

## OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

Influenza conditions continue to improve in Albany.

Members of the Oregon State Motor association held their annual meeting in Portland Saturday.

Of the 422 accidents reported to the industrial accident commission for the week ending January 16, none were fatal.

Umatilla county was the first county in the state to contribute its quota of the Armenian-Syrian relief campaign.

The flu situation in Grants Pass is now being handled with firmness. Every house in which there is a case of the flu is strictly quarantined.

The farmers and dairymen of southern Clackamas county studied problems relating to their business at a school of dairying which was held at Canby.

In a collision between a speeder and a gasoline-driven passenger car, near Biggs, John Diacumis, track watchman on the O.W.R. & N., was fatally injured.

Melvin C. Spores, formerly of Portland, a farmer five miles south of Memphus, killed Miss Lena Brown, a young girl neighbor, and in turn committed suicide.

Plans are under consideration for the construction of a new Elks' temple in Portland, with sufficient facilities to care for the needs of the order for the next quarter century.

The Coos county court has adopted a new method of handling the highway appropriations for 1919 and has placed the work entirely under direction of Roadmaster J. S. Sawyer.

All fuel administration regulations as to prices and zones on coal and coke will be suspended February 1, according to a telegram from Washington received by Fuel Administrator Fred J. Holmes.

Captain James O. Convill of the United States employment service in Portland, declares there are approximately 10,000 unemployed men now in Oregon, most of whom have been released from war work.

Hope of securing oil in paying quantities from the well on the Whisker ranch, southeast of Dallas, has been abandoned by the Oregon Oil & Pipeline company. The well was driven to a depth of 1200 feet.

The Oregon state highway commission was denied a reduced freight rate on materials for highway construction in a letter received by Senator McNary from Edward Chambers, traffic director of the railroad administration.

John Cyril Liard, convicted of sec-

ond degree murder for the shooting and killing of Deputy Sheriff Frank Twombly, was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary in Circuit Judge Gantenbein's court in Portland.

Through an agreement reached between the Coos Bay Shipbuilding company officers and the carpenters' and joiners' union, the strike in progress at Marshfield since January 7 was settled and the 652 workmen returned to work Friday morning.

Final computation of figures for Oregon's war savings stamp campaign for 1918 shows that the state has exceeded its quota. Purchases throughout the state amounted to \$16,489,972.82. This is one-half of 1 per cent in excess of the state quota.

At a meeting in Pendleton of representative citizens from every community in Umatilla county and from farmers and commercial organizations, a programme of road-building for the next two years calling for the expenditure of over \$1,500,000 was endorsed.

Constituents of Senator Colon R. Eberhard, of Morrow, Umatilla and Union, have protested to him against the continuance of the office of state biologist, which they declare "is not necessary, and the money expended for such office could be better applied to better purposes."

Merits of irrigation projects along the Deschutes river are being placed before federal officials of the reclamation department by State Engineer Copper and Congressman N. J. Sinott in the hope of enlisting federal effort to develop the irrigable lands as part of the soldier settlement or reconstruction program.

Approximately 9,000,000 acres of land await reclamation in Oregon, according to the official report of Dr. A. B. Cordley, director of the Oregon agricultural college experiment station, for the biennium of 1918-1918, which has just been made to President W. J. Kerr, of the college. Almost 3,000,000 acres can be profitably reclaimed by irrigation, more than 2,000,000 acres of swamp, tide and other wet land needs drainage and 2,750,000 acres of burned-over and logged-off lands can be converted into profitable farm lands.

A great many of the residents of McMinnville have been cutting down their old maple trees and replacing them with English walnuts. There are two reasons for this, as the walnut is a prettier tree and the roots do not destroy the sidewalks as do the maples, and there is a crop of nuts, which is worth considering.

Many applications for re-employment of spruce production soldiers who worked at Marshfield in mills and logging camps are being received from men who are being mustered out at Vancouver. The men who are applying come from all sections of the United States and say their experiences lead them to choose the Pacific coast as their homes.

Representative McArthur has announced that he has been authorized by the war department to appoint two cadets to the United States military academy for the term commencing June 13, 1919, and that a preliminary examination will be held in Portland on February 8 for the purpose of selecting candidates for the final examination conducted by the academy authorities on March 17.

William F. Turner, president of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railway, was appointed receiver for the Pacific & Eastern railway, a subsidiary corporation of the Hill railroads, owning 53 miles of road extending from Medford to Butte Falls. The short line railway was thrown into receivership on the petition of the Columbia Trust company, of New York, trustees for the eastern bondholders of the company.

It is barely possible that a final decision on the question of an increase in rates for the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company may not come from the public service commission until late in February, or possibly until after the adjournment of the legislature.

The telephone company asked for a hearing on Monday, to present further data, and the commission contemplates handing down its order a few weeks afterward.

Following the arrival in The Dalles of J. E. Peck, resident engineer representing the state highway department, preliminary work was started on Wasco county's \$700,000 road program for 1919. Besides the road from Mosier to Hood River, the Dufur road will be paved from The Dalles to Three Mile creek; the road from The Dalles to Chenoweth will be hard-surfaced, and the 11-mile link of the Columbia river highway from The Dalles to Seuferts will be paved.

The first train on the Sumpter Valley railroad to carry passengers since the strike was called on January 1, left Baker Friday morning to make the run through to Prairie City. The train was manned partly by officials of the road and partly by employees,

and was taken out after a two days' session between D. C. Eccles, president of the road, and the strikers in which the latter were offered their positions at the old wages. The attempt to open up the road for traffic is being made by President Eccles,

who is of the opinion that the government does not intend to take any action affording the road relief, and also because appeals are being made by communities that the line serves,

stating that the closing of the road is causing suffering and distress.

have been called to meet in conference with the Portland district freight committee Tuesday, January 28, regarding the proposed new rates for lumber and forest products. This will be the hearing before the committee upon protest of the industry, from which numerous objections have been made to the proposed revision.

Gerhard Kliever and Peter F. Freisen, two Polk county residents, who before coming to America were residents of Russia, were refused naturalization papers in the circuit court at Dallas by Judge Harry H. Bell because they were classed as "conscientious objectors to war." Both stated that they did not believe in war and would not fight for this country.

The towns of Jacksonville, Grants Pass, Roseburg, Eugene, Albany, Salem, Oregon City, Astoria, St. Helens, Hillsboro, McMinnville, Dallas, Corvallis, Tillamook, Toledo, Coquille, Gold Beach, Medford, Ashland and Marshfield are to receive German cannon taken as trophies in the late war by the terms of a bill introduced in the house by Representative Hawley.

While records at the office of the insurance commissioner do not yet disclose the effect of the influenza epidemic upon the insurance societies, it is known that they have been hard hit. Between 30 and 40 fraternal insurance societies are licensed to operate in Oregon and at the office of the commissioner it is said that the fraternals have been suffering severely.

To discuss the financial end of starting force account jobs to give employment to discharged soldiers and sailors, the state highway commission met with the roads and highways committees of the legislature Monday. Meanwhile, Highway Engineer Herbert Nunn has been instructed to engage about 60 soldiers and sailors to work on the Three Rivers road project at once.

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CLARK WOOD, Publisher

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### INEXCUSABLE NEGLECT

We quote below a short excerpt from a long editorial in Monday's Oregonian:

"Charges that wounded soldiers arrive from France without money, are not paid promptly and are not sent to hospitals are denied by General Lord in a letter to The Oregonian which is published in another column. Though General Lord no doubt believes that the system which he describes works accurately, the fact is notorious that a great many soldiers are turned loose, not only at debarkation points but at cantonments in this country, with pay months in arrears, and many wounded are not sent to hospitals. Not only that, but allotments of soldiers' families are far in arrears, and some are reduced to serious straits and are relieved by the Red Cross. The general public is not concerned with the question by which department these payments are delayed; it knows that the government has fallen down in doing its duty to the soldiers and their families."

In many respects the government has done wonderful work in transforming the United States from a practically defenseless to an armed nation—thus contributing to Autocracy's defeat. Yet credit for such accomplishment will be lost sight of if the charges set forth above are true to any considerable extent. The American people have both a practical and a sentimental interest in their soldiery. They will not stand for any official callousness or carelessness or negligence in dealing with the brave young men who wear their country's uniform. These come from every city, town and village in the land and are near and dear to the nation's heart. The war having been won the many lapses in other respects—the prodigal waste of time and money in some departments, contrasting with the remarkable efficiency in others—will be forgotten and forgiven. People will merely laugh when they read that the army of clerks in Washington are stumbling over one another and do little but draw their pay. Yet the least mistreatment of soldiers by those in power will be bitterly resented throughout the length and breadth of the United States. The democratic administration, whether at fault or not, will be held responsible; the democratic party will be held responsible, and not all of Woodrow Wilson's indubitable prestige can save the White House for a democratic successor. The situation is well understood outside of administration circles, if not in Washington; it is also well understood that neglect of soldiers' families—inexplicable, in view of the plethora of clerical help in every Washington bureau—will not be tolerated. In brief, it is a situation calculated to make judicious democrats grieve.

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### YEA, REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

Complaining that the apportionments in the Fourth Liberty Loan drive were "out of joint and need fixing," the esteemed Athena Press asserts that "Athena was called upon to raise approximately two and one-half times as much as Weston and Helix combined." Well, then, Athena must have two and one-half times the money of Weston and Helix combined, as indicated by its bank deposits. In fact, Athena is among the richest towns of its class in Oregon. Very likely it is the richest—ratio of population to bank deposits considered.

The present law requires seven months' residence a year for three years, but the bill would permit land office registrars to require six months for four years, or five months for five years in regions where climatic conditions make the longer period impracticable.

the war drives based on population

—where it was a question of straight-out giving—Athena really suffered less financial hardship than other towns, since her power to give was greater. We repeat, then, let her rejoice and be glad—and join Weston in donning hats to Pilot Rock, which holds the undisputed Umatilla county war-drive championship for the free heart and open hand.

"I am in favor of good roads—but," will hardly do in this instance. Do not stutter, hesitate nor equivocate. But us no buts, as it were. Umatilla county now has a comprehensive road bonding plan, as fair as may be to every section of the county, that was unanimously put forward by a large and representative gathering of level-headed farmers and business men. If you really want good roads, this is the plan to boost for.

Carl Hapsburg, now out of an emperor's job, has been sued for failing to take the Austrian government bonds for which he subscribed; but we do not blame him for not liking the security.

Capital evidently has no rights that the Seattle shipyard strikers were bound to respect.

It is bound to strike the most optimistic observer that the peace conference so far has resulted in far more oratory than action.

Although confidently declaring for self-government, it by no means follows that old Ireland will not have a fool for a ruler.

One trouble with punishing the ex-kaiser being that no mundane punishment can possibly be devised that will fit the crime.

And still we think that congress oughtn't to blame the president for wanting to put the ocean between it and himself for awhile.

Who knows what's the matter with J. E. Hoon, Milton bond slack'er? Hoon knows, perhaps.

At this distance there seems to be a superabundance of confer in conference.

The over-subscription of new stock in its community store merely goes to show that Weston knows when it has a good thing and is disposed to push it along.

We are glad to observe that Freewater is going to have a new bank edifice, although in little old New York it would probably be only a building.

Edsel Ford is getting one hundred and fifty thou. a year as president of his dad's company, when the Leader very likely couldn't use him as an office cub.

Uncle Sam will have to take care of his soldiers, or in the event of another war they will never take care of him.

"Make Paderevski president of Poland, so that the Germans will have to face the music," suggests the Indianapolis Star.

The shipyard striker is apt to find that he is hitting himself the hardest blow.

Italy may have to be taught that the world war was never fought to enlarge her dominions.

While Bill Hohenzollern is sawing wood, we can almost see him grinning between sticks at the row between the Italians and the Jugoslavs.

The Salem correspondent of the Oregonian hazards the prediction that the present legislature will enact a ten million dollar road bond issue.

If Greece cannot have Constantinople for its own seat of government, it wants that ancient city to be set aside as the permanent capital of the league of nations. This developed during discussion of Premier Venizelos' presentation of Greece's political and territorial aspirations, in Paris.

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