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### CONGRESS IS FACING FOREIGN PROBLEMS

Extended Hearings on Subject  
of National Preparedness  
Are Contemplated.

Washington.—Congress reconvened Tuesday to begin consideration of momentous legislation confronting it. Before the holiday recess little was accomplished beyond organization and extension of the emergency war revenue law.

During the preliminary two weeks there were assurances on every hand that foreign relations incident to the European war and the subject of preparedness for national defense would be the dominating features of a session fraught with far-reaching possibilities.

The military and naval affairs committees of both houses have been studying the national preparedness program during the recess. House committees plan to work on these at once, and public hearings, which probably will extend for a long period, are contemplated.

The revenue situation also will command immediate attention. Representative Kitchen, majority leader and chairman of the ways and means committee, plans to call his committee together without delay to take up this problem. Senator Simmons, chairman of the finance committee, also contemplates frequent meetings of democratic members to study fiscal problems. First to be considered will be an amendment to the war revenue law. Involved in this are issues likely to provoke wide divergence of views, among them the suggestions to tax gasoline automobiles, horsepower and steel products, and a stamp tax on bank checks. Amendment of the income tax and an inheritance tax also are to be regarded seriously.

#### Land Leasing is Reported Favorably.

The house public lands committee voted to report favorably on the administration's general leasing bill for coal, phosphate, oil, gas, potassium and sodium products on public lands. The coal lands under this bill will be leased in tracts of 2560 acres at a royalty of two cents per ton for coal mined and 25 cents per acre the first year, 50 cents the second, third, fourth and fifth years, and \$1 per year for the continuance of the lease. Railroad companies may take one lease for each 200 miles for their own use, and municipalities may lease 640 acres for obtaining a municipal supply of coal. Similar provisions apply to phosphate, potassium and sodium lands. Oil and gas lands will be leased in tracts of 640 acres at 10 per cent royalty and \$1 per acre for the land. The proceeds will be turned into the reclamation funds.

#### Alliance of American Republics.

Creation of a defensive alliance that would put the power and resources of the 21 American republics behind the Monroe Doctrine, it became known, is the real purpose behind the proposed convention among them. While ostensibly this convention is for settlement of boundary disputes and for preventing munitions from reaching revolutionary states, and while Secretary of State Lansing would not discuss the broader proposition delegates to the Pan-American Scientific congress declared that such a movement is on foot.

Director John Barrett of the Pan-American union had this to say concerning the proposal:

"Whatever may be the results of this war, there may be afterward little or no love for the United States and other American nations. They must stand together for eventualities."

#### State May Handle Perishables.

After consulting for several days with Attorney General Gregory and members of the Federal Trade Commission, Harris Weinstock, California state market director, left for California to invite all producers of perishable farm products in that state to give the state market commission a monopoly of routing and directing carloads of the products for the eastern markets.

While not having any formal approval from the federal officials for his plan, Mr. Weinstock said they had found no defects and he was confident the state could do without question that which individuals acting separately or through private organizations could not do.

The plan provides for warehousing crops and financing them through favorable loans in New York. Moreover, it proposes a campaign to get an enormous business in the United States and South American markets.

The decision given him may have an important effect on other combinations of a similar nature throughout the country. Dried fruit men, however, will not be the only ones who will benefit by the proposal, for the commission plans to embrace all forms of agricultural men.

### BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

Mrs. Martha Hill, a pioneer of 1847, is dead at Independence.

Building operations in Salem during 1915 totaled approximately \$200,000 in value.

The road levy in Lane county for the coming year will raise approximately \$110,000.

The supreme court has held Portland's jitney ordinance constitutional, reversing Circuit Judge Bagley.

Farmers adjacent to Salem have received \$12,000 in the last month from a Portland firm for the sale of 1100 hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Adams, of Scappoose, died Sunday within 11 hours of each other, as the result of la grippe.

"Pay-Up Week" will be celebrated in Newberg February 21-26 by merchants in an endeavor to collect long standing bills.

The Oregon workmen's compensation act was held constitutional by the supreme court in a decision upholding Circuit Judge Galloway.

A good roads conference is to be held at the Oregon Agricultural college January 3 and 4 under the direction of Professor G. V. Skelton.

Henry Tillery, veteran of the Mexican war of 1846-1848, died at his home at Ballston, Polk county, December 29, after an illness of a few days.

Oregon has sent more horses to Europe in the past year than any other Pacific coast state, according to buyers for the allies and for Germany.

By written opinion and stipulation, the Oregon supreme court last year disposed of 281 cases, while a total of 420 transcripts were filed in the same period.

With the close of the year, only 11,500 automobile owners of Oregon were equipped with the new license tag for 1916 as required by law before they can be legally operated.

Twelve members of Company M, Oregon national guard, Salem, qualified as expert riflemen last year, with a score of 210 or better out of a possible 250 on all ranges.

Announcement of the annual conference of county fair officials to be held January 5 at the Oregon agricultural college, Corvallis, has been made by the state department of education.

Bids have been opened by the Clatsop county court for clearing, grading and paving four and one-half miles of the Columbia river highway between Columbia beach station and the West ranch.

Assistant State School Superintendent E. P. Carlton was elected president of the reorganized State Teachers' association. Principal George A. Briscoe of Ashland high was chosen vice president.

Letters handled at the Portland post office during 1915 numbered 5,800,000, of which 42,900,000 were sent out, the remainder being received. The total is an increase of more than 2,000,000 over 1914.

Mrs. Frances Ellen Jane Hare, 104 years old, is dead at Astoria. She leaves seven children, 23 grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. She was a descendant of the Davenport family of Virginia.

Receipts of the state banking department totaled \$17,526.04 and disbursements \$17,110.33, leaving a balance of \$415.71 and members traveled a total of 56,134 miles in attendance upon their duties in 1915.

Preliminary estimates of the output of metals from Oregon mines in 1915 by the United States geological survey show material increases over the figures of 1914 in both gold and copper, and slight decreases in yield of silver and lead.

After being out five hours the jury in the Rosa Merlo murder case at Hillsboro returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter against Mrs. Merlo. Mrs. Merlo shot and killed her husband, Joseph Merlo, at Santa Rosa, October 4.

Representative Hawley has announced appointments to the Annapolis naval academy as follows: Lloyd Harris, Oregon City, principal; Howard L. Lamar, Tillamook; Miles Gamill, Medford and William S. Kinney, Astoria, alternates.

Governor Withycombe received an invitation from Joseph H. Choate, honorary president of the National Security League, to represent the Pacific coast at a congress of the league to be held in Washington, D. C., January 20 to 22. He declined.

James J. Hill has sent \$50,000 to Albany college as promised, making \$258,000 the college possesses in permanent interest-bearing endowment funds. A fund of \$165,000 will be raised to erect the first building on the new college campus.

According to a report just issued by Chief Forester Henry S. Graves for the fiscal year of 1915, more than half of the timber sold from all the national forests in the country has been taken from the Oregon forests. Of the total, in rough figures, of 1,000,000,000 board feet sold from the national forests, Oregon forests have contributed 545,000,000. The value of the Oregon timber sold is rated at \$1,829,000.

### OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Events Occurring Throughout  
the State During the Past  
Week.

#### \$12,703,743 Feet of Lumber Shipped.

Astoria.—During the year just closed 1249 vessels with a tonnage of 1,711,268 tons entered at the Astoria custom house, while 1254 vessels with a total tonnage of 1,732,953 tons cleared for domestic and foreign ports. According to the records in the Astoria custom house 355 vessels loaded at the mills in the lower Columbia river district during the year 1915, and their aggregate cargoes amounted to 228,426,797 feet of lumber. In addition to these, four rafts containing 24,000,000 feet of logs and piling were towed to California, making the total lumber shipments by water from the mills in this district 247,426,797 feet. In the same 12 months 265 vessels loaded 65,276,946 feet of lumber at the upper river mills, giving a grand total of 312,703,743 feet as the amount of lumber shipped from the Columbia river in cargoes and rafts during the year just closed.

#### Trains Crash Head on Near Roseburg.

Roseburg.—Northbound Southern Pacific freight train No. 222, operated by Engineer Henry Ryan and Conductor Howard Weichlein, of Roseburg, crashed head on into southbound local freight train No. 229 a few feet north of the high trestle spanning the Umpqua river near Winchester. Glen Patrick, fireman on train 229, was caught between a derailed box-car and the locomotive, necessitating the amputation of his left arm between the elbow and shoulder.

#### Loganberry Juice Makers to Organize.

Portland.—Loganberry juice manufacturers of Oregon have decided to proceed at once to a permanent organization for the standardization of their product and system in the finding of markets. At a meeting held at the Chamber of Commerce, a number of manufacturers discussed the plan as outlined by George D. Lee, secretary of the industries and manufactures bureau of the chamber, and a committee was appointed to complete the organization.

#### GRANT LAND TAX REGULAR

Douglas County Wins Suit for \$17,541  
Delinquent Taxes.

Roseburg.—Holding that the acts of the tax-levying officers of Douglas county were regular in every particular, Judge Hamilton rendered a decision in which he held that the Southern Oregon company was liable for the payment of delinquent taxes in this county amounting to \$17,541 and covering a term of five years.

Judge Hamilton holds that the "tax, being properly levied, is a lien against the land, a definite charge, not against the individual owner, but against the land itself."

Under the decision Judge Hamilton is of the opinion that the delinquent taxes will have to be paid. The same ruling would also apply to the delinquent taxes due from the Oregon & California grant lands in this county for the years 1913 and 1914, and totaling \$186,763, although the latter was not a party in the case at issue.

If sustained by the higher courts, this decision means that Douglas county eventually will recover \$204,304 of delinquent taxes from these two corporations. Coos and Lane counties are in a similar situation to recover almost equal amounts each.

#### Government Starts Land Suit.

Portland.—A suit to set aside the patents on 43 claims of timber land in Baker county, comprising several thousand acres, which the government maintains were secured irregularly by employees of the Oregon Lumber company, for that company, was brought to trial in the federal court here Monday. Patents to the 43 claims were secured in 1900 and a suit was instituted in 1912.

#### Public Market a Success.

Eugene.—The success of the public market in the small city has been demonstrated by the Eugene public market, established four months ago, according to C. J. Hurd, marketmaster, who asks the city to enlarge the market again. There are now 26 stalls in the market. In the beginning there were but 22. The sheds were erected by the city on the petition of the Lane County Grange, which has the management of the market.

#### Forty-Four Eligible for Parole.

Salem.—Forty-four men serving sentences in the Oregon penitentiary were eligible for parole because of the expiration of their minimum sentences with the first of the year. At its meeting this week the parole board will act on the eligibles and make its recommendations to Governor Withycombe.

### QUESTION CLEARED UP.

Cottage Grove Readers Can No Longer  
Doubt the Evidence.

Again and again we have read of strangers in distant towns who have been cured by this or that medicine. But Cottage Grove's pertinent question has always been "Has anyone here in Cottage Grove been cured?" The word of a stranger living a hundred miles away may be true, but it cannot have the same weight with us as the word of our own citizens, whom we know and respect and whose evidence we can so easily prove.

Mrs. Ella Bisbey, 439 Grant Ave., Cottage Grove, says: "I have great faith in Doan's Kidney Pills and don't hesitate to recommend them. They were used by one of the family who was quite ill with kidney trouble and they gave great relief."

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