

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

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

Influenza conditions continue to im-
prove in Albany.

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

Of the 429 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 cam-
paign.

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 south-
ern Clackamas county studied prob-
lems 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 Port-
land, a farmer five miles south of
Menmouth, 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 high-
way appropriations for 1919 and has
placed the work entirely under direc-
tion of Roadmaster J. S. Sawyer.

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

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

Hopes of securing oil in paying
quantities from the well on the White-
aker ranch, southeast of Dallas, has
been abandoned by the Oregon Oil &
Pipeline company. The well was driv-
en to a depth of 1200 feet.

The Oregon state highway commis-
sion was denied a reduced freight rate
on materials for highway construction
in a letter received by Senator Mc-
Nary from Edward Chambers, traffic
director of the railroad administra-
tion.

John Cyril Liard, convicted of sec-

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

Through an agreement reached be-
tween the Coos Bay Shipbuilding com-
pany officers and the carpenters' and
joiners' union, the strike in progress
at Marshfield since January 7 was
settled and the 632 workmen returned
to work Friday morning.

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

At a meeting in Pendleton of repre-
sentative citizens from every com-
munity in Umatilla county and from
farmers and commercial organiza-
tions, a programme of road-building
for the next two years calling for the
expenditure of over \$1,500,000 was in-
stituted.

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 reclama-
tion department by State Engineer
Copper and Congressman N. J. Sin-
nott 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, ac-
cording to the official report of Dr.
A. B. Cordley, director of the Oregon
agricultural college experiment sta-
tion, for the biennium of 1918-1919,
which has just been made to Presi-
dent W. J. Kerr, of the college. Al-
most 5,000,000 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 map-
ples, and there is a crop of nuts,
which is worth considering.

Many applications for re-employ-
ment 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 ap-
plying come from all sections of the
United States and say their experi-
ences lead them to choose the Pacific
coast as their homes.

Lumbermen of the Pacific northwest

have been called to meet in confer-
ence with the Portland district freight
committee Tuesday, January 28, re-
garding 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 Klever and Peter F. Fren-
sen, two Polk county residents, who
before coming to America were resi-
dents of Russia, were refused natural-
ization papers in the circuit court at
Dallas by Judge Harry H. Belt be-
cause they were classed as "conscien-
tious 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, Sa-
lem, Oregon City, Astoria, St. Helena,
Hillsboro, McMinnville, Dallas, Cor-
vallis, Tillamook, Toledo, Coquille,
Gold Beach, Medford, Ashland and
Marshfield are to receive German can-
non 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 in-
surance societies are licensed to op-
erate in Oregon and at the office of
the commissioner it is said that the
fraternals have been suffering severe-
ly.

To discuss the financial end of start-
ing force account jobs to give employ-
ment to discharged soldiers and sail-
ors, the state highway commission
met with the roads and highways
committees of the legislature Monday.
Meanwhile, Highway Engineer Her-
bert Nunn has been instructed to en-
gage about 60 soldiers and sailors to
work on the Three Rivers road project
at once.

Representative McArthur has an-
nounced 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 se-
lecting candidates for the final ex-
amination 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 cor-
poration of the Hill railroads, owning
53 miles of road extending from Med-
ford to Butte Falls. The short line
railway was thrown into receivership
on the petition of the Columbia Trust
company, of New York, trustee for the
eastern bondholders of the company.

It is barely possible that a final
decision on the question of an in-
crease in rates for the Pacific Telephone &
Telegraph company may not come
from the public service commission
until late in February, or possibly un-
til after the adjournment of the legis-
lature. The telephone company asked
for a hearing on Monday, to present
further data, and the commission con-
templates handing down its order a
few weeks afterward.

Following the arrival in The Dalles
of J. E. Peck, resident engineer repre-
senting the state highway department,
preliminary work was started on
Wasco county's \$700,000 road program
for 1919. Besides the road from
Moster 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-sur-
faced, and the 11-mile link of the
Columbia river highway from The
Dalles to Seuferts will be paved.

The first train on the Sumpter Val-
ley 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 employes,
and was taken out after a two days
session between D. C. Eccles, presi-
dent of the road, and the strikers, in
which the latter were offered their
positions at the old wages. The at-
tempt to open up the road for traffic
is being made by President Eccles,
who is of the opinion that the govern-
ment does not intend to take any ac-
tion 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.

MODIFY HOMESTEAD LAWS

House Passes Bill Shortening Period
of Residence in West.

Washington.—A senate bill modify-
ing homestead laws to shorten the
period of residence required of set-
tlers in mountain regions of the west
was passed by the house without
amendment.

The present law requires seven
months' residence a year for three
years, but the bill would permit land
office registers to require six months
for four years, or five months for five
years in regions where climatic con-
ditions make the longer period im-
practicable.

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INEXCUSABLE NEGLIGENCE

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 Gen-
eral Lord in a letter to The Oreg-
onian which is published in another
column. Though General Lord
no doubt believes that the system
which he describes works accu-
rately, 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 hos-
pitals. Not only that, but allot-
ments 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 pay-
ments 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 trans-
forming the United States from a
practically defenceless to an armed
nation—thus contributing to Auto-
cracy'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 mistreat-
ment of soldiers by those in power
will be bitterly resented throughout
the length and breadth of the United
States. The democratic admin-
istration, whether at fault or not,
will be held responsible; the dem-
ocratic party will be held responsi-
ble, and not all of Woodrow Wil-
son's indubitable prestige can save
the White House for a democratic
successor. The situation is well un-
derstood 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 judi-
cious democrats grieve.

YEA, REJOICE AND BE GLAD!

Complaining that the apportion-
ments 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 West-
on and Helix combined." Well,
then, Athena must have two and
one-half times the money of West-
on and Helix combined, as indicated
by its bank deposits. In fact, Ath-
ena is among the richest towns
of its class in Oregon. Very likely
it is the richest—ratio of popula-
tion to bank deposits considered.
Its people should rejoice that they
were financially able to help the
government to the degree that they
did in buying its securities—should
rejoice that they are able to own
and hold such good securities. In

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 doffing hats to Pilot
Rock, which holds the undisputed
Umatilla county war-drive champi-
onship for the free heart and open
hand.

"I am in favor of good roads—
but," will hardly do in this in-
stance. 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 unanimo-
usly put forward by a large and re-
presentative gathering of level-head-
ed 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 govern-
ment bonds for which he subscrib-
ed; 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 de-
vised that will fit the crime.

And still we think that congress
oughtn't to blame the president
for wanting to put the ocean be-
tween 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 mer-
ely goes to show that Weston knows
when it has a good thing and is dis-
posed 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 hun-
dred and fifty thou. a year as presi-
dent 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 Paderewski 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 saw-
ing wood, we can almost see him
grinning between sticks at the row
between the Italians and the Jugo-
Slavs.

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 Constantino-
ple 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 dur-
ing discussion of Premier Venizelos'
presentation of Greece's political and
territorial aspirations, in Paris.

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