

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VII, No. 140.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON. TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 2000.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Newspaper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service

CHANGE CLUB TO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING OF LOCAL ORGANIZATION

BEN SHELDON NAMED MANAGER

Report of Club's Finances Shows All Indebtedness Liquidated for First Time in Years

At the annual meeting of the Commercial club, held last evening following the banquet and good roads program, the name of the organization was changed from Commercial club to that of the "Chamber of Commerce of Grants Pass." With the change of name will follow a number of changes in plan of organization intended to broaden the scope of the work.

At the election of officers for the ensuing year, Wilford Allen, who had served two years as president of the club, was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce; Theo. P. Cramer was elected vice-president; Fred A. Williams, secretary; Frank C. Bramwell, treasurer; and A. S. Contant, Alex Nibley and Dr. E. C. Macy, trustees. All elections were unanimous. The hold-over members of the board of trustees are Dr. Bywater and Preston B. Delano. The board of trustees immediately convened and ratified the employment of Benj. Sheldon as manager of the club, and Mr. Sheldon was immediately installed in his duties.

Following the election of officers, the president suggested that a number of the standing committees be provided for through amendment to the bylaws, those suggested being committees upon mining, roads and highways, sugar beets, new industries, auto camp, tourists and Josephine caves, and state of the community. It was suggested that the chairman of each should be elected by the organization from the membership. Acting upon this suggestion, and the urgency of action for the arrangements for the auto camp ground for the present season, Dr. Stricker was nominated for chairman of the committee upon auto camp, tourists and Josephine caves. The doctor was unanimously elected, and will head that work for the season.

A resolution was also presented and adopted constituting the committee on roads and highways as named a few weeks ago as the permanent committee. This committee is composed of Messrs. O. S. Blanchard, Sam Baker, R. B. Miller, Frank Bramwell, Alex Nibley, Geo. Lundberg and County Judge Gillette.

C. H. Demaray presented the question of the building of a public auditorium from the material in the old court house. He said the county court had signified its willingness to give the old structure as soon as the new was ready for occupancy, and he proposed the obtaining of a site and the building of the auditorium. The proposal was endorsed by the club, and a committee composed of Messrs. Demaray, Stricker, Hackett, Proctor, Coburn and Bramwell was authorized to use its best endeavors to bring success to the movement.

The continuance of the weekly luncheons was discussed, with the unanimous approval of continuing. Nearly all members present signed up for tickets covering the next series of eight luncheons.

Action upon the request of the county agricultural council for recommendations concerning the holding of a county fair this year and also upon the question of the purchase of permanent fair grounds was

"FUTURE LIES ON WATER"

Admiral Scheer, Commander of German Fleet, Says So.



Admiral Scheer commanded the German fleet in the great sea battle off Jutland on May 31, 1916. When the recent German ruthless submarine order was promulgated Admiral Scheer said: "My slogan is that our future lies on the water. However the British sea lion gnashes his teeth, we must and will attack him until a free path on the seas has been won."

JURY DECLARES H. K. THAW INSANE

Action Will Stop Attempt to Take Man Back to New York to Stand Criminal Trial

Philadelphia, Mar. 13.—Harry Thaw was adjudged insane today by alienists who examined him in the sanity inquiry started by his mother.

Commissioner Ballard and six jurors made a report in common pleas court number five adjudging Thaw insane. An order has been issued placing Thaw in custody of St. Mary's hospital, where he has been confined since his attempt at suicide.

The move to have Thaw declared insane in Pennsylvania was started in order to have him sent to an asylum in this state and escape trial in New York on the charge of having beaten Frederick Gump Jr., of Kansas City.

PETITION SENATOR LANE TO QUIT HIS JOB

Portland, Mar. 13.—Seven petitions for the resignation of Senator Harry Lane are en route to Washington today, bearing 500 signatures. This announcement was made by W. B. Wells, a publisher, who has been very active in circulating petitions asking Lane to quit, and charging him with "humiliating" the state of Oregon by his stand on the armed ship bill.

deferred till next Monday noon, when it will be the special order at the luncheon.

The report of the auditing committee showed the accounts of the club as being correct covering the work of the past year. The committee recommended a more simplified system of accounting for the chamber of commerce. The report showed that all claims against the club had been liquidated, and that there still remained a cash balance of \$49.76 on hand, with fees and dues collectable amounting to over \$100 more. This is the first time in recent years that the club has been upon the right side of the ledger. The assets of the organization in furniture, fixtures, etc., amount to about \$1,200.

PEACE MOVE TO BE LAUNCHED IN A FEW MONTHS

DIPLMATS AT NATIONAL CAPITAL THINK ACTION TO END WAR IS NEAR

STRIFE NEAR TO CLOSING STAGE

Acute Food Situation in All Warring Nations One Factor Working to Bring End

Washington, Mar. 13.—A general peace move will be launched within three or four months, according to views of diplomats and officials today.

In the opinion of military men, government authorities and representatives of foreign powers here, there are many elements at work which are tending to bring the great world war to its closing stage.

These elements include an increasingly acute food situation in all the warring nations, particularly among the central powers; a growing unrest among the peoples as indicated by the dissatisfaction manifested toward the entente cabinets; possibility of any one of the principal nations breaking substantially under the military strain; and growing belief that neither side can achieve an overwhelming victory such as would force a strictly military peace.

It is now believed here that President Wilson's suggested "peace without victory" will result in fact and possibly not later than July 1.

By that time all believe that empty stomachs and physical and financial exhaustion will have argued successfully for terminating the war.

As one diplomat here expressed it, "an empty larder may serve to restore reason." As a result, belief grows here that Germany will do everything in her power to prevent entrance of the United States into the world war.

If this country does enter, the central powers feel that it would serve only to prolong the struggle and increase the suffering by another country, possibly another hemisphere, and millions of people.

There are reasons to believe that Germany will exercise every precaution against sinking an armed American merchant ship without first complying with every stipulation of international law demanded by this government.

By July it is believed the success or failure of the U boat will have been determined.

If the U boats do the service expected by the imperial government, it is believed the war will degenerate into a contest in which the survivor with the fittest stomach will win.

If the U boat campaign fails, Germany may be forced "for the sake of her women and children" to make further peace overtures. In all events the U boat promises—whether a success or failure—to hasten the end of the war.

Political events, shaping Europe, are read here as the handwriting on the wall.

England and France both have their cabinet crises, while the Russian and Italian situations indicate disruption or weakness.

Germany may drive against Russia or Italy as the most vulnerable adversary, and this may serve to inflict such a blow as to enormously lessen opposition to the central powers.

Marshfield, Mar. 13.—Thomas Madden, former St. Paul politician, is dead today with self-inflicted bullet wounds in his head and chest. He committed suicide rather than face trial on a charge of bootlegging.

NATION WIDE RAILWAY STRIKE AGAIN LOOMS

SPECTRE THAT WAS TEMPORARILY LAID WITH ADAMSON LAW IS MENACING

NO WALK OUT IF WAR COMES

Brotherhood Heads at Washington Are Considering Issuance of the Strike Call

Washington, Mar. 13.—The spectre of the threatened nation-wide railroad strike that disappeared at the close of the session last summer, when the Adamson eight-hour law was passed through congress, loomed up again today.

One point, however, was emphasized by the brotherhood leaders, who will confer with the railroad heads in New York Thursday.

In the event of hostilities, there will be no strike. Should a strike be called and war come meantime, any strike order would be called off instantly.

The brotherhoods "will not climb to victory on the nation's misfortune."

W. G. Lee, W. S. Stone, W. S. Carter and E. L. Sheppard, the four big brotherhood chiefs, here to attend the conference of the nation's leaders of labor, who are deciding what labor's part shall be in any war, continued silent on the strike question. "We neither confirm nor deny that a strike call will be issued," said their spokesmen.

As evidence of their determination not to embarrass the government in an emergency, brotherhood chiefs, without argument, voted with the labor council unanimously to uphold a resolution expressing the willingness of more than 2,000,000 members of organized labor as represented by the brotherhoods and the American Federation of Labor to do their "bit" in any national emergency that may arise.

Chief Lee, spokesman for the four chiefs, indicated today that a formal statement regarding the brotherhoods' position may be forthcoming later today.

Coincidental with its stand to help out in case of war, the labor council, presided over by Samuel Gompers, took a firm position against militarism: in taking this stand, however, a difference was drawn between "militarism" and universal service; and it was voted also to demand that rich and poor be treated with unequivocal sameness in any universal service plans war heads might decide on.

The council likewise voted against any use of the military in industrial disputes.

17 MEN TRAPPED IN BURNING COAL MINE

Canonsburg, Pa., Mar. 13.—Seventeen men were trapped in one of the mines of the Henderson coal mines at Henderson today, when two explosions partly wrecked the interior of the mine. There were 24 at work when the first blast occurred. Seven of these were taken out. A second explosion then cut the others off from the first aid crew. Efforts to rescue them were immediately begun. The mine rescue car and crew from the Pittsburg station of the United States bureau of mines, reached Henderson early today. At that time it was rumored there were 12 known dead.

DIRECTS KAISER'S NAVY.

Admiral Von Capelle, Minister of Marine in German Cabinet.



After Admiral von Tirpitz, known as the "father of the modern German navy," was compelled to leave his post as minister of marine, Admiral von Capelle succeeded him in the cabinet. It was then believed generally that ruthless submarine warfare would die with the stepping aside of von Tirpitz, who was known as the most ardent advocate of the U boat.

INSTRUCTIONS TO NAVY GUNNERS

Department Directs U. S. Men to Charge of Armament on Merchant Ships Sailed to the War Zone

Washington, Mar. 13.—Instructions to American navy gunners regarding their conduct in defending United States armed merchant ships from German submarine attacks in Germany's barred death zone, were completed and approved, and will be issued "whenever needed."

Secretary of the Navy DanIELS drew the orders and then in two conferences with Secretary Henry of State Lansing, made some changes, believed to be minor.

Daniels, who announced today completion of the instructions, declared they would be secret and that he had control of the actual situation so that the contents would not be made public from any source.

There will be little detail in forwarding the instructions, it is assumed, Daniels, however, declined to give the exact lines on the ground that this would serve as a means of showing the sailing dates of the armed ships.

President Wilson, it is understood, saw the orders when they were completed and with Secretary Lansing approved them.

Secretary Daniels made the specific request that newspapers refrain from any inference as to the contents of the order.

The government is not placing armed guards aboard these merchant ships to protect contraband and cargo.

The official announcement to the world yesterday, confirming the armed guard plan, specifically omitted mention of protection of the cargo, saying only that the guards were placed aboard to protect lives and property. This was taken to be a notification that the government wishes it clearly understood that it recognizes the right to destroy contraband, but insists that this be done in accordance with international law—not through unwarlike attacks.

Sheldon Takes Charge—Ben Sheldon returned yesterday from Medford, and this morning took charge of the office of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sheldon was a member of the state legislature from Jackson county.

BETTER ROADS DISCUSSED AT CLUB BANQUET

STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER PRINCIPAL SPEAKER MONDAY EVENING

JOSEPHINE COUNTY IS FAVORED

Speaker Tells of Method of Raising Funds to Meet the Proposed \$6,000,000 Bond Issue

Grants Pass through its Commercial club was host last night to the Hon. E. J. Adams, of Eugene, member of the new state highway commission, this being the first visit which the gentleman had made to any of the districts within his territory. The occasion was the annual banquet of members of the club and their invited guests, and following the hour about the banquet table a good roads program, with speakers upon various angles of the highway question, was listened to by the assembled throng that filled the assembly room to the doors. The president of the club presided, first introducing Attorney O. S. Blanchard, chairman of the committee upon roads and highways, who spoke of the work of the organization in solving the better highway problem.

Following Mr. Blanchard, J. W. Morris, consulting engineer for the Oregon State Motor association, spoke of the work being accomplished by the association clubs now being organized in all portions of the state to advance the interests of highway building.

County Judge Gillette explained in a most comprehensive manner the difficulties that confronted Josephine county in the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges where the taxable property was such a small per cent of the entire area of the county. He favored the state aid proposition and endorsed the bond issue to be voted upon in June.

Supervisor N. F. Macduff shed much light upon the operations of the forestry department in road building through co-operation with counties and states, especially through anticipation of revenues to be derived later in the sale of timber.

The address by Commissioner Adams was a most enlightening one, and gave those who were present a much more comprehensive idea of the recently-enacted highway legislation. Mr. Adams made a most excellent impression upon his hearers, his manner and his every word bearing the stamp of sincerity and of honesty. He is no doubt a most capable gentleman who will serve Oregon well in the position which he occupies. As an introduction, Mr. Adams laid low the ghost that haunted many in southern Oregon over the rumored attempt to be made to change the route of the Pacific Highway by routing it via the Tiller-Trail road.

He stated that he was for the Pacific Highway as at present laid, via Grants Pass, Medford and Ashland, and would combat any attempt to route it otherwise. He also read a telegram which had been handed him since he had been seated at the banquet table in which S. Benson, the chairman of the highway commission, placed himself on record for the Pacific Highway as now routed, and branded as false any claim that he favored the so-called Tiller-Trail cut-off.

Mr. Adams gave a most comprehensive digest of the bond issue bills to be voted upon at the June election, and while he said that the commission was neither a body nor as individuals endorsing the measures, he made it so clear that the bonding was a good thing every man present

(Continued on Page 4)