

Rogue River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VIII., No. 62.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 1918.

WHOLE NUMBER 2847.

ITALY TAKES OFFENSIVE ON NORTH FRONT

BRILLIANT FRENCH VICTORY FOLLOWED BY SUCCESSFUL DRIVE OF ITALIANS

WEATHER IS AGAINST INVADERS

Determined Teutonic Efforts to Cross Plave River Repulsed by Latins. Enemy's Losses Severe

London, Jan. 2.—Italians have won the first victory of the new year on the defensive line from Lake Garda to the Adriatic. These lines were strengthened by the Italian success in driving the enemy from Season bridge head, which the Austro-Germans have held ever since the middle of November. The enemy replied only with artillery, to the French stroke in Monte Tomba region.

The magnitude of the achievement of the French troops in the Monte Tomba region grows as full details are received. In addition to 1,348 men, including 44 Austrian officers, several of high rank, made prisoner and seven large guns captured, the booty includes 60 machine guns, several trench quickfiring and a great amount of miscellaneous war material.

But the chief significance of the stroke is the change from defensive to offensive tactics, and the stirring enthusiasm and sureness with which the French delivered their initial blow against the enemy lines. Thus far the enemy has been on the offensive with Italians delivering telling defensive blows.

Now, however, the French have turned the scale, and the enemy is being attacked in this sector for the first time since he reached the Plave.

The weather is coming to the Italian relief in the way of heavy snows. The food supply of the enemy on the northern front is temporarily cut off by snow.

Rome, Jan. 2.—The Austro-Germans made a determined attempt today to cross the Plave but were beaten back by the Italians. A score of boats attempted to cross at Intstadura, but were dispersed.

SHAKE-UP DUE SOON BRITISH DIPLOMATS

London, Jan. 2.—Cecl Spring Rice, British ambassador to the United States will retire from his post. Lord Bertie, ambassador to Paris and Sir George Buchanan, ambassador to Petrograd, will also retire. Newspapers insist on bringing new blood into service.

GREGORY ASKS DELAY IN ANTI-TRUST SUITS

Washington, Jan. 2.—Attorney General Gregory has asked the supreme court to defer arguments on seven large anti-trust suits which are pending before it, including that against the International Harvester Company, United Show Machinery Co., Steel corporation, until the next term of court.

TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED LOST IN EARTHQUAKE

San Salvador, Jan. 2.—Newspapers here declare that 2,500 people lost their lives in Guatemala earthquake.



Photo by American Press Association. Rear Admiral Albert W. Grant, Commander Submarine Force, Atlantic Fleet.

NATIONAL DEBT INCREASES FAST

Stupendous Figures Needed to Indicate Country's Probable Indebtedness Due to War Needs

Washington, Jan. 2.—The United States enters the new year with a national debt of \$5,615,000,000, more than five times greater than when it entered the war, 9 months ago, but only one-third of the debt which promises to develop by the first of next year. The debt per capita is about \$51 and the percentage of debt to estimated national wealth is 2 1/2.

The treasury financial summary, issued today for the first time since June 30, shows that actual disbursements in the first half of the fiscal year have fallen far below the estimates, particularly for the military establishment. An enormous prospective increase in war department expenses for munitions and materials contracts to be filled in the spring will raise the government outlays at that time, but officials feel some doubt that ordinary disbursements will reach the \$12,316,000,000 estimated for the fiscal year ending next June 30.

CUBAN FIELD STRIKE SETTLED BY HOOVER

Washington, Jan. 2.—One of Herbert Hoover's first acts in handling the food situation was an effort to settle the strikes in the Cuban cane fields so that the supply of sugar to this country might be protected, according to his testimony before the senate investigation committee.

Mr. Hoover said that he sent a representative to Cuba and that shortly thereafter the trouble was cleared up.

SIX GERMAN PLANES BROUGHT DOWN ONE DAY

Paris, Jan. 2.—Six German aeroplanes were put out of commission by the French in yesterday's engagements.

FRENCH PUT UNDER STRICT FOOD RULES

Paris, Jan. 2.—The minister of provisions, Victor Boret, has determined on drastic measures for the conservation. All shops of confectioners and pastry are to be closed and restrictions are to be placed on restaurants which charge high prices in order to prevent their outbidding the more popular places in bidding for supplies. The private use of automobiles has been prohibited.

HOUSE BRINGS ALLIES' PACT ON WAR PLANS

PRESIDENT'S REPRESENTATIVE TO ALLED CONFERENCE REPORTS ON PROGRESS

FOOD PROBLEM IS IMPORTANT

A Closer Cooperation Among the Enemies of Germany Will Result From Deliberations

Washington, Jan. 2.—The American delegates, headed by Colonel House, who recently returned from an inter-allied war council in Paris have reported to the state department urging a constant speedy dispatch of American troops to France, a material speeding up in shipbuilding and a closer cooperation with co-belligerents.

Definite plans for devoting tonnage to troops transportation and active utilization of American naval forces have been made. It has also been agreed with the British admiralty to effect certain plans for anti submarine warfare. The United States contribution to the pooling of war resources has been agreed upon, to permit the United States to visualize problems of food control at home.

England, France and Italy have agreed to put into effect legalised and compulsory control of foodstuffs in those countries.

STARS AND STRIPES RAISED ON NEW YEARS

The beautiful new flag recently purchased by citizens of this city by popular subscription, was unfurled New Years morning with simple but appropriate ceremonies. Captain and Former Mayor Traux was an interested participant.

As Fred Carpenter, a former bugler in the regular army, sounded the reveille, the great flag, which had been run to the top of the mast by J. C. Caldwell, a veteran of the Spanish American war, was swung to the breeze and the big crowd gave a hearty cheer.

In the evening a short band concert of popular and patriotic selections was enjoyed by a fair sized audience.

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST FROM JOSEPHINE COUNTY SOLDIER BOYS

The "Red Headed Gunner"
A few weeks ago the Courier mentioned the possibility that Osborne W. deVarila, grandson of Mrs. J. S. Pool, who enlisted from Grants Pass in April, was the gunner who fired the first U. S. shot in the war with Germany. A recent San Francisco paper states that "young de Varila was a member of the gun crew that fired the first U. S. shot at the kaiser's army."

In a letter to his mother, who lives in San Francisco, he says: "I am back from the front now for a time but I am feeling scared yet. Well mother, I was one of the gun crew who fired the first shot into the German lines from an American battery, and I cut the fuse on the first schrapnel fired."

"I am in good health, only waterlogged and very mucky. France is one great big bog. We had a pretty hard time for a while up there, but it was a hundred per cent better after we got settled down and got used to the work."

"The climate in the United States resembles this climate," writes the boy, "is that of southern Oregon in February."

RUMOR SAYS RUSS REJECT PEACE PLANS

BREAK BY BOLSHEVIKI REPORTED DUE TO TEUTONIC ATTITUDE ON POLAND

COSSACKS WAR WITH RADICALS

General Kaledines Reported at Head of Trained Army of Considerable Size. Fighting Begins

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—(Late Dispatch)—It was announced here today in semi-official quarters that the Bolsheviki government is far from satisfied with the turn peace efforts have taken and that the chances of a successful consummation now seem remote due to Germany's unreasonable demands. Foreign Minister Trotsky claims that the Baltic provinces are in reality under military pressure while being occupied by Germans.

London, Jan. 2.—According to a telegram from the Petrograd Daily News correspondent, peace negotiations have been broken off by the Bolsheviki, owing to the German attitude regarding Poland, Lithuania and the enemy's proposal that garrisons be retained at Libau, Riga and elsewhere.

London, Jan. 2.—All of the territory over which the Cossacks have domination is reported to be aroused against the Bolsheviki. General Kaledines, leader of the Cossacks of the Don, according to these reports, is advancing with a considerable body of troops, against Moscow.

The Bolsheviki forces are said to be engaged in sharp fighting near Kurtz, a city about 200 miles south of Moscow. Reports reaching here telling of these movements describe Kaledines' troops as composing mostly of the regular Russian army divisions, including approximately 20,000 officers.

RAILROADS TACKLE JOB OF FREIGHT CONGESTION

Washington, Jan. 2.—All eastern railroads went rapidly to work today to clear freight congestion and effect a freer movement of food and coal, regardless of passenger schedules and previous government priority regulations.



Rear Admiral R. S. Griffin, Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering.

SPY WORK SEEN NORFOLK FIRES

Two Million Loss at Naval Station City Probably Due to the Activity of German Agents

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 2.—Nearly two blocks in the heart of Norfolk's business district, including the Monticello hotel, were destroyed, three men were killed and a score more injured in a series of explosions and fires yesterday, which both the police and naval authorities believe were incendiary. The fire had been checked last night, but still was burning fiercely in the ruins. The loss is roughly estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the fire once had virtually been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents were at work. Mayor Mayo practically placed the city under martial law by turning the situation over to naval officers, and 2,500 marines and blue-jackets from nearby naval stations assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing vandalism.

CENTRAL POINT MAN SERIOUSLY INJURED

Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. Austin Myers, of Central Point, were run down by an automobile at Central Point and badly injured. They were immediately moved to the Sacred Heart hospital of Medford, where everything possible is being done for them. Mr. Myers suffered severe injuries, including a fractured skull, but Mrs. Myers was more fortunate, unless internal injuries develop.

A Conro Fiero was driving north and another machine was coming south, when Mr. and Mrs. Myers stepped from the darkness directly in front of Fiero's auto. It is supposed they were blinded by the light of the other machine and consequently did not see the one that struck them.

AMERICANS UNDER ARREST IN RUSSIA

London, Jan. 2.—It is reported that members of the American railway commission to Russia have been arrested by Bolsheviki in Irkutsk. Chairman Stevens and some other members, were recently reported as being at Tokio.

OREGON GOES OVER THE TOP IN RED CROSS

PORTLAND ELKS ASSIST IN LAST DRIVE WHICH BROUGHT REAL SUCCESS

OREGON DOES HERSELF PROUD

Only One County in the State Has Fallen Down in the Work for Humanity

N. F. Macduff, manager of the Josephine county campaign for Red Cross members, reported this morning that the county has secured about 1,850 new members during the week, on a quota which the local officers had considered 2,150 and state headquarters called 3,000. The local campaign has practically ended.

Portland, Jan. 2.—Oregon has gone "over the top" with 240,000 new members of the American Red Cross. This is more than 30 per cent of the entire population of Oregon. It is probable that final returns will bring this figure to 250,000 members.

Unofficial reports from division headquarters at Seattle indicate that Oregon's record in the membership drive is ahead of that attained by any other state in the Union.

The final showing made by Oregon can be attributed to the outside counties and to the patriotic drive carried out last night by Portland Lodge, No. 142, B. P. O. Elks.

With 15,000,000 Red Cross members enrolled throughout the nation, the average for each state is 15 per cent of its population. Oregon has thus made twice as good a showing as that of the average state.

Morrow county leads the state of Oregon with 175 per cent of its quota, based on 30 per cent of its population, 2,625 members over a quota of 1,500, or 53 per cent of its population of 5,000.

Twenty Oregon counties out of 36 made or more than made their quotas, as represented by 30 per cent of the population, but on the basis of the 15 per cent quota, which seems to have been general in the United States, every county in Oregon save Jefferson, which is severely handicapped by bad crops and other hardships, had made, or more than made, the quota.

FIVE MORE NEGROES CONVICTED OF RIOT

San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 2.—The trial here by court martial of five more negroes, for participating in the Houston riots, has closed and resulted in their conviction and they were sentenced to be hanged.

BISHOP SUMNER WAS MARRIED YESTERDAY

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Walter T. Sumner, Episcopal bishop of Oregon, and Miss Myrtle Mitchell, of Negaunee, Mich., were married here yesterday at the cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, of which Bishop Sumner was at one time dean. The ceremony was performed by Bishop C. P. Anderson, of Chicago, assisted by the Very Rev. W. S. Pond, dean of the cathedral, where Bishop Sumner was ordained, and where he later was consecrated bishop.

In securing the marriage license Bishop Sumner gave his age as 44 and that of Miss Mitchell as 33.

(Continued on page 2.)