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OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

A large sawmill at Ukiah, in the mountains south of Pendleton, burned Saturday.

A postoffice robbery at Aines netted the robbers a little over \$250 in cash and thrift stamps.

The department of labor, United States employment service, has opened an employment office in Medford.

Over 30 miles of telephone line and trail is to be built in the Umpqua forest this season by Supervisor S. C. Hartum.

A conference of Red Cross workers from Wasco, Wheeler, Sherman and Gilliam counties was held at The Dalles.

Oregon citizens will pay between \$12,000,000 and \$14,000,000 in settling their share of the federal income tax, which becomes due on June 15.

Reports of accidents for the week ended May 23, filed by the state industrial accident commission, show no fatalities. Accidents reported number 535.

By vote of the state convention of the P. E. O. Sisterhood in its closing session at Salem, Eugene was chosen as the meeting place of the convention next year.

Shortage of 50 per cent in the cherry crop of Marion county and a serious shortage of pears and apples is estimated by S. H. Van Trump, county fruit inspector.

Captain W. H. Hardy, sole survivor of the Perry expedition to Japan, who has spent the past several months in the land of Nippon, has returned to his home in Portland.

Arrangements are being made by the Baker Commercial club to entertain the annual convention of Oregon and Idaho osteopaths, which meets at Baker May 31 and June 1.

The farmers of Baker county are preparing for organized war against rodents under the direction of the county farm agent, who is organizing "poison clubs" in every district in the county.

Able-bodied men can idle no longer in Portland. An ordinance requiring all men physically fit to engage in some useful, recognized profession, trade or occupation, was adopted by the city council.

Forty cars of seedcorn from Oregon and the Columbia river basin were shipped across the Rocky mountains this year to aid the farmers of the Mississippi valley and great plains region to plant the crop of 1918.

Loans for buying automobiles, except for utility purposes, will be discouraged hereafter by banks of western Oregon, according to a resolution adopted at a meeting of Group 2 of the Oregon State Bankers' association held in Salem.

Portland's population is 311,351, according to the estimate given by the 1918 city directory compiled by R. L. Polk & Co. The population given by the same authority last year was 287,000. The gain within the year is approximately 24,000.

Mentally feeble by a trouble from which he realized there was no recovery, Charles N. Meyers, a long-time resident and stockman of Klamath county, committed suicide at Klamath Falls by shooting himself in the right temple with an automatic pistol.

The state food administration has been advised that sale contracts on dried fruit from the crop now coming in must be deferred until July 15. Under the original order such contracts were forbidden before May 3. The order later was extended until July 1, and now goes over until July 15.

No fireworks of any kind will be permitted to be sold in the state for the coming Fourth of July and a request has been made by the state fire marshal department to the mayors and councils of each city to pass an ordinance to prohibit the sale, storage or handling in any manner of fireworks of any kind.

The preparations of the government party at Baker for the study of the great solar eclipse June 8 are fast nearing completion. The task of focusing the mammoth 65-foot camera, requiring many delicate adjustments, has been completed, and except for a few minor details this instrument is ready for use.

One of the largest realty transactions that has been made at Corvallis for some time was concluded last week, by

which Edward Tway, of Mesa, Ariz., acquired the George Brown ranch and outfit, located on the Albany road, about two miles east of Corvallis, the transaction representing a cash outlay of \$50,000.

To enlarge the powers of the state dairy and food commissioner and make him also commissioner of public markets is the object of a bill which has been submitted by Professor Hector McPherson, of the Oregon Agricultural college, to Attorney-General Brown, and which will probably be initiated for submission to the voters.

Judge Lovett, of the railway director's office, has notified Representative Sinnott that the government cannot at this time sanction the extension of the railroad to Burns, inasmuch as it does not appear such construction is justified as a war necessity. General shortage of labor and material is the primary cause for turning down this request.

A bill which will put distribution of farm products, food supplies and farm machinery in this state entirely under state control is being proposed for initiation by the Oregon Referendum league, which originated the rural credits law. This league is composed of officers of the state grange, Farmers' union and the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

J. C. Ainsworth, of Portland, has declined to accept the office of wool administrator for the north-west, tendered him by the war industries board. John H. Burgard, of Portland, has been given the refusal of the position, and is expected to accept. The office probably will carry no salary. The wool administrator will be expected to donate his services to the government.

Southern Coos and northern Curry counties are on the eve of a big mining excitement and when the wealth of mineral deposits found and being developed in the Iron and Salmon mountain districts become known a rush of unprecedented volume is predicted by John R. Smith, one of the prospectors instrumental in locating some wonderfully rich deposits of chrome and copper ore.

The Pacific Coast Steel company, now operating plants at San Francisco, Seattle and Irondale, Wash., will begin at once the erection at Portland of a \$750,000 rolling mill and open hearth furnace. An 11-acre tract has been purchased for the purpose. The plant will have an output of 400,000 tons a month, will employ between 400 and 500 men and will have a pay roll of \$50,000 or more a month.

With the adoption of a resolution urging the Oregon legislature at its next session to provide for establishment of a state detention home for the internment and treatment of persons afflicted with social ills as a measure of protection to soldiers Oregon's first state-wide war conference closed its two-day session at Portland. More than 40 cities and communities were represented at the session, as were also the state and federal governments.

The largest single transfer of property made in Coos county in recent years has been consummated by the Buehner Lumber company and a syndicate represented by W. C. Slattery, of Cleveland, O., and comprises a change in ownership of all the Buehner interests in Coos county. The price of the milling industry and logging camp outfits and timber lands is declared to have involved a sum between \$1,750,000 and \$2,000,000.

Opening of practically all Oregon & California grant lands classed as agricultural in the Portland land district is announced by Commissioner Tallman of the general land office. Approximately 150,000 acres may be entered between June 22 and July 17. Drawings will be made on the latter date where applications conflict. The lands lie north of the line drawn east and west through Brownville. The same regulations will apply as for the lands now being opened in southern Oregon and a descriptive pamphlet will be ready June 1 at the Portland land office.

The state desert land board, by unanimous vote, agreed to a change in the contract of the state with the Jordan Valley Irrigation company which will leave the upper unit of the project in abeyance until some future time and provide for the development of the lower unit which embraces 38,000 acres. Another change in arrangements is an increase in the cost to settlers from \$65 to \$71 an acre, \$5 an acre going into the construction of roads from the project to territory touched by the railroad. Estimated cost of the construction of the first unit is \$2,000,000.

In American troops captured Cantigny in forty-five minutes.



HORNER, ARRESTED, CONFESSES MURDER

Seattle, Wash.—W. R. Horner, a mill worker, who was arrested in Okanogan county by officials investigating the murder of Mrs. Nellie Bassett and her two children at Kelso, Wash., on May 17, confessed to the triple killing, according to Sheriff John Stringer.

Following Horner's confession, when, after four hours' grilling by the sheriffs of three counties, he admitted that he had killed Mrs. Bassett, following a quarrel over his refusal to marry her and had then shot the two children, a stenographer was called in and the accused man dictated a lengthy statement covering all the details of the trip from Snoqualmie Falls, where the couple lived as man and wife, to Kelso, where the murder was committed, and Horner's subsequent flight to the Bassett ranch near Aeneas, Okanogan county, where he was taken into custody by Sheriff Ward.

Horner in Jail at Kalama. Kalama, Wash.—William R. Horner, confessed murderer of Mrs. Fred Bassett and her two children, was landed in the Cowitz county jail here at 8 p. m. Sunday. His arrival was without incident and no fear of a lynching is felt.

Horner signed a written confession in the presence of Sheriff Studebaker, of Cowlitz county, and Sheriff Ward, of Okanogan county; a half hour later he stood before Judge William T. Darch in a crowded courtroom, pleaded guilty to his crime, and was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor.

MEXICO AND CUBA BREAK

Action May Be Intended As Rebuke to United States.

Mexico City.—Mexico has severed diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The recall of the Mexican representative to Cuba is explained officially as due to the fact that because of the war in which Cuba is involved that government has been obliged to dictate measures that affect the interests of the Mexican government in many instances.

Washington.—The severance of diplomatic relations with Cuba by Mexico gave rise to a report that Mexico indirectly intended a rebuke to the United States and may later suspend relations with this country.

Mexico's action, which was entirely unexpected, is said to have followed the seizure at Havana of certain papers being taken to Senator Fabela, Mexico's minister to Argentina, at Buenos Aires. Senor Fabela is declared to have been searched by a Cuban official and the papers taken from him.

Low Railroad Fare for Soldiers. Washington.—Director General McAdoo authorized a passenger rate of one cent a mile for all military and naval men in United States service.

MEN OF DRAFT AGE TO WORK OR FIGHT

Washington.—Provost Marshal-General Crowder has promulgated a drastic amendment to the selective service regulations requiring every man of draft age to work or fight.

Every man of draft age must work or fight after July 1, under the amendment to the selective service regulations announced by Provost Marshal-General Crowder.

Gamblers, race track and bucketshop attendants and fortune tellers head the list, but those who will be reached by the new regulation include waiters and bartenders, theater ushers and attendants, passenger elevator operators, and other attendants of clubs, hotels, stores, etc., domestics and clerks in stores.

The full force of Provost Marshal-General Crowder's draft order of "work or fight" will be used against I. W. W. and kindred organizations, officials of the board declared.

The powers conferred on local boards under the regulations will deal a knockout to the activities of the I. W. W. officials.

BRIEF NEWS OF THE WAR

More than 200,000 American soldiers have been sent to France in May.

Twenty-four enemy airplanes have been destroyed by the British in air fighting on the Italian front since May 18, it was officially announced.

In the Italian theater the Austrians have essayed several rather strong attacks against the Italians in the mountain region of the north, but everywhere have met with repulse.

Sick and wounded soldiers numbering 106 were landed in the United States from France last week, the war department announced. Eight were landed the week before. All have been sent to military hospitals.

Germany has launched another desperate attempt to smash her way through the allied armies to victory before American troops can reach the battlefields of France and Flanders in force.

With only brief artillery preparation two blows have been struck by the Teuton armies. One attack was on the line from Voormezele to Loere, southwest of Ypres; the other on a 35-mile front from Pinon, north of Soissons, to Rheims. This is known as the Aisne sector.

In Flanders the Germans have gained virtually nothing, but further south the Berlin official statement claims that the German crown prince's troops have carried the whole ridge of the Chemin-des-Dames and now are fighting on the Aisne river.

The Italians have launched a blow at the Austrian lines in the mountain region to the northwest of Lake Garda. According to reports, they have carried Monticello Pass, the village of Presena, Monte Zigolon and the mountain spur to the east. Before them lie parallel streams leading down into the Lagarina valley, and, if they success-

fully carry out their attack, it is possible for them to outflank the entire Austrian position in the north of Italy.

The Americans in the Montdidier sector have carried out another of their raids, leaving their trenches without artillery support and overwhelming an enemy trench. Six Germans were killed and one soldier was made prisoner by the Americans, who returned to their own line. The British near Bucquoy in a similar adventure captured 11 Germans and two machine guns, and in two other raids took 15 prisoners and a machine gun. In the Allette river region the French also brought in captives.

AMERICANS WIN IN ATTACK IN PICARDY

With the American Army in France.—The American troops on the French front near Montdidier delivered an attack against the German positions, fought their way through all objectives, including the village of Cantigny, and captured 140 prisoners.

The American attack was along a two kilometer front, and it seems to have taken the hard-hitting Americans just about three-quarters of an hour to complete their conquest, which included that amount of territory, as well as the village of Cantigny—an exceptionally short time for such an operation.

The American line now runs 150 to 200 yards east of Cantigny as a result of the successful attack. The nearest German trench is several hundred yards east of where the Americans have dug in.

The Americans' first offensive blow was struck in a mist. The French tanks apparently did not have much to do, as the American artillery already had prepared the way. A bright sun came out and shone on the Americans as they dug in in their new positions.

Several officers, describing the scene, agreed that the outstanding feature, in their minds, was the wonderful morale of the men and their absolute confidence in themselves.

Thomas F. Ryan, of Clackamas county, is the republican nominee for state treasurer; having defeated O. P. Hoff, of Multnomah county, his nearest rival in the race by a majority of 252. Charles A. Johns, of Multnomah county, is the republican nominee for justice of the supreme court, victor in a three-cornered contest in which he leads John S. Coke, of Coos county, with a majority of 1393. Fred A. Williams, of Josephine county, is the republican nominee for public service commissioner, having defeated Frank J. Miller, of Linn county, incumbent, by a majority of 849.

An impressive plea for extreme reduction in the use of wheat products, meat and sugar—the latest issued by National Food Administrator Herbert Hoover—was made public through the churches of the state. The appeal was in the hands of 1025 ministers of Oregon, and very few of these failed to read it to their congregations. In many instances the congregations pledged by vote to give the co-operation asked of them. Mr. Hoover's call was for a limitation of the use of wheat to at least one-third the normal amount and for a meat ration not exceeding two pounds per capita per week.

THE MARKETS

Portland.
Oats—No. 2 white feed, \$60 per ton.
Corn—Whole, \$73; cracked, \$74.
Butter—Creamery, 39c per lb.
Eggs—Ranch, 37c per dozen.
Potatoes—\$1@1.25 per hundred.
Poultry—Hens, 25@27c; broilers, 30@32c; turkeys live, 27@28c; dressed 37c per pound.

Seattle.
Butter—Creamery, 43c per lb.
Eggs—Ranch, 42c per dozen.
Poultry—Hens, heavy, dressed, 36c; light, 36c; broilers, 50c; roasters, dressed, 27c; ducks, live, 30c; dressed, 33c; geese, live, 27c; dressed, 35c; turkeys, live, 28@30c; dressed, 36@40c.

Evergreen Dress for Statuettes. Chinese gardeners sometimes plant statuettes of tiny men firm in pots, just like real plants, and then train live evergreens to grow up over these statuettes. The vines thus form a kind of robe for the statuette men, their white faces and hands protruding from the green leaves.

RAILROAD RATES ARE ORDERED INCREASED

Freight Rates to Go Up 25 Per Cent and Passenger Fares to 3 Cents a Mile.

Washington.—To meet wage increases just announced, and higher costs of coal and other supplies this year, Director General McAdoo ordered railroad freight rates in the United States raised 25 per cent and passenger fares increased to 3 cents a mile from the present basis of about 2½ cents. It is estimated that the program will bring in between \$800,000,000 and \$900,000,000 more revenue to the railroads within the next year. It represents by far the biggest rate increase in the history of railroads.

The new freight charges, which cover both class and commodity rates, become effective June 25, and the passenger increase will go into effect on June 10.

Travelers in standard sleeping and parlor cars are required to pay 3½ cents a mile, in addition to Pullman fares, and in tourist sleeping cars 3¼ cents. Pullman rates remain the same.

Commutation and other suburban rates on railroads are increased 10 per cent. Fares on electric interurban lines are not affected.

Special excursion, mileage, convention and tourist rates, with a few exceptions, such as stopovers and free side trips are abolished, and excess baggage charges are increased.

WILSON ASKS NEW WAR TAX LEVIES

Washington.—President Wilson ended discussion over whether congress shall remain in session this summer to enact new revenue legislation by appearing before the house and senate in joint session and calling upon members to put aside politics and all other considerations to provide money for growing war expenses and to advise the country in advance of the tax burdens it must meet.

The demand that with the war at its "peak and crisis" congress do its duty at home, as the soldiers are doing their duty in the trenches overseas, brought instant acquiescence.

There still was reluctance in some quarters to believe immediate legislation imperative, but plans for mid-summer adjournments were abandoned and both democratic and republican leaders expressed their determination to go at the task of passing a revenue bill with a will.

A suggestion by the president that most of the new taxes probably would fall upon incomes, excess profits and luxuries and that profiteers could be reached in this way, was greeted with cheers, and congressional leaders said later the money needed would come from those sources.

SUBMARINE SINKS MOLDAVIA

Fifty-three Americans Killed by Explosion of Torpedo.

London.—Fifty-three American soldiers were lost in the torpedoing of the British mercantile cruiser Moldavia, sunk in the English channel. They represent divisions from the eastern American states. The victims were all in one compartment and are believed to have been killed by the explosion of the torpedo. All officers and members of the crew were saved by British destroyers forming the convoy.

The Moldavia was struck at 4 a. m. There was bright moonlight, but the submarine was not seen before the attack. Efforts were made to keep the ship afloat. She sank in about an hour. There was no panic and the transfer of the soldiers and seamen to the destroyers was made without a hitch.

Pay of Railway Men to Advance. Washington.—General pay increases for nearly 2,000,000 railroad employees were announced by Director-General McAdoo, effective next Saturday and retroactive to last January 1, carrying out substantially the recommendations of the railway wage commission.

The aggregate of the increases probably will be more than \$300,000,000 a year, half of which will be distributed within a few weeks as back pay in lump sums ranging from about \$100 to nearly \$200 each.