



Washington, D. C., Feb. 17—Efforts have been made for months past to have the war department establish concentration camps in the northwest where the prisoners of war can be used to relieve the manpower shortage on such projects as reclamation jobs, in lumber camps, etc. From the initiation of this movement objections have been raised by union leaders against the employment of any war prisoners to perform work which can be done by card-carrying unionists. Prior to the proposal to use prisoners of war some of the work on government undertakings has been done by conscientious objectors and little or no objection was heard from business agents of the unions. Now a new issue has been injected.

The proposal to employ German war prisoners on an incorporated farm in New Jersey has brought the demand from a business agent that the employer deduct union dues for each prisoner employed. This is the check-off system which labor has forced upon employers with the approval of the administration. Before the check-off system was adopted the going was pretty tough for the union treasury; members neglected to pay union dues. With the check-off—a system originated by John L. Lewis for his United Mine Workers—the employer makes the deduction from the payroll and turns the money over to the treasurer of the union. And strangely enough, the membership of the Lewis miners' union went on a strike several years ago to compel their employers to make the deduction. The coal mine operators kicked, but the miners refused to return to the pits until success crowned their efforts.

Prisoners of war, are not members of any union, but the business agents insist that someone—the war department or the employer—take 25 cents a week from each prisoner and turn it over to the union. Basis for this demand is that the union, represented by the business agent, has a closed shop contract with the incorporated farm. The war department, which has not interfered with the check-off in certain war industries, declares it will not dig up a nickel for dues to a union to which the prisoners do not belong. The federal government pays prisoners of war 80 cents a day and when they are employed the prisoners receive the going wage of the locality, but instead of the prisoners receiving this wage scale the difference above 80 cents is paid to the government by the employer and this money finds its way into the United States treasury.

If anyone is to pay the union it must be the employer, but the war department is indifferent as to whether the employer pays. If he does pay it will have to come out of his profits. Should the union carry its point in the New Jersey instance it will serve as a precedent and when and if prisoners of war are employed on reclamation projects or in the woods in the northwest the contractor will have to battle it out with the unions.

The reclamation bureau has no objection to the use of prisoners of war on the projects listed for Oregon and Washington, but there is a stipulation that there must be a minimum of free labor and that explosives must be handled and blastings done by free labor. No chances are to be taken by allowing prisoners of war—Germans or Italians—to obtain possession of explosives required for the construction work. The war department is very particular as to the jobs the war prisoners shall be allowed to perform in the woods. Logging is hazardous at best, but certain jobs are more dangerous than others and it is the policy that war prisoners shall not be used on these.

The proposed Umatilla dam on the Columbia river, touching Oregon and Washington, does not find favor with Idaho if the dam is to be used for the generation of power as well as for navigation. The contention is that if the Umatilla dam generates power it will prevent the building of other power dams for which there is now an agitation in Idaho.

There is a possibility that the rationing of shoes for civilians may be tightened in the near future. It will depend upon what the army decides about equipping troops with ten-inch boots. The change has been suggested, though by whom is not stated, and is now being considered by the high

### Arago News Items

Mr. and Mrs. George Mason returned home Tuesday after spending about two weeks in Los Angeles, where they went to attend the Challenge Cream and Butter Association's annual meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Schroeder and Mrs. Emily Hickam and Kent, all of Corvillo, visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burbank from Friday till Sunday last week.

Mrs. Eva Hickam and Thurman, of Coquille, were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Burbank and their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Schroeder and Mrs. Emily Hickam and Kent.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Myers, of Myrtle Point, visited relatives in Arago Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lane were Friday guests of Mrs. Ida Myers.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Robison were Monday evening dinner guests of Wylie Embree and his mother, Mrs. Bailey.

Rev. G. A. Gray, of Coquille, was an Arago visitor last Friday.

Ladies Aid met Wednesday for an all-day meeting, with potluck dinner at noon. The ladies spent the day quilting. They will meet again Wednesday at the church for an all-day meeting and quilting.

Rev. M. D. Rempel conducted the regular Sunday morning church service. Sunday school followed with an attendance of 28. There will be services again next Sunday, preaching at 10 a. m. and Sunday school at 11 a. m.

The Arago school opened again Monday morning after being closed for a week on account of both of the teachers being ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Wodward and Mrs. Ida Myers were Monday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Halter.

Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Aasen were Friday callers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. McAllister.

Hubert Harry, an employee of the Coos Bay Lumber Co. camp above Fairview, who so severely injured last Thursday morning, when he dropped from a tree top, 175 feet above the ground, that he passed away at the Belle Knife Hospital here soon after noon that day.

He had taken the place of a high climber who failed to show up for work that morning and his safety belt, which a climber tosses up along the trunk of the tree as he ascends, went over the top at the last throw and he had nothing to hold his body to the tree and without the belt the hooks on his boots would, of course, not hold him. The slant of the top-most cut of the tree was what allowed the belt to slip over.

He suffered a fractured skull and jaw, besides the bodily bruises, and the axe handle which all high climbers carry up the trees with them, pierced his body, between his legs, tore his abdomen to pieces, and was so firmly imbedded that it required all the strength of the first man to reach him to withdraw the handle from his body.

Dr. James Richmond was at once called and he went out to the camp and then had the unfortunate and suffering man brought in to the hospital where he passed away an hour or so later.

The funeral services, unusually largely attended, were held at 2:00 p. m. Saturday at the Schroeder Chapel here, Rev. L. C. Persing officiating, and interment was in the Dora cemetery.

Hubert Leland Harry was born near Coquille, June 25, 1902, his parents being Grant W. and Hannah Harry.

He was united in marriage July 1, 1928, to Miss Violet Ohlsen, and they have resided on Fishtap where they owned a ranch, until they moved to Dora when he went to work at the camp. Ten children were born to this union—Leland, Joseph, Paul, Wayne, Vernon, David, Hannah, Alice, Gene and Hubert, who with their mother survive him. He is also survived by his aged father, Grant Harry of this city; a brother, Jos. L. Harry, of Marshfield, and three sisters—Mrs. Chloe Tennison, of San Diego, Calif.; Mrs. Maude Cox, of Eugene, and Mrs. Beryl Sypher, of Langlois.

Mr. Harry was a veteran of World War I, having served three and one-half years in the U. S. armed forces, and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

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command. If the change is made there will be still further inroads upon the scanty leather supply and stricter rationing of shoes may become necessary. The adoption of boots would eliminate leggings, the wearing of which has always been the cause of much grumbling among soldiers.

### Rebekah Meeting Last Week

The regular meeting of Mamie Rebekah Lodge, No. 20, was held in the I.O.O.F. hall on Tuesday evening, Feb. 8, with Noble Grand Iola Moore in the chair. In spite of the rainy weather there was good attendance.

Among the highlights of the evening a letter was read from Mrs. Laura Boutell, who was the recipient of the Past Noble Grand's pin awarded by the Sewing Club to the oldest active Past Noble Grand of the local lodge. She received her pin and thanked the Sewing Club of the lodge for the kind thought that prompted the gift.

The Honor Rebekah pin was awarded by vote of the members to Brother J. P. Beyers to wear for the next three months in recognition of his outstanding work of the lodge.

Sister Estelle Dunn was elected as trustee for a term of three years.

The charter was draped in memory of Sister Hannah White, who passed away in December at her home in California. Sister White was the next to the oldest living Past Noble Grand in point of service, and had been awarded a P. N. G. pin by the Sewing Club—an honor which reached her too late for her to enjoy it.

Routine business was cared for. Helen Larson was installed as Vice Grand and Pansy Ross as L. S. N. G. Mildred Schaefer, district deputy president, acted as installing officer and Ruth Beyers was installing grand marshal.

Members of the Sewing Club have been serving lunches for the Rotary and Lions Clubs. Reports from these luncheons were heard. It is gratifying that they were so successful. All Rebekahs are urged to help with these lunches in every way.

After lodge closed birthday cakes were served in the dining room to honor all Rebekahs whose birthdays fall in January and February.

### Robbers Plead Guilty Tuesday

In Circuit court here last Tuesday, Ivan Lewis Duncan pleaded guilty to the charge of entering a truck at Myrtle Point with the intention of stealing it.

Also pleading guilty that day to the charge of larceny from a store—the O. O. Cook store at Four-Mile below Bandon, last week—were James O'Neil and Vern Ralph Kuehl, young men from Astoria.

On Tuesday this week Judge King sentenced Duncan to four years in the penitentiary and O'Neil and Kuehl, the Astoria boys, to three years in the pen. He ordered a stay of execution for the latter two and they are to be paroled after 90 days in the county jail.

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### Valentine Party At Church of Christ

About 30 young people of the Church of Christ and their guests enjoyed a formal Valentine's party in the recreation rooms of the church last Saturday evening.

"Hearts and Flowers" was the theme of the evening, carried out with colorful decorations. The rooms were gay with red and white crepe paper, which festooned the ceiling. A large, heart, framed by silver paper, centered one end of the room. White and red cyclamen and lattice of fern and greenery were used about the rooms. Stunts and games, a song-fest and a program were enjoyed during the evening. Kenneth Hooton sang "Smilin' Through," accompanied by Mary Lou Newton. Ann Anderson gave a clever reading, entitled, "No Thank You, Tom," and Vernon Eld-

redge played his guitar for the song-fest. A play in pantomime, "The Evolution of Courtship," was put on by Kenneth Hooton, Vern Eldredge, Gene Boots and Liston Parrish. A surprise feature of the evening was a beautifully decorated birthday cake which Mrs. Eldredge sent in honor of her son's birthday. Guests were served refreshments at gaily decorated tables, centered with red hearts.

Mr. and Mrs. Parrish received the guests at the door, assisted by Gene Boots and Donna Gasner.

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