

# NEWS ITEMS

Of General Interest

## About Oregon

### Big Lumber Order Received for Freight Car Building

Eugene—The Booth-Kelly Lumber company has just closed a contract which is said to be the largest obtained by a Willamette valley mill in several years, entering into an agreement to supply the Ralston Steel Car company with 9,000,000 feet of lumber to be used in the manufacture of cars for the Southern Pacific railroad company.

The order is the second of this nature booked by the Booth-Kelly company within the past few weeks, according to A. C. Dixon, manager.

The lumber in the contract is to be used in the manufacture of 2000 freight, flat and other cars.

The contract was awarded at a meeting held in Cincinnati, where a large number of bidders representing lumber companies in all parts of the United States were present. The lumber will be supplied at intervals extending throughout the summer.

As soon as weather conditions permit the mills at Wendling and Springfield will resume operations, with prospects of a good summer's business, provided the car situation does not interfere.

### Rodent Fighters Unite.

Klamath Falls—The idea of the farmers of a neighborhood banding together for organized rodent extermination work has proved popular in Klamath county. Besides clubs at Bonanza, Langell Valley, Merrill, Malin and Lorella, all of which were recently organized, the Hildebrand Farmers' club was organized at Hildebrand, about 25 miles east of this city, and the farmers of the Spring Lake section, in the basin east of the city, are effecting an organization there.

More than 40 farmers attended the Hildebrand meeting and 25 joined the club, selecting the following officers: President, Charley Drew; vice president, J. G. Wight; secretary-treasurer, W. F. Wilkerson, and poison mixer, Charles Drew, Jr. Ground squirrels and coyotes are the pests to be fought. Poison mixtures are prepared according to government formulas.

### Big Wool Sale Reported.

Baker—The largest amount of wool contracted for in years is reported by Berthold and Gerson Neuberger, who announced they had contracted for nearly 500,000 pounds for Portland and Eastern concerns. From 20 to 21 cents was the average price stipulated, making an outlay of more than \$100,000.

The clips contracted for include those of Orson Moody, between 80,000 and 90,000 pounds; M. F. Cundiff, 20,000 pounds; A. H. Hampton, of Huntington, 95,000 pounds; and E. Johnson, 85,000 pounds. The names of other sellers were not given out.

With the lambing season at an end, shearing will commence within a short time. Buyers believe that a large percentage of the wool this year will be contracted in advance.

### Highway Route Inspected.

Roseburg—For the purpose of ascertaining the needs of Douglas county with reference to state aid in road construction, John H. Lewis, state highway engineer, passed Saturday in Roseburg conferring with the members of the County court and other prominent citizens.

While Mr. Lewis refused to divulge his plans regarding the construction of the new state highway through Douglas county, he said work on the road would begin as soon as the necessary funds are available.

### Business Right Upheld.

Salem—The retaliatory building and loan association law passed by the state of Washington does not give Corporation Commissioner Schulderman, of Oregon, the right to act likewise and refuse the Pacific Building & Loan association of the state of Washington, the right to do business in this state, the attorney general's office has ruled.

If the Washington concern, which a short time ago withdrew from business in Oregon, makes its annual report to Commissioner Schulderman, and pays up its annual license fees, the attorney general holds it has the right to continue in business in this state.

### State Charter is Taken.

Salem—Conversion of the Benton County National Bank at Corvallis to the state system was made Wednesday when the owners reincorporated under the name of the Benton County State Bank. The institution is capitalized at \$60,000, with a surplus of \$15,000 and deposits aggregating in excess of \$400,000. The change from a National bank to a state bank was made because of the belief of the management that the Federal Reserve obligations of National banks impose burdensome conditions upon the smaller banks.

### Jobs Are Awaiting Men.

Marshfield—There are more jobs here than men, in most localities. The Willamette-Pacific construction work between Coos Bay and Heedsport is short of workmen and the crew has been reduced from 65 to 12. It was reported that the crew above the Umpqua river had dwindled from 125 to less than 20. Work is delayed on account of the men quitting. They are leaving for the outside.

## PRESIDENT CALLS FOR SHOWDOWN ON GERMAN SUBMARINE ISSUE

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson decided Wednesday that he cannot proceed with the German submarine negotiations while dissension in congress weakens his position before the world, so he called for a showdown on the pending proposals to warn Americans off merchant ships of the European belligerents armed for defense.

Making clear that he considers the President, and not congress, is charged with the conduct of the foreign relations of the United States, he wrote a letter to Representative Pou, acting chairman of the house rules committee, asking him to provide parliamentary means for bringing the agitation out into the open on the floor of the house, for full discussion and vote.

The President's letter to Mr. Pou, the signal that the administration was ready to give Germany a demonstration of unity, follows:

"My Dear Mr. Pou:—Inasmuch as I learn that Mr. Henry, the chairman of

### WILLIAM THAW



William Thaw, an American aviator in the service of France, who has been promoted for "good work."

the committee on rules, is absent in Texas, I take the liberty of calling your attention, as ranking member of the committee, to a matter of grave concern to the country, which can, I believe, be handled, under the rules of the United States congress, only by that committee.

"The report that there are divided counsels in congress in regard to the foreign policy of the government is being made industriously use of in foreign capitals. I believe that report to be false, but so long as it is anywhere credited it cannot fail to do the greatest harm and expose the country to the most serious risks. I therefore feel justified in asking that your committee will permit me to urge an early vote upon the resolutions with regard to travel on armed merchantmen, which have recently been so much talked about, in order that there may be afforded an immediate opportunity for full public discussion and action upon them, and that all doubts and conjectures may be swept away and our foreign relations once more cleared of damaging misunderstandings.

"The matter is of so grave importance and lies so clearly within the field of executive initiative that I venture to hope that your committee will not think that I am taking unwarranted liberty in making this suggestion as to the business of the house, and I very earnestly commend it to their immediate consideration. Cordially and sincerely yours,  
"WOODROW WILSON."

## Total Tax from Incomes Show Marked Increase

New York—An estimate that approximately 30,000 corporations will pay income taxes this year in the Second internal revenue district of this city, was made by Collector Lowe. Collector Lowe's district takes in the lower part of Manhattan, in which are situated the main offices of many of the country's greatest corporations, bankers and financiers. The total collections this year in this district from all forms of Federal taxes, Mr. Lowe predicted, will exceed \$35,000,000. Collections last year amounted to \$26,000,000.

Chicago—The Federal income tax will be paid by 4000 more Chicagoans this year than last, according to the prediction of Collector Smetanka. Forty-six thousand citizens of Chicago paid the tax last year. They contributed \$2,407,591 and corporations \$2,671,382.

### French Cruiser Sunk.

Paris—The French auxiliary cruiser La Provence was sunk in the Mediterranean last Saturday, it was announced officially. At Malta 296 survivors have been landed. The ministry of marine estimates the number of survivors at 870. Four hundred survivors were landed at Milo. La Provence was one of the largest of the French line vessels. Her gross tonnage was 13,753.

She was requisitioned by the French government for naval service at the outbreak of the war.

## NORTHWEST MARKET REPORTS; GENERAL CROP CONDITIONS

Portland—Wheat—Bluestem, 98c per bushel; fortyfold, 93c; club, 90c; red Fife, 88c; red Russian, 88c.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, \$18.50@19.50 per ton; valley timothy, \$16; alfalfa, \$20.

Millfeed—Spot prices: Bran, \$23.50 @ 24 per ton; shorts, \$26 @ 26.50; rolled barley, \$31.50@32.50.

Corn—Whole, \$37 per ton; cracked, \$38.

Vegetables—Artichokes, \$1 @ 1.15 per dozen; tomatoes, \$3@5 per crate; cabbage, \$1.50 @ 1.65 per hundred; garlic, 10c per pound; peppers, 20@25c; eggplant, 25c; sprouts, 8@9c; horseradish, 8c; cauliflower, \$2@2.25 per crate; celery, \$4.75; lettuce, \$2.50 @ 3.25; cucumbers, \$1.25 @ 1.50 per dozen; hothouse lettuce, 75c@1 per box; spinach, 90c@1; asparagus, 25c per pound; rhubarb, 14c.

Green Fruits—Grapes, \$4 per barrel; cranberries, \$11.

Potatoes—Oregon, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; Yakimas, \$1.50@1.60; sweets, \$3.25@3.50 per hundred.

Onions—Oregon, buying prices, \$2 f. o. b. shipping point.

Apples—Spitzenbergs, extra fancy, \$2.25 per box; fancy, \$2; choice, \$1.25@1.50; Yellow Newtowns, extra fancy, \$2; fancy, \$1.75; choice, \$1.35 @ 1.50; Rome Beauty, fancy, \$1.50@1.60; Winesaps, choice, \$1.15@1.35; Stayman, choice, \$1.25@1.35.

Eggs—Jobbing prices: Oregon ranch, candled, 19c per dozen; uncandled, 18@18½c.

Poultry—Hens, 16@16½c per pound; springs, 16c; stags, 12c; turkeys, live, 18@20c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 24@25c; ducks, 12@14c; geese, 10c.

Butter—Prices from wholesaler to retailer: Portland city creamery, prints, 60-pound case lots, standard grades, 29c; lower grades, 27c; Oregon country creamery prints, 60-pound case lots, standard makes, 28c; lower grades, 27 @ 27½c; butter packed in cubes, 2c less. Prices paid by jobbers to producers: Cubes, extras, 25@25½c; firsts, 24½c; dairy butter, 14@17c; butterfat, No. 1, 27c; No. 2, 25c.

Veal—Fancy, 10c per pound.

Pork—Fancy, 9½@10c per pound.

Hops—1915 crop, 10@13c per pound; 1916 contracts, 11@12c per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 20 @ 30c; valley, 27@28c; mohair, Oregon, 28@29c.

Cascara bark—Old and new, 4c per pound.

Cattle—Prime steers, \$7 @ 7.70; choice, \$6.50@6.75; good, \$6.75@7; medium, \$6.50 @ 6.75; choice cows, \$6.50@6.75; medium, \$5.25@6; heifers, \$4@6.40; bulls, \$2.50@5; stags, \$3@5.25.

Hogs—Light, \$7.50@8.15; heavy, \$6.50@7.

Sheep—Yearlings, \$7@8; ewes, \$6 @ 7; lambs, \$8@9.05.

### Washington Butter Markets

#### Cut to Meet Competition

Tacoma—On the verge of a break for some time, the Washington butter market Wednesday weakened and the price toppled to 30 cents. Local jobbers attribute the drop to the breaking of the California and Oregon markets. They say if the Washington market did not follow in line with its neighboring competitors there would be an influx of butter from the other two states. To avoid that situation, prices were set down and the home trade will be accommodated by the local product.

Further changes in local prices are not predicted, although the production is said to be larger and the cream production more active.

Fresh ranch eggs continue to get weaker. Prices are now down to 21 @ 22 cents a dozen, the cheapest they have been for some time. Dealers report receipts rapidly increasing daily, with the demand about the same. They are hopeful of a strengthening of the demand.

### Association Sells More Hops.

Portland—Sales of hops controlled by the Oregon Hopprowers' association at prices up to 12 cents for the best grades were reported this week. The buying was understood to be chiefly for export account, although there are also domestic orders on the market. Hugo Loewi bought 275 bales of Yakima hops from Satterwaite & Frye at 11 cents. Other Yakima sales were the Courshave lot of 90 bales and the M. W. Phillips crop of 125 bales. Two carload lots of Sonoma hops were bought by Donovan & Wolf at 11½c.

### Wool Lower at London.

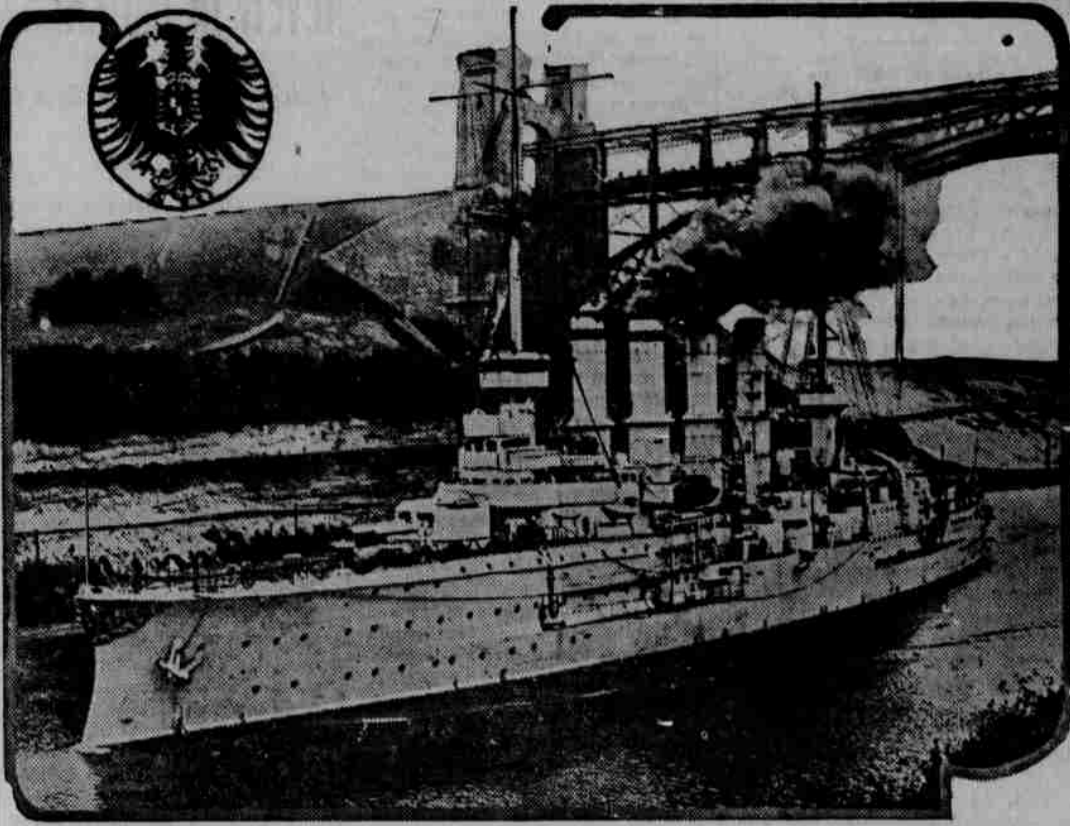
London—The second series of the wool auction sales opened Wednesday with offerings of 7200 bales. The attendance was large. The moderate selection was in fair demand, but both merinos and crossbreds declined from 5 to 7½ per cent. Labor difficulties and the question of financing were largely responsible for the lower prices.

Russia took a few lots of scoured merinos and the home trade the rest. No sales were made to America.

### Hog Supply Large.

February was another big hog month at the Portland Union Stockyards. The month's run totaled nearly 25,000 head, an increase of 4862 head over the receipts in the same month of 1915 and equalling the gain recorded in the opening month of this year. In other divisions there was a falling off in receipts in February, which was most pronounced in the sheep movement.

## GERMAN CRUISER REPORTED TO BE AT LARGE



This is the German cruiser Roon, which is said to have been near by on the day the British liner Appam was captured off the Madelra Islands and to have directed the raiders. The Roon, which is an armored cruiser, was built in 1903. She has a displacement of 9,050 tons and a speed of 21 knots an hour. She carries four 8.2-inch guns, ten 6-inch guns, fourteen 24-pounders, four machine guns and four submerged torpedo tubes. She has a length of 405 feet and 65 feet beam. She carries a complement of 557 men.

## CELEBRATES HER FIFTIETH YEAR IN BED



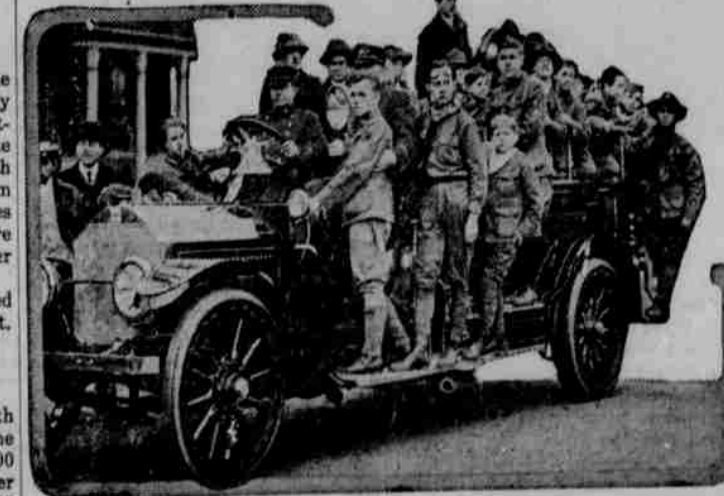
Miss Mollie Fancher, called America's most remarkable invalid, whose extraordinary case, with its development of what is declared to be clairvoyant power, has puzzled physicians, surgeons and psychic investigators, celebrated recently at her home in Brooklyn the fiftieth anniversary of her confinement to bed. Though Miss Fancher cannot see, she is able to write, can describe the dress of callers, and reveal with a surprising degree of accuracy, it is said, the past life of persons she never knew before.

## HE OPENS THE PRESIDENT'S MAIL



Ira Smith's job is to see that the president of the United States is not annoyed by the thousands of people who write to him, and Mr. Smith is a very busy man. Every day many hundreds of letters addressed to the chief executive—usually they are marked "private" or "confidential"—reach the White House. As a rule about five of the batch are sent unopened to Mr. Wilson. The rest have fallen to pass Mr. Smith, who is a handwriting expert and can tell which of the letters the president must see and which should be turned over to the executive office staff for answer.

## BOY SCOUTS LEARN FIRE FIGHTING



The Boy Scouts of Washington are learning, among other useful things, to be fire fighters. The capital's fire department has taken over the tuition of the young Scouts and they have been put through drills in wall climbing, jumping into fire nets and all branches of the fireman's work. The Scouts are shown here riding back from one of their drills with the firemen.

## COOK DEMANDS VINDICATION



Dr. Frederick A. Cook, mountain climber and arctic explorer, who leaped into fame a few years ago with the controversy over his claim to have discovered the North pole, is in Washington to demand of congress an investigation of his claim and vindication in the eyes of the world. Doctor Cook says he has started the machinery to bring about the investigation and that he will not let up until his story of his travels in the arctic is proved true by congress.

Two of a Kind.  
"Well, young man. On your way to school?"  
"Yes, sir."  
"You don't seem to be in a hurry to get there."  
"No, sir. Where are you going?"  
"I'm on my way to work."  
"You don't seem to be in a hurry much, either."