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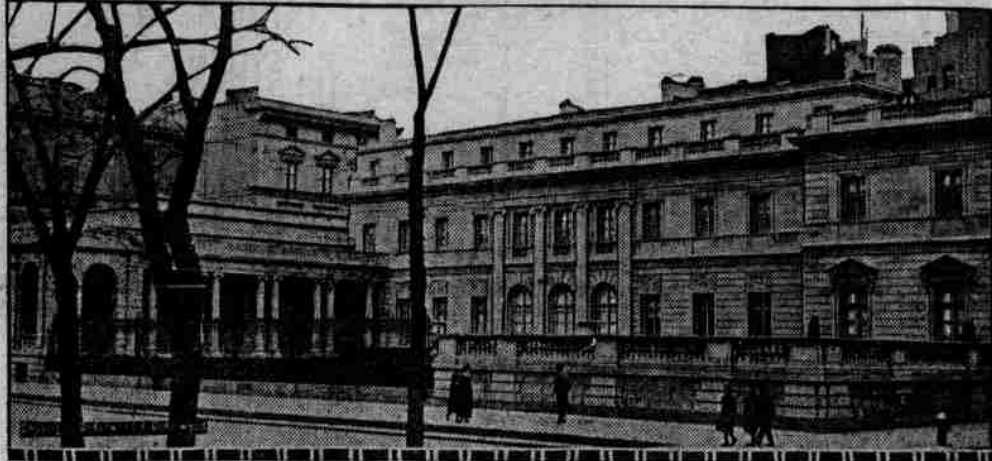
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VOLUME XXVII.

ATHENA, UMATILLA COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1915.

NUMBER 8.

HENRY CLAY FRICK'S \$4,000,000 HOME



A palace such as any oriental potentate would envy is the \$4,000,000 house in New York which has just been completed by Henry Clay Frick, the coke man of Pittsburgh, who is to make his permanent home there.

MISUSE OF FLAG WORRIES WILSON

Stir Caused in Washington by Lusitania Incident.

Inquiry by Ambassador Page Is Ordered and Protests Are Likely to Follow.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson Monday sent for Counsellor Lansing, of the State department, and discussed with him for half an hour steps that this government will take to protect the American flag from further misuse by belligerent ships.

It is understood the President is greatly chagrined at the action of Captain Dow, of the Lusitania, in running the Stars and Stripes up on his vessel to protect her from German submarines.

As a result of the White House conference, Counsellor Lansing has instructed Ambassador Page at London to cable a full report of the Lusitania incident and also to investigate thoroughly reports that the American flag is being used by British vessels whenever their captains deem it expedient to attempt to hide the identity of their vessels.

It is said that the President may protest to the British government against the practice.

There was considerable conflict of opinion between authorities on international law concerning the extent to which the administration can go to enforce its demand that the flag shall not be used by vessels of belligerents. The fact that all available precedents, quoted from statements made by former American Secretaries of State, admit in effect that this government is virtually powerless to stop the use of the flag by foreign-owned ships, put the administration leaders in a quandary.

Although it was admitted in official circles that the government might be powerless to stop the use of the flag in isolated cases, it was generally conceded that a protest would be properly lodged with Great Britain if Ambassador Page's report indicated that British captains are acting in concert with the admiralty in making such use of the flag.

Wheat Prices Are Doubled by War

Chicago—In the six months since the war began the price of wheat has about doubled on the Chicago Board of Trade. The new point for cash grain last summer was around 87 cents. In the last week the price has varied between \$1.55 and \$1.70.

Not all the wheat has brought the top price. Millions of bushels were shipped to Europe months ago, more millions were ground into flour, and that process has gone steadily on while the price of the grain has moved upward.

Still there are many millions of bushels left and wheat in the bin today is worth almost twice what it was six months ago.

Bill Restrains Smokers.

Boston—An effort to revive an ancient "blue law" abolishing smoking in public will be made at the state-house before the committee on legal affairs. The committee will consider a bill which provides that it shall be unlawful to smoke tobacco or any other substance in any form on streets or sidewalks or in waiting rooms, parks, playgrounds or any part of a hotel open to the public or on the common parts of a public conveyance.

Bread Advance Ordered.

Seattle, Wash.—Bread will cost 6 and 12 cents a loaf in Seattle after February 10. Decision to raise the price was made unanimously by the master bakers here. With flour at ready \$9 a barrel and threatening to go to \$9, no other action was possible, according to the bakers, and they say another rise when flour goes up again is not unlikely. The wholesale price of the bread is to be raised from 3.57 cents a loaf to 5 cents.

months ago. The rise from 87 cents has enriched a great many.

Who has made all the money? The best informed men at the board of trade say the American farmer has reaped the richest profit. Some of the farmers assert that the "gamblers at the board of trade" have benefitted most and there are wild stories afloat about fabulous winnings of a lot of Wall-street speculators who have been active in the Chicago market.

It is true that both Wall-street and the board of trade have made money out of the rise in the price of wheat. In the aggregate the farmer's profits are believed to have far outrun all that the speculators have made. For the farmers have lost nothing by the advance and many speculators have.

Some of the biggest traders were frightened from the market before the wheat passed \$1.50 a bushel and they failed to get the real cream of the rise.

James A. Patten says he has had no wheat since the price left \$1.40, but he had a lot before it got there and his profits have been estimated from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000.

German-American Threat Suspected in Washington

Washington, D. C.—Official Washington is still puzzled over the formation here recently of a National German-American league, which has let it be known that its political influence will be felt from now on, particularly at the approaching Presidential contest in the 1916 campaign.

The league was called together by Representative Bartholdt, a St. Louis member of the house, and it held an all-day session behind closed doors. After the meeting it was announced that the league would hereafter work to "re-establish a genuine American neutrality and to uphold it free from commercial, financial or political subservience to foreign powers."

The formation of the new league took Washington somewhat by surprise. A few days before it was convened Mr. Bartholdt sent word around to all the papers that there would be

RETURNED TO THEIR RUINED HOME



Pathetic photograph of a French family that has returned to its home only to find it a mass of ruins.

Bread Rules Tightened.

Berlin—The Federal council has adopted a regulation giving municipalities power to require all residents to make known the amount of flour in their possession under 100 kilograms (220 pounds), and to expropriate all amounts over 25 kilograms in the possession of individuals.

Uniform bread has been ordered for the kingdom of Wuerttemberg, and orders have been issued that no pastry may be baked in which rye or wheat flour is used.

Cards entitling the holder to bread will be issued in Greater Berlin. Cards will be sent to the heads of households in a quantity corresponding to the number of persons in the family. Bread may be purchased anywhere in the greater city on presentation of these cards.

Peace Plan Is Probable.

Washington, D. C.—Plans which President Wilson may have, looking to the eventual termination of the European war, were the subject of much speculation among foreign diplomats, as a result of the arrival in London of Colonel E. M. House, intimate friend of the President, on a tour of the capitals of Europe. It was said that Colonel House was not authorized to carry on any negotiations for peace while in Europe, though the President naturally expected to learn much of interest about the diplomatic situation there.

Turkish Forts Attacked.

London—Four torpedo-boats of the allies have bombarded the Turkish forts in the Dardanelles, according to an Athens dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company. One hundred and seventy-four shells were discharged and two ammunition depots were set on fire.

some slight news value attached to the organization of the new German-American league. Later it was learned that the news would be confined to a statement "in English" setting forth the tenets of the new German-American political creed.

These tenets when announced said that the new American neutrality was in favor of a "free and open sea for American commerce and unrestricted traffic in non-contraband goods; the immediate enactment of legislation prohibiting exportation of munitions of war and the establishment of an American merchant marine."

The real sting came in when the last few paragraphs of the resolutions adopted by the league, which set forth that the league and its members "pledge themselves, individually and collectively, to support only such candidates for public office, irrespective of party, who will place American interests above those of any other country, and who will aid in eliminating all undue foreign influences from official life."

Wage Cut Is Accepted.

Pittsburg—The two weeks' deadlock between representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and the independent sheet and tinplate manufacturers over the acceptance of a reduction in wages by the men was broken here Saturday. The workmen agreed to accept a cut of from 6 to 11.2 per cent, subject to its approval by a referendum vote. The employers promised to maintain the standard of their employees and to increase wages as market prices of their product goes higher.

Price of Bread Goes Up.

Venice—An official decree issued in Trieste raises the price of a two-pound loaf of bread from 14 to 16 cents. The grain markets in Austria are said to be in a desperate condition.

DOINGS OF OREGON'S LEGISLATURE

A Brief Resume of Proceedings of the People's Representatives at the State Capital, Bills Introduced, Passed, Rejected, Etc.

House Passes Its Compensation Bill

State Capitol, Salem—By a vote of 55 to 2 the house passed house bill 222, providing a series of amendments to the workmen's compensation act that are expected to remedy defects in the law that have been discovered in the few months it has been in effect.

The principal change contemplated is to reclassify the industries and make their rates of insurance under the act commensurate with the risk involved.

The measure requires the industrial accident commission to investigate all cases where it has reason to believe that employers subject to the act have failed to install or maintain safety appliances required by statute, and to report cases of failure to a prosecuting attorney and request criminal proceedings.

It further offers inducements to employers to remove the hazard from their shops and factories by reducing their rates in proportion to the reduction of the number of accidents.

It was openly charged on the floor of the house that the casualty companies were eager to have the bill defeated and that they would benefit by enactment of a law similar to the Michigan law.

A dozen members spoke in favor of the bill, including Representative Scheibel, its author, and Sam Brown, Mr. Smith, of Multnomah, Horne, Hare, Lewis, Jeffries and Wentworth. It was pointed out that the bill had the endorsement of both employers and employees, and Dr. Smith declared that the best argument in favor of it was the charge that the casualty companies were against it.

Ardent Appeal Made for Irrigation Appropriation

State Capitol, Salem—Leading business men of Portland, Eastern Oregon and other sections of the state at a meeting here urged the joint ways and means committee to report favorably upon the house bill providing an appropriation of \$450,000 for irrigation work the next two years. All declared that the proposed work would constitute an investment the state could ill-afford to decline to make, inasmuch as the Federal government had guaranteed to give a similar amount in the reclamation of the arid lands of the state.

Joseph T. Hinkle, representative in the legislature from Umatilla county, and chairman of the house irrigation committee, said the progressive business men of the state wanted the appropriation as was evidenced by its advocacy by the Portland Commercial club, the Progressive Business Men's club, the lumber, railroad and other interests.

J. N. Teal, of the conservation commission, said the legislature faced a question of economy, not parsimony. The day of large irrigation projects being carried to a successful conclusion by private capital, he said, had passed. It was purely a governmental function, he declared, for individuals would want profits, but the government, working in the interest of the people, would not. Reclamation would have to be done, he declared, either by the state or the National government or by them working in co-operation. Declaring that a considerable part of the eastern section of the state was a desert and would remain so until it was supplied with water, Mr. Teal said, it is in the interest of good business to improve the land as soon as possible. He urged that a continuous plan of work be adopted until all arid land was reclaimed.

Interstate Bridge Bill In.

State Capitol, Salem—All profits derived from the operation of the Interstate bridge, between Portland and Vancouver, Wash., are to be turned over to the state to apply on the interest charges on the bridge bonds, if the action taken by the house is carried to its ultimate conclusion. The bill was up for adoption and referred back to the committee on revision of laws for the purpose of having the provision to give the state the surplus tolls inserted. The measure provides that the county commissioners and the governor shall have charge of the bridge.

Trading-Stamp Tax Asked.

State Capitol, Salem—A bill which, it is believed, would end the trading-stamp industry in this state if passed was introduced by Senator La Follette. It provides that all persons and corporations furnishing trading stamps to patrons must pay to the state annually 5 per cent of the gross receipts of their businesses. It shall be the duty of the State Tax commissioner to obtain the names of persons or corporations using trading stamps and file lists with the State Treasurer not later than February 1 every year.

Portland Confab Is Called.

State Capitol, Salem—A meeting of the joint committees from the house and senate with a similar committee from the Washington State legislature will be held at the Benson Hotel in Portland next Saturday morning to consider proposed changes in the fishing laws on the Columbia river. It is probable that both houses will adjourn Saturday to give members of the committees opportunity to attend this meeting without absenting themselves from the regular sessions.

House Votes Appropriations Aggregating \$1,185,627

State Capitol, Salem—Four big appropriation bills, providing expenditures for as many big state departments and aggregating \$1,185,627, were passed by the house.

The several departments and the amount appropriated for each for the next biennium are: Capitol and Supreme Court buildings and grounds, \$58,560; state hospital for the insane, \$676,166; institution for the feeble-minded, \$144,961; Eastern Oregon hospital for the insane, \$306,860.

The bill providing \$174,700 for the state penitentiary and that appropriating \$28,216 for the blind school were laid on the table temporarily to give Governor Withycombe further opportunity to study them.

None of the measures passed provides for any permanent improvements, excepting the Eastern Oregon asylum bill which carries \$100,000 for a new building.

In the 1913-1914 biennium, these same four institutions and departments had appropriations aggregating \$1,376,946.61, which included \$183,000 for completing the Supreme Court building, \$41,000 for new buildings at the feeble-minded institution, \$45,000 for new buildings at the Eastern Oregon hospital and approximately \$45,000 for work on the new receiving ward at the state insane hospital at Salem.

The ways and means committee has not decreased the per capita allowances for any institution, but has kept the proposed expenditures at a minimum by eliminating from the budget estimates all unnecessary improvement work and by allowing no new work except the building at the Pendleton institution.

Non-Partisan Judiciary Is Object of New Bill

State Capitol, Salem—A bill to place the state judiciary on a non-partisan basis, similar to that proposed and defeated at the November election, is one of the measures pending before the judiciary committee in the house.

The measure was introduced by Representative Handley, of Tillamook, and is endorsed by some of the leading attorneys in the state. The committee has taken no action, and may be governed by the fact that the people rejected a similar plan at the polls, although by a narrow margin.

Before the committee is a bill by Hinkle providing a state system of annuities. It virtually empowers the state to go into the life insurance business, the money to be invested in irrigation projects and other public works. Representative Lafferty's bill empowering the state to develop idle cement properties and build roads with the cement also is before this committee.

Two measures by Representative Hare aimed to relieve congestion in the courts also are before the judiciary committee. One would prevent appeals to the Supreme court on cases involving less than \$250, and the other would prevent jury trial of cases involving less than \$250.

Among the other judiciary bills is one by Representative Blanchard regarding commission merchants, requiring them to file heavy bonds and pay license, and another by Representative Stott applying the hotel keepers' alien law to apartment houses.

Fish Measures Continued.

State Capitol, Salem—To give all members opportunity to inform themselves regarding the measures the senate has postponed action on the Gill bill to close the Willamette river to net fishing and bills relating to fishing in the Rogue river next week.

Senator Dimick, who is leading the fight for the Oregon City fishermen in the senate, promised if the continuance were granted he would make no effort to obtain another one with the object of delaying action and imperiling the Gill measure the last days of the session.

Hospital Fees Guarded.

State Capitol, Salem—Contracting firms, industrial concerns, mercantile institutions and other large employers of labor that collect funds from their employees for hospital service will be required to give an accounting of the money and to give the workmen a voice in its expenditure, by the terms of a bill that was passed by the house. Representative Horne, author of the measure, declared that the system now in vogue among some of the "fly-by-night" railroad contractors constitutes nothing but an "organized graft."

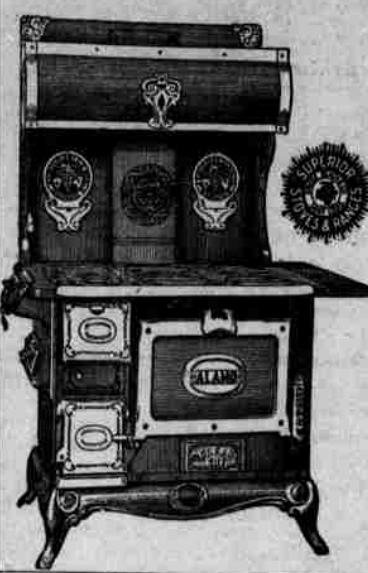
Jitney Query Propounded.

State Capitol, Salem—Is a jitney bus a public conveyance? That is a question that Harvey Wells, State Insurance commissioner, must answer within the next few days. A man in Portland was injured while riding in a jitney. He carried an accident policy which had the usual provision of double indemnity in case of injury in a public conveyance. The insurance company doesn't want to pay the double rate. The policyholder has appealed the case to the commissioner.

Anti-Loan Shark Bill Filed.

State Capitol, Salem—A bill introduced by Senator Dimick prohibits the assignment of wages by married men unless the written consent of the wives are obtained. The senator introduced the bill by request.

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