

Grants Pass Daily Courier

VOL. IX., No. 80.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1919.

WHOLE NUMBER 2560.

CARELESSNESS CAUSE OF MANY GREAT FIRES

\$60,466,954 WAS LOSS BY "PREVENTABLE" FIRES IN UNITED STATES IN 1918

SMOKERS ARE GIVEN HARD RAP

America Leads World in Property Destruction by Fire, Says Fire Marshals' Association

New York, Jan. 9.—Careless smokers and users of matches were responsible for \$15,724,556 of the total loss of \$60,466,954 worth of property by "preventable fires" in the United States during 1918, according to members of the Fire Marshals' association of North America who are holding a two days' conference here with the National Board of Fire Underwriters beginning today.

Figures showing that the United States leads the world in property destruction by fire were given in the opening session, the damage per capita being stated as \$2.10 annually in this country as compared with 49 cents in France, 33 cents in England, 28 cents in Germany, 25 cents in Italy and Austria, 15 cents in Switzerland and 11 cents in Holland.

Homer Rutledge, of Lansing, Michigan, fire marshal of that state, discussed "The Arson Trust" and showed how incendiaries had burned \$8,121,816 worth of property in one year during the war, exclusive of the many other millions destroyed indirectly by explosions.

Despite the fact that the United States was at war and that enemy agents were active, 20 states reported a slight decrease in the number of cases of arson. While it was announced as a fact that in the first nine months after America drew the sword \$43,000,000 worth of war industries went up in smoke, in only 10 per cent of these cases was there even suspicion of spy work. "Carelessness" was designated as the biggest firebug of all. One grain elevator fire alone destroyed enough wheat to make a year's supply of bread for 200,000 soldiers.

Many fires at first attributed to German spies and pyromaniacs were found, upon investigation, to be due to other causes. One notable instance was a spectacular and costly waterfront fire in Brooklyn, the Dow's Stores, in which a vast quantity of grain intended for shipment to the allies was destroyed. It was discovered that the blaze was the result of a dust explosion caused by a spark either from friction or static electricity. Another conspicuous instance was the Baltimore pier fire which at first was positively ascribed to pro-German plotters. Rigid investigation by federal agents, according to fire marshals definitely determined its non-incendiary origin.

MEDFORD REFUNDING BONDS SELL AT PAR

The regime of the new city council whose personnel is the same as the old council, opened auspiciously Wednesday night when the council not only accepted the bid of the bond house of Girvin & Miller of San Francisco, whose Oregon agents are Clark Kendall & Co. of Portland, for the purchase of \$700,000 worth, 6 per cent City of Medford refunding bonds, comprising all of the outstanding water, sewer and paving bonds and accrued interest. The city is to receive par value and accrued interest until date of delivery. In this sale Medford has done better than any other Pacific coast city. The credit of finding the bond buyer at such favorable terms belongs to Mayor Gates.

BANKERS ASSIST IN BIG FARMING DEAL

33,000 Acres of Irrigated Land Is Sown to Wheat—J. P. Morgan Takes a Hand in the Deal

Great Falls, Mont., Jan. 9.—Wheat will be harvested next fall from one of the world's largest farms comprising about 200,000 acres of Indian lands in Montana and Wyoming. Of this big tract, about 33,000 acres of irrigated land have been plowed and seeded, and the remainder it is announced will be cultivated during the coming summer.

The land is located on the Crow, Blackfoot and Fort Peck reservations in Montana and the Wing River reservation in Wyoming. To make this land productive a corporation with \$2,000,000 capital was organized last spring when Thomas D. Campbell, a North Dakota farmer, conceived the idea of cultivating the thousands of acres of the Indian lands in Montana and Wyoming. He lacked capital but obtained the approval and assistance of the secretary of the interior, Franklin K. Lane, and J. P. Morgan and other leading New York bankers as members of the board of directors and Mr. Campbell as president.

On this huge farm not a horse will be used. Instead, large tractors capable of turning over large quantities of prairie sod were purchased. In all 52 of these machines are now the property of the corporation, and the plowing record for last summer was more than one acre a minute for the working time. On one day 1,880 acres were turned and broken.

It is proposed to organize the farm into 5,000-acre units, each with its own group of permanent buildings, modernly equipped and in charge of a competent farm manager. Each farm will be separately managed. Contracts for the leasing of the land on long term agreements have been executed with the government through Secretary Lane.

AVIATOR AVERAGES 172 MILES PER IN INTER-CITY FLIGHT

Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 9.—Eric Springer, aviator, accompanied by Mechanician Ernest Longchamp, yesterday established a new world record for speed when he flew from Dayton to Cleveland in one hour and 15 minutes. The average speed was 172 miles an hour.

WILSON'S REQUEST WAS TURNED DOWN

Washington, Jan. 9.—The house rules committee refused to report on the rule giving privileged status to the bill appropriating \$100,000,000 requested by President Wilson for European relief.

C. S. COMMISSION TO HOLD EXAMINATIONS

The United States Civil Service Commission announces that a forest and field clerk examination will be held in this city on January 25, 1919, to fill vacancies in the position of forest clerk, forest service and clerk in the reclamation and other field branches of the government service throughout the 11th civil service district—Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska. The entrance salary for the position of forest clerk is \$1100 or \$1200 a year; for the position of clerk in the reclamation and other services, \$1100 to \$1500 a year. Age limit for forest clerk, 18 to 45 years; for field clerk, 18 years or over. Both men and women will be admitted to the examination. Application blank and information may be obtained at the postoffice, this city.

BAVARIA THREATENS TO SEND TROOPS TO BERLIN

Hughtiest of Germans to take Hand in Affairs at Capital --Both Factions Claim to Have Upper Hand--Ebert-Scheidemann Government Reported Overthrown

Paris, Jan. 9.—The Ebert-Scheidemann government in Germany has been overturned, the extremists having gained the upper hand in Berlin after sanguinary fighting, according to the latest advices.

A new revolutionary government has been proclaimed, composed of Independent socialists. Part of the government troops are reported to have gone over to the rebels, and Spartacans now hold the principal points in Berlin.

Civil war is spreading to other parts of Germany and parts of the Rhenish provinces and Bavaria are now reported involved.

Amsterdam, Jan. 9.—Severe fighting, in which artillery was employed, took place in Berlin yesterday, near the Central Telegraph office. The Spartacans renewed their attempts to seize the chancellor's palace, but were driven back with a loss of 30 killed and 45 wounded. Berlin dispatches to the Handelsblad says.

Berlin, Jan. 9.—War on Berlin to restore order has been threatened by Bavaria, according to a speech in the Bavarian chamber of deputies at Munich, by Herr Auer, minister of the interior. He said Bavaria proposed to intervene with arms if conditions in Berlin continue unsettled.

Berlin, Jan. 9.—Civil warfare has already cost 20 times as many lives as were sacrificed in the overthrow of the Hohenzollern dynasty 60 days ago. The government troops were

repulsed in their efforts to recapture the public buildings.

Berlin, Jan. 9.—Troops loyal to the Ebert government have arrived from Potsdam and driven the Spartacans as far back as the Tiergarten and reoccupied the printing works, says the Frankfort Zeitung.

Amsterdam, Jan. 9.—Street fighting in Berlin attained the greatest intensity, says a Berlin dispatch. The government is still master of the situation.

Berne, Jan. 9.—Reports from Berlin today state that the rebels have formed a new government under the title of "The Revolutionary Committee," comprising Herr Tiek, president of the Spartacan league, and two other Spartacans appear to be working with the socialists, or the Independents. (The dispatch seems to indicate that the new government is a rival to the Ebert-Scheidemann government, and has not, in fact, displaced it, as advices through Paris indicate.)

London, Jan. 9.—A German government wireless message says the German government is taking all necessary measures to destroy the "Reign of Terror." Some parts of Berlin are now without lights and water.

The Spartacans stormed the provision depots, interrupted the feeding of civilians, and sold the food to soldiers.

YANKS FIRST THROUGH HINDENBURG LINE

London, Jan. 9.—American troops were the first to break the Hindenburg line, according to the Daily News in its comment today on the report of Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on the operations from the end of April last to the close of hostilities. The News points out that at least the first mention of a break through contained in the field marshal's report was in the course of his description of the day's work on September 29, in which he wrote:

"North of Bellengise, the 30th American division, Major General E. M. Lewis, having broken through the deep defenses of the Hindenburg line, stormed Bellincourt and seized Nouroy. On their left the 27th American division, Major General O'Ryan, met with very heavy enfilading machine gun fire, but pressed on with great gallantry as far as Jouy where a bitter struggle took place for possession of the village. The fighting on the whole front of the 2nd American corps was severe, and in Bellincourt, Nouroy, Gillemont farm and a number of other points, amid the intricate defenses of the Hindenburg line, strong bodies of the enemy held out with great obstinacy for many hours.

"These points of resistance were gradually overcome, either by the support of the American divisions or by the 5th and 3rd Australian divisions."

EIGHT SHOTS FIRED WITHOUT A BULL'S EYE

Basel, Jan. 9.—An attempt was made at Prague to assassinate Dr. Karl Kramarz, the Czecho-Slovak premier. Eight shots were fired, but none took effect.

FIGHTING IS RENEWED ON THE KADISH FRONT

Archangel, Jan. 9.—Activities have been renewed by the American and allied forces on the Kadish front. The Americans burned the village of Kadish, retired from it, then went forward and re-occupied the ruins, according to the incomplete reports.

COMMISSION MAY LEAVE GLENDALE OFF ROUTE

Although not confirmed, it was reported in this city today that the state highway commission had finally decided to leave Glendale off the main highway and construct a bridge across Cow Creek, in the vicinity of the C. O. Garrett ranch. Glendale is about three miles off the straight line and the commissioners do not feel justified in building five or six miles of extra highway to place the thriving little city of Glendale on the route. However, there is a fine road leading from Glendale to the main highway, connecting with the same at Stage Gulch Pass, and this stretch of road will probably be heavily traveled in the near future.

CONFERENCE POSTPONED 'TILL EARLY NEXT WEEK

Paris, Jan. 9.—President Wilson's conference with the premiers of England, France and Italy will not begin before early next week. The conference was to start today, but Lloyd George was delayed.

THREE QUESTIONS LITTLE TALKED OF

League of Nations, Freedom of Seas and Disarmament Are Stickers. Lansing and House Active

Paris, Jan. 9.—Secretary of State Lansing, Colonel E. M. House and Lord Robert Cecil, who has made the subject of the league of nations a special study on behalf of the British government, held a long conference today regarding the details to be worked out in forming a league of nations. Their conference followed consultations between President Wilson and Colonel House last evening.

There seems to be excellent authority for saying that plans for the settlement of the most important questions—the league of nations, the freedom of the seas and disarmament—are still very indefinite.

Several propositions are being put forward for the adjustment of these matters, but there is none having the color of official sanction. If Mr. Wilson has drawn up any specific plans, he has not divulged them and it is known that he is closely studying various suggestions that are advanced by others.

The best information obtainable as to conferences so far held with British and Italian statesmen is that they were very satisfactory, developing no differences as to principles involved.

1918 ONE OF DRIEST YEARS SAYS O. A. C.

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis, Jan. 9.—That 1918 was one of the hottest and driest years on record at the college is shown in the annual weather summary by E. F. Torgerson, assistant professor of soils and weather observer. The college records have been kept for 29 years. December was unusually cold and dry, the mean minimum temperature for the month being 32 degrees or 10 degrees below that for 1917. The rainfall was 4.27 inches, or 2.22 below normal, making a total deficiency for 1918 of 9.24 inches.

ALL SOLDIERS MUST BE GIVEN EQUAL CHANCE

The following communication from military headquarters has just been received by the local board:

Practically every local board in the state of Oregon is being overwhelmed with requests for certificates, affidavits and recommendations relating to men whom they inducted during the war period, such documents being desired by the men themselves, or by their relatives and friends, in an effort to hasten discharge from military service.

The demobilization of the army is a tremendous task. Every soldier, naturally, desires to get out of the service and back to civil life, without delay. Manifestly all soldiers cannot be discharged immediately, and for every soldier who is shown some special favor or consideration, some other soldier has to wait just that much longer for his discharge.

It is desired to point out that local boards are under no obligation whatever to furnish the character of documents mentioned.

It is suggested that local boards do not prepare or sign any documents intended to hurry the discharge of men from military service. If a commanding officer initiates a request to a board for information or for its opinion, such request should be promptly answered. Investigation has demonstrated, however, that unless the information is asked by a commanding officer, the affidavits, certificates, letters, and other documents have little or no effect and do not tend to hasten the discharge process.

GREAT STRIKE IN FULL SWING AT NEW YORK

SECRETARIES DANIELS AND BAKER CALLED IN CONFERENCE

15,000 MEN ARE AFFECTED

Marine Workers Cause Tie-up of Ferryboats, Lighters, Coal Barges and Other Craft

New York, Jan. 9.—With approximately 15,000 men affected, the strike of the marine workers affiliation went into effect this morning. Ferryboats, steam lighters, coal barges, two boats and other harbor craft are at a standstill.

Washington, Jan. 9.—Secretaries Daniels and Baker were called into conference with representatives of the railroad administration and shipping board to consider the New York harbor strike.

GOLD HILL HARVESTS BEANS IN JANUARY

It isn't in every section of Oregon that a bean crop can be harvested in January, but the laurel goes to some of the citizens of Gold Hill for accomplishing this paradoxical stunt. Gold Hill citizens not only have the climate, the water and the soil to produce such wonders, but they were assisted by the Southern Pacific company, which company is always doing its utmost to promote the agricultural interests of Oregon. And here is how the wonderful crop was produced—other localities can do as well if instructions are closely followed:

It was the crew of a freight train that "spilled the beans," so to speak, and let the cat out of the bag, as well as the beans out of the car. Two locomotives were laboriously trawling a long freight through that fat little city when a few cars in the center turned turtle. One car contained beans and it was a master exhibition of sowing the S. P. company stager. The little pellets that made Boston famous were liberally scattered over the right-of-way.

The beans were allowed to lay there so long that it was rumored that harvest hands could not be secured. It was then that a number of Gold Hill's loyal citizens bravely volunteered, and sacks were soon filled by willing hands. The crop was saved. But at this juncture Cruel Fate poked in his ugly nose. There was a man—no one doubted his authority—who gently intimated that the beans had best be stored at once in the depot for safe-keeping.

The man was right—it was best to do so—the beans might freeze—so people came from many directions with big sacks, little sacks and all kinds of sacks filled with beans, and left them at the designated spot agreed upon.

It was a fine crop and "went many sacks to the acre," but the Gold Hillites didn't need the beans anyway.

FIGHT AGAINST RED FLAG BEEN LAUNCHED

Washington, Jan. 9.—A national association opposed to woman suffrage convened and planned a nation-wide fighting against the "red flag" movement and considered a program for a fight on the Susan Anthony amendment in the next congress.