

# WESTON LEADER

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## OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

Company B. of the Wasco county home guards, was organized at Dufur with 106 members.

Columbia county has just let contracts for \$30,000 worth of improvements on county roads.

Portland's Liberty Temple, built to be used as headquarters for the third Liberty Loan, was dedicated Tuesday.

Frank M. Radovan, of San Francisco, has been in Roseburg soliciting support for a fruit evaporating and canning plant.

Mrs. F. M. Wilkins of Eugene was unanimously elected regent of the Oregon State Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at the annual conference held in Portland Saturday.

Lumbermen from all parts of western Oregon and western Washington will gather in Portland Friday, March 29, to attend the monthly meeting of the West Coast Lumbermen's association.

The Central Oregon Woolgrowers' association was organized at Bend Saturday at a meeting attended by sheepmen from the ranges bounded by Wasco on the north, Klamath on the south and Malheur on the east.

An hourly wage of 2 1/2 cents, on an hourly basis, was adopted by the public conference as the minimum wage for women workers throughout the state in all employments except mercantile occupations and office positions.

Oregon mills made a substantial gain in the lumber cut in 1917 over 1916. Sixty-five mills in Oregon with 500,000 feet daily capacity or more produced 2,082,661,000 feet of lumber in 1917, compared with 1,742,052,000 feet in 1916.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Charles J. O'Reilly, head of the Catholic diocese of Baker since 1903, has accepted the appointment as bishop of the Lincoln, Neb. diocese to succeed Bishop J. Henry Tiehn, named as bishop of Denver, Col. diocese.

Farmers along the new Strahorn railway are preparing to ship this year's grain crop in bulk to Pacific ports. Plans are being drawn for a co-operative grain elevator, of 60,000-bushel capacity, to be erected about six miles east of Klamath Falls.

The Miami Quarry company has commenced work on its contract with the government to construct a jetty at Yaquina bay. The work includes the construction of 10,000 feet of tramway and the hauling and placing of 225,000 tons of rock.

The Pacific Coast Starch company's plant at Beaverton was opened Saturday and will begin immediately the manufacture of potato starch, potato flour, potato farina and other products which formerly were imported in great quantities from Germany.

On a bid of \$420,328 the J. A. McEachern company, of Seattle, will construct the first pier of Portland's new municipal terminal at St. Johns, where work is also under way on the excavation and foundation piling for the 1,000,000-bushel grain elevator.

Less than three weeks remain in which candidates for state or district offices may file with the secretary of state their declaration of candidacy or nominating petition. The time for filings expires April 12, yet but very few candidates have filed for office.

With a view of opening as many of the main highways of the state as is possible to traffic, the state highway commission will institute a suit soon in the supreme court to determine whether it is permissible under the \$6,000,000 paving act to lay macadam.

The holdup man who had been terrorizing Portland streetcar operatives since February 28 was killed at the end of the Fulton streetcar line by Motorman P. G. Heath, formerly a guard at the state penitentiary. The dead man was A. W. Blue, formerly of Denver.

As the first move in the campaign to secure greater production of poultry, the department of agriculture announces the appointment of U. L. Upson of Grants Pass, as extension poultry husbandman, to cooperate with the Oregon Agricultural college, and with office at Corvallis.

That there will be a scarcity of water for irrigation during the coming season in some sections of Baker county and eastern Oregon, is the belief expressed by those familiar with con-

ditions. There is much less than the normal amount of snow in the mountains at this time.

Oregon commission men and growers may dispose of large stocks of potatoes and onions to be used in feeding the men in training at army camps and cantonments, according to advice received by R. L. Ringer, of the United States bureau of markets. Rationing needs of camps in the west and southwest for the month of April alone call for 4,500,000 pounds of potatoes and about 275,000 pounds of onions. Bids of coast holders are now sought.

Four percent road bonds to the amount of half a million dollars were sold last week by the state highway commission for \$455,850, a discount of nearly nine per cent.

Portland's efforts to overthrow the recent 6-cent streetcar fare ruling of the state public service commission received a setback when six circuit judges of Multnomah county after hearing the city's appeal decided that the ruling of the public service commission was legal.

Two fatalities out of a total of 497 accidents were reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending March 14. The men who lost their lives were George Merchant, a sawmill worker of Sheridan, and J. Hurgstadt, an employe in a shipbuilding yard at Portland.

Farmers of Oregon are urged to market any stocks of wheat they hold in excess of seeding requirements. The appeal of Herbert Hoover, national food administrator, asking this, was issued to Oregon wheat growers through state food administration headquarters Saturday.

According to Forest Supervisor Ephraim Barnes, the largest number of cattle and sheep that have ever grazed in the Minam forest reserve will be pastured there this summer. Mr. Barnes says permits have already been granted for grazing privileges for 15,000 cattle and 60,000 sheep.

In the belief that the country needs men in the army and in the fields more than in jail, Justice of Peace Glenn Taylor at Medford is allowing convicted bootleggers in Jackson county their liberty whenever he is convinced that the public welfare is not endangered by their freedom.

The crop and farm labor survey which was taken throughout the state under the cooperation of the government and Labor Commissioner Hoff, has been completed and the summaries will be ready for publication by the last of this week, according to J. W. Brewer, farm help specialist, who had direct charge of the work.

W. K. Newell, assistant food administrator for Oregon, has informed Representative Hawley that arrangements have been made whereby limited quantities of condensed milk will be allowed cargo space on ships for Europe. This is expected to give relief to the industry in Oregon, where 85,000 cases are reported to be in storage.

In the picturesque wilds of Dixie mountain, in the Whitman national forest, the foundations have been laid for what may ultimately become an important industry in the Blue mountains of eastern Oregon. On a five-acre estate, leased from Uncle Sam for a term of years, P. A. Snyder, formerly of John Day, has established and equipped a silver gray fox farm.

The largest wood shipbuilding yard on the Pacific coast will be established in the environment of Portland in the very near future, to build ships for trans-Pacific and coastwise trade, if the shipping board will formally agree to permit this yard to build on private account, and turn over its output to private owners upon completion. Delaware capital is backing the enterprise.

According to data compiled, the dairy industry of Tillamook county broke all records during 1917 for the amount of milk produced, cheese manufactured and amount of money received from the sale of cheese, cream and whey, butter fat. The output of cheese was 4,974,328 pounds to the making of which 44,901,503 gallons of milk contributed. The receipts were \$1,188,052.13.

Purchase by Henry McCall, stockman of Crooked river, of the 360-acre Shonquist ranch in the north end of the La Pine basin marks the passing of one of the most popular roadhouses of early days in central Oregon. The Shonquist ranch was the stopping place for many a weary traveler and freighter at the time when all traffic was with horses and 15 or 20 miles was a day's travel for the heavily-laden team outfits that formerly carried freight to the interior.

In the rush to get out spruce for airplanes, some operators have been derelict in observing a state law re-

## To The American People

There is no foundation for the alleged violations of law attributed to our Company by agents of the Federal Trade Commission and I want to say emphatically that Swift & Company is not a party to any conspiracy to defraud the Government. Nor has Swift & Company been guilty of improperly storing foods or of making false entries or reports.

Conferences of packers, where prices have been discussed, have been held at the urgent request and in the presence of representatives of either the Food Administration or the Council of National Defense. And yet the packers have been accused of committing a felony by acting in collusion on Government bids!

We have done our best, with other packers, large and small, to comply with the directions of the United States Food Administration in all particulars, including the furnishing of food supplies for the U. S. Army and Navy and the Allies, now being handled through the Food Administration.

We will continue to do our utmost, under Government direction, to increase our production and assist the Food Administration. We consider that the opportunity to co-operate whole-heartedly and to our fullest powers with this branch of the Government is our plain and most pressing duty.

The Trade Commission Attorney has, by false inference and misplaced emphasis, given to disconnected portions of the correspondence taken from our private files and read into the Record, a false and sinister meaning with the plain purpose of creating antagonistic public opinion.

The services of the packers of the United States are most urgently needed, and I regret exceedingly that we should at this time have to spend our efforts in defending ourselves against unfounded, unproved, and unfair assertions such as are being daily made public.

L. J. Swift, President

Swift & Company, U.S.A.

quiring the removal of slashings and debris, according to information received by the state board of forestry. As a result the fire hazard in Oregon forests, particularly in some localities, has been increased. In order to reduce the hazard to a minimum, State Forester Elliott was asked by the board to co-operate with Colonel Disque, of the spruce production division of the signal corps, and to work out some plan of fire protection.

The extraordinary demand for manganese in the manufacture of open-hearth steel, and the curtailment of available foreign resources, led the alloy committee of the council of national defense to send experts to southern Oregon to investigate the deposits and instruct the prospector in developing his mine. These experts hoped to relieve the shortage by converting the immense deposits of valuable iron ores in this region, which contain some manganese, into a low-carbon manganese-iron alloy to supply the coast steel plants, but since their investigation large deposits of manganese have been uncovered adjoining the iron deposits.

All Can Do a Little.

We all live in a world which is full of ignorance and misery, and the plain duty of each and all of us is to try to make the little corner he can influence somewhat less ignorant, somewhat less miserable than it was before he entered it.—Huxley.

## COAL IS PUT UNDER RIGID REGULATIONS

Washington.—The coal industry will pass under rigid government control April 1. In a proclamation President Wilson ordered the licensing without exceptions of all producers, jobbers and dealers in coal and coke.

At the same time the fuel administration issued drastic regulations, slashing to a fixed limit the profits of middlemen, jobbers, selling and purchasing agents.

The move was aimed almost wholly at the middleman, the jobber extorting excessive profits and the hoarder, since those miners of coal and manufacturers of coke distributing their own products are exempt, under the proclamation. Retailers, too, for the present, are not to be affected.

The control to be set up is almost identical with that exercised over food.

With warm weather coming on and ample coal supplies on hand for the present, the move was regarded here as one of preparedness rather than immediate necessity.

Just Human Nature.

Another reason why a man is because he would rather lose \$50 in a speculation than 50 cents through a hole in his pocket.—Dallas News.

## BRIEF WAR NEWS

Charles S. Gordon, of Iowa, the first man wounded in the Lunville sector, has been awarded the cross of war by France.

American aerial observers in the rear of the lines have been formed into a squadron under command of a French captain.

Both Austria and Hungary are experiencing a recurrence of labor troubles. Large strikes are in progress at Budapest and Vienna.

It is admitted that offers of peace have been made to Serbia by Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, but it is stated that Serbia has absolutely refused to consider them.

With the ratification of the treaty of peace with Germany the Soviet congress in Moscow has dissolved. Up to the last, some of the chief members of the Soviet congress opposed the hard terms of the Germans, but to no avail.

On their front near Toul the Americans frequently shell German positions and compel the enemy to evacuate the sectors under fire. The Germans themselves are at times putting the Americans under an extraordinarily heavy artillery fire in which explosive shells of large caliber and gas missiles are used. The Toul sector apparently has been picked by the Germans as a favorite spot upon which to expend their noxious gases.

Wisconsin Republican Primaries Close Milwaukee, Wis.—Returns from the primaries to nominate a United States senator give Lenroot 56,696, Thompson 54,763, and the final result will be close. The nomination by the democrats of Joseph E. Davies, formerly member of the federal trade commission, over Dr. Charles McCarthy, by a large majority, was indicated.

### Hide Prices Slump.

Omaha.—Omaha packers have lost large sums of money through the steady fall in the prices of hides in recent months. Branded cowhides which brought 38 and 39 cents a pound a few months ago now sell at 16 to 18 cents.

### Taft Advocates Large Army.

Washington.—Amendment of the draft law to authorize the president to increase the army to 5,000,000 men or more was advocated by former President Taft in a speech here before the National Geographic society.

### Chinese Hold Americans For Ransom.

Peking.—The two American engineers recently captured by brigands in northern Honan are being held for a ransom of 70 rifles. They are E. J. Pursell, of St. Paul, and G. A. Kyle, of Portland, Ore.

### Will Prosecute Income Tax Slackers.

Washington.—Tax slackers who fail to file their income tax report by April 1, will be prosecuted as vigorously and relentlessly under the war revenue act as draft slackers were under the selective service act, according to a statement made by Daniel C. Roper, commissioner of internal revenue.

### West Has Farm Hand Surplus.

Washington.—More farm hands are available in the west than are needed immediately and there is only a slight scarcity in the east and south, according to reports to the department of labor.

### Miss Wilson Going to France.

Cape May, N. J.—Miss Margaret Wilson, daughter of the president, announced to the Wissahickon barracks naval reserve force here that she is going to France.

## THE MARKETS

### Portland.

Barley—Standard feed, \$74 per ton. Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$68 per ton. Corn—Whole, \$77; cracked, \$78. Hay—Timothy, \$27 per ton; alfalfa, \$24.50. Butter—Creamery, 50c per lb. Eggs—Ranch, 35c per dozen. Potatoes—90c@1.15 per hundred; Yakimas, \$1.25@1.35. Poultry—Roosters, old, 20@22c; stags, 24@26c; springs, 27@28c; broilers, 35c; ducks, 32@35c; geese, 20@21c; turkeys, live 26@27c, dressed 35@37c per pound.

### Seattle.

Butter—Creamery, 53c per lb. Eggs—Ranch, 42c per dozen. Poultry—Fryers, fresh dressed, 33c; osters, fresh dressed, 32c; frozen ns, light 30c, medium 32c; ducks, 30c, dressed 32c; geese, live 25c, dressed 30c; turkeys, live 28@30c; dressed, 36@40c.

## AMERICANS HOLD GERMAN TRENCH

Is First Permanent Advance  
Yet Made By Army In  
France.

With the American Army in France, Americans have occupied and are holding enemy trenches northeast of Badonvillers in the Lunville sector, which they forced the Germans to abandon through recent raids and concentrated artillery fire.

The trenches have been consolidated with ours. This, though a small forward movement, marks the first permanent advance by the American army in France. The consolidation of the trenches enables the Americans and French to operate from higher ground than heretofore.

The Germans made only feeble attempts to retake the position, but each time were repulsed.

In the intermittent bombardments at various parts of the American sector considerable numbers of mustard, phosgene and chlorine shells were used.

The German positions have been so uncomfortable at several places that they now are trying to regain a foothold by connecting shell holes. Our troops have been subjected to an extraordinary heavy artillery fire. More than 240 shells, which made craters 20 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter, fell in one section of the line. In another section batteries have been shelled heavily. More gas shells have fallen in both the Toul and Lunville sectors, but the larger number in the former.

American raiding activity is increasingly marked along the various sectors of the Lorraine front now held by General Pershing.

America's army is no longer a negligible quantity in France. Its strength henceforth must be increasingly reckoned by the German general staff, and must adversely affect German plans for a western offensive.

## SECRETARY OF WAR VISITS BIG DEPOTS

On Board Secretary Baker's Special Train in France.—Newton D. Baker, the American secretary of war, visited the gigantic works begun by the Americans in France which are keeping well in advance of the requirements of the expanding army. The secretary now has left the series of debarking ports and is examining the interior establishments where reserves of every sort are assembled and from which lines of supply radiate toward the striking forces at the front.

In his trip of inspection of American military establishments Secretary Baker stopped frequently to talk with private soldiers. His impressions, and that of all the civilian members of the party, was that the men are well housed, fed and want to get on with their work.

Near the harbor developments which the secretary inspected, is an amazing system of warehouses. When completed there will be rows of one-story warehouses covering about 2000 acres, stretching out for three and one-half miles, to a depth of a mile.

Construction has been begun of a hospital which will have 20,000 beds. It will be the largest in the world. The British have the next largest one, with 16,000 beds.

Tar and Feathers for Yakima I. W. W. Yakima, Wash.—Secretary H. B. Myers, secretary of the Yakima local of the Industrial Workers of the World and active in the organization's propaganda here for the last year, was seized by a crowd of 30 unmasked citizens here at midnight Monday night, who threatened to kill him, then escorted him a mile out of town, and after tarring and feathering him ordered him to leave at once and not to return.

American Tanker Sank U-Boat. An Atlantic Port.—At the end of an hour's battle between a German submarine and an American tank steamer, the Paulboro, of the Vacuum Oil company, which arrived here, the submarine apparently was sunk, according to officers of the American vessel. Restriction of Sheep Constitutional. Washington.—The Idaho law prohibiting the driving of sheep upon a cattle range was declared constitutional by the supreme court.