a week. In the meantime all this traffic must go by way of the Columbia river.

Trade Balance Favors Nation.  
Washington.—America's exports were estimated at the department of commerce to have passed the \$6,000,000,000 mark in 1917, a new high record. Imports were less than \$3,000,000,000 and the trade balance in favor of the United States probably will be more than \$3,150,000,000.

The smallest known bird is a Central American humming bird that is about the size of a bluebottle fly.

## GOVERNMENT NOW IN CONTROL OF ROADS

### Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo Named Director-General of Railroads.

Washington.—The railroads of the United States have passed into government possession and Secretary McAdoo, designated by President Wilson as director-general of railroads.

Walker D. Hines, of New York, a railroad lawyer and for many years a special student of government operation, was appointed assistant director general, pending the formation of a permanent staff.

Definite steps toward national unification of railroads and improvement of congested conditions were taken by Director-General McAdoo in the appointment of a temporary staff and the issuing of his first formal order directing absolute pooling of all traffic, common utilization of terminals, rolling stock and other facilities, hauling of freight by the shortest routes and retention of all present officers and employes.

Orders went to eastern roads from Director-General McAdoo to clear up freight congestion regardless of previous government priority regulations, passenger schedules and any hampering practices under the old competitive system and to pay special attention to the movement of coal and food.

The director-general dissolved the railroad war board at its own request and named a temporary advisory cabinet of five members.

The question of increased pay for railroad employes will be taken up soon by Mr. McAdoo. Heads of the four brotherhoods will confer with the director-general at his invitation, and probably will urge with the scarcity of railroad labor it will be necessary to pay higher wages to retain men. Many advisers of the director-general advocate increasing wages, particularly for many unorganized classes.

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## BOLSHEVIKI BREAK OFF NEGOTIATIONS

London.—The central powers within 10 days will make new declarations regarding Germany's peace conditions, a dispatch from Geneva to the Daily Express quotes the Munich Nachrichten as saying.

Peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk have been broken off by the Bolsheviki government owing to the German attitude in regard to Poland and Lithuania and the enemy's proposal that garrisons be retained at Libau, Riga and elsewhere, according to a telegram from the Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News appearing in that paper.

The dispatch quotes an article from the Bolsheviki newspaper *Investin* discussing "the new phase in the peace negotiations." The article says that owing to pressure from below the Germans have been obliged to soil their lips with the formula put forward by the socialists at the beginning of the war, but the German imperialists would not be imperialists if they did not try to take back in fact what with gritted teeth they yielded in words.

TO REGISTER ALL GERMANS  
Certificate Cards Will Be Issued Which Must Be Carried.

Washington.—The week of February 4 was set aside by the department of justice for registration of the half-million of unnaturalized Germans in the continental United States by police and postmasters in pursuance of President Wilson's alien enemy proclamation directing this action as a means of minimizing the danger from enemy sympathizers.

Registration will involve the gathering of detailed information concerning the business, relatives and habits of every German, together with his photograph and finger prints. After registering he must carry a certificate card and may not change his place of residence without approval of the police or postmaster.

Oregon Bishop Takes Bride.  
Chicago, Ill.—The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul held a select company of relatives from Chicago and other cities Tuesday, gathered to witness the marriage of Miss Myrtle Mitchell, of Nagsance, Mich., and the Rt. Rev. Walter Taylor Sumner, bishop of Oregon.