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The Athena Press

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GERMAN REPARATIONS SOLUTION IS SOUGHT

American Commission to Report on German Ability to Pay Is Suggested.

Washington, D. C.—Despite what progress may have been made toward extending American aid in composing the reparations disagreement in Europe, there was evidence that much remains to be done before all the interested elements can be brought into agreement.

There is no assurance so far that France will find it possible to agree to a proposal for an American commission to survey German economic conditions and fix a basis on which a new reparations program might be framed.

In this situation, officials in Washington are seeking to minimize as far as possible any direct connection with the discussion in which they have taken part and to emphasize that in what has been done they have acted only in an unofficial capacity.

But there was no clear-cut denial that high officials in Washington had discussed the commission proposal earnestly among themselves and with others and no one attempted to give the impression that the United States government would be displeased should the discussions now in progress result in an agreement.

The proposal so far has been discussed outside the formal channels of diplomacy but an understanding in authoritative circles has been developed through an exchange of views that the United States, Great Britain and Germany are willing to assent to the creation of such a commission. Premier Poincare of France now has the plan before him and is expected to make a decision which he has concluded a series of conferences with industrial leaders of France and of Germany.

BODIES OF KIDNAPED MEN ARE DISCOVERED

Mer Rouge, La.—Bodies of two men blown from the bottom of Lake La Fourche by unidentified dynamites were lying at an undertaking establishment here while military men stood guard pending the arrival of additional troops from Alexandria and New Orleans, ordered here by the adjutant general.

The bodies, badly mutilated and bound with wire, were believed by the authorities to be those of Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, members of a party of five prominent Mer Rouge citizens who were kidnaped last August by white-robed and hooded men and who have been missing since, and the object of three days of raking of the lakes of Morehouse parish by national guardsmen, federal agents and professional divers.

It is believed here that the inquest would be followed by the arrest of at least 20 persons, alleged ring leaders of the August mob. The names of these men will be presented the military or civil court by department of justice agents who have been conducting secret investigations, it was stated.

FARM LOANS BENEFICIAL

Washington, D. C.—The American farmer has demonstrated that when properly financed he can weather the worst economic storms, the war finance corporation declared in its annual report sent to congress. The report set forth that 41 per cent of the money advanced to the agricultural industry had been repaid either in advance of maturity or when due.

Advances by the corporation saved the industry many millions of dollars, the report declared, explaining that the corporation's officers believed its activity had proved as beneficial in the restoration of confidence as in the actual pouring of cash into spots where credit was tightest. The loans had made it possible for thousands of farmers to handle their products in an orderly fashion, it was added.

Advances for agricultural and live stock purposes totaling \$433,447,000 in thirty-seven states had been approved up to November 30. Of this, \$122,559,000 went to 4400 banking institutions, \$77,791,000 to 115 livestock loan companies and \$132,827,000 to co-operative marketing as-

French Medal Is Awarded 147th

All National Guard troops located in Multnomah county participated in a parade, muster and review staged in the armory at Portland, last night, in an impressive program incident to the formal decoration of the field colors of the 147th artillery with the croix de guerre awarded by French government for its distinguished battle service, according to information made public at the National Guard headquarters.

Battery A, Oregon's oldest military organization which served through five battles with the 147th field artillery, received the decoration of the regimental colors. The national emblem carried by the 147th regiment through the World war was bestowed upon the two Oregon batteries at the close of the war and was brought to Oregon by Captain James S. Gray, who commanded the Oregon battery in France and who is now in command of battery A.

Formal presentation of the croix de guerre was made by Brigadier General George A. White, head of the National Guard. The presentation included five silver battle rings awarded by the government and which will be attached to the battery guidon. General White was an officer of the brigade to which battery A was attached while overseas.

A number of other awards were made, including the silver cup for highest efficiency and several faithful service medals. Lieutenant Colonel Eugene Mosherberger of Woodburn received a medal for 25 years' continuous service in the Oregon National Guard, which service includes two overseas expeditions. The troops were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Herman U. Welch of the 186th infantry and who commanded battery A for many years prior to the World war.

Battery A was cited for the croix de guerre for an operation at Juigne, France, when as a part of the 147th field artillery it backed up a French Moroccan division in action against the Germans. The battery will soon celebrate its fifty-fifth birthday. The veteran Oregon battery served in the Spanish-American war, spent nine months on the Mexican border, with its guns trained on Mexico, and was in the first overseas expedition as a part of the 66th brigade of the 41st division. When the 41st division was broken up for replacements, the battery went to the 32nd division and first went into action against the Kaiser on the Marne. It was in every fight thereafter. Its present commanding officer, Captain Gay, was decorated on the field of battle by the French government for signal gallantry in commanding the battery in action when wounded by shrapnel.

GONZAGA DEFEATED

Gonzaga college of Spokane lost the Christmas game at San Diego to West Virginia, by the score of 21-13, in a hotly played contest. The last half is declared to have been the greatest aerial battle ever seen in the West. West Virginia's scoring was made in the first half, the second half going to the sturdy sons of Gonzaga. The Southern team had a great player in the diminutive Nardacci, who was mainly responsible for his team score. Athena players were much interested in the outcome of the game.

LA GRANDE CLEANED UP
Arriving in La Grande ostensibly to purchase a pool hall and become citizens of that city, H. B. DeRay of Missoula, Montana, and W. L. Priest of Tacoma, assisted in staging what proved to be about the most successful prohibition cleanup that La Grande has witnessed since the brass rail became unpopular and the swinging door swung into oblivion.

INVENTORY AT HAND
With the rush of the holiday trade over, the Athena merchants will next turn their attention to the annual inventory of their stocks. Indications are that for the year of 1922, Athena has held her own commercially, with the other towns of the county.

CHRISTMAS LAWN PARTY
A lawn party, participated in by children, took place at a home in Jefferson street, Athena on Christmas day; an incident worthy of being brought to the attention of your eastern friends.

NEW RULES MAY GOVERN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

When the State High School Athletic association meets in Portland today at the Lincoln high school in its annual session the rules that govern that body are slated for a thorough overhauling says a Portland paper.

One of these rules has caused a great deal of dissatisfaction this season, it being the one which prohibits post season games between undefeated members in different parts of the state.

Because of this the championship of Oregon this year is something that can not be determined.

At Fridays meeting, which will be attended by accredited representatives of all members of the schools of the State High School association, a proposal will be made that the state be divided into zones and that the leaders in each zone shall play post-season games to determine which is the best school eleven in the state.

It will be contended that a game between the champion high school of Oregon and some representative high school eleven of the east or middle west will not only prove a great incentive to school boys all over the state but will give Oregon a great deal of advertising throughout the United States every year.

Medford high is so chagrined at not having been able to schedule a game with Toledo this year that it will insist on a rule prohibiting any team in the league signing a contract to play a post-season contest without the official sanction of the league.

SCHOOL PROGRAM

A Christmas program was given by the grade pupils in the auditorium, Friday afternoon. The program follows:

Recitation, Scaring Santa, Kenneth Rogers; song, Telling Santa, Charlotte Fisher, dialogue, Serenading Santa, 7th grade; recitation, Reason Why, Lewis Dening; Christmas dialogue, Mary Gibson, Arthur Crowley; Christmas song, 5th and 6th grade boys, drill, Bells of Christmas, primary room; recitation, Christmas Bells, Myrtle Johnson; dialogue, 3rd and 4th grade room; pantomime Holy Night, 5th and 6th grades; song, Ting a Ling, 3rd and 4th grades; dialogue, Frayday Cat, Raymond Murphy; Evergreen drill, 8th grade girls.

ETHEL HODGEN MARRIES

Miss Ethel Hodgen, daughter of Mrs. Lou Hodgen of Athena, and Mr. Martin T. McLaughlin, a stockman of Duncan, this county, were united in marriage at Pendleton, Wednesday of this week. The bride is well known in Athena, where she has many friends. She has been teaching in the public schools of the county for the past three years.

SNOWBANKS DISAPPEAR

The drifted snow along the state highway and the country roads disappeared during the fore part of the week, giving place to many mudholes. However, the roads have dried up considerably, since, and the going is much improved.

Auto Stalled On Track; 1 Killed

R. M. Breeze a pioneer farmer of the Walla Walla valley, was instantly killed and his son, W. H. Breeze was perhaps fatally injured, when the automobile in which father and son were riding, was struck by an O. W. R. & N. freight train, at a street crossing in Walla Walla, Tuesday forenoon.

The automobile which carried the pair into the fatal accident, was completely demolished, the engine of the freight train striking it on the left side just back of the windshield.

Mr. Breeze and his son were coming into Walla Walla when the freight train consisting of but three cars, struck them.

The train was piloted by Joseph Melcher, pioneer O-W engineer, and in charge of Conductor George Richards.

The automobile was said to have been seen by engineer Melcher, who thought it was stopping to allow the train to pass. But started to beat the train to the crossing and then stopped in the center of the track, where the freight plowed into it, killing the elder Mr. Breeze.

The car was carried several yards and overturned on the road side, a complete wreck. The train which was said by eyewitnesses to be moving but twelve to fifteen miles an hour, was brought to a stop within its length.

As the street crossing was approached Engineer Melcher sounded the locomotive whistle as is customary at the crossing, according to witnesses.

ANOTHER LEGION DANCE

The Legion Dance, given at Legion Hall Saturday evening was greatly enjoyed; so much so that another dance is announced for New Years Night. In view of the fact that the holiday season is at its height, socially and otherwise, the local Post feels that to do its full share in entertaining the public, the dance tomorrow night will suffice in lieu of any other entertainment it might offer.

TINT OF GREEN

Since the disappearance of the snow from the wheat fields, that good old tint of green, so dear to the heart of the Umatilla county wheat-raiser has made its appearance, giving material evidence that underneath the blanket of white, his fall-sown grain was nourished and is growing. A number of fields in this vicinity show marked contrast to conditions prior to the snowfall.

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES

The Christmas exercises held at the Baptist church Christmas night was thoroughly enjoyed by the large assemblage present. The program as given last week was carried out in full. The little ones were generously remembered with goodies, and the grownups were well entertained by the services of the evening.

EZRA MEEKER IS HC FOR 90-YEAR-OLD BOYS

The old quip about the good dying young will be exploded when Ezra Meeker will entertain the youth of New York who has reached 90 years or more, at his birthday dinner. Meeker is 92.

The object of the dinner will be to prove to the world that men and women should live to be over 100, or rather, that they should live to be at least 200.

Ezra who went over the Oregon trail in an ox cart in '52, founded Puyallup, Washington, and wrote books in long hand, will give the world a Christmas present at the coming dinner by telling his secret of life.

Chauncey M. Depew will be the baby at the table, he being only 88. It is because he is such a good story teller that Meeker has let down the bars a little in his favor.

Meeker was born in Butler county, Ohio, and started traveling when he was 21. He spent most of his life on the Pacific coast. He went East to aid the cause of the Oregon trail, a bill for which will soon come up in the senate committee.

RITNER EXPLAINS HIS PARDONING OF AMANN

A special to the Oregon Journal says: Acting Governor Ritner said that he had conferred with the attorney general regarding his powers as acting governor and was satisfied not only that he has full powers of the chief executive but that he will retain such powers in the absence of the governor until a new president of the senate is elected. He made the statement in connection with an announcement concerning the recent pardon of K. C. Amann, former Umatilla county roadmaster's deputy.

Ritner explained that Amann had only a few months to serve before his case would come automatically before the pardon board, which is not accustomed to requiring restitution in pardon cases. Ritner said he considered he served three ends by pardoning Amann—he made it possible for Umatilla county to secure the return of the amount the former book-keeper fraudulently obtained, he relieved the state of the expense of Amann's upkeep and he restored to Amann an opportunity to reestablish himself and support his wife and boy.

Ritner said Governor-elect Pierce approved the pardon and agreed to recall it if Amann did not make the agreed payments.

AUTOMOBILE PLUNGES

Ed Peters of Pendleton, and a companion had a miraculous escape from death Sunday night, when the automobile in which they were riding, skidded in the soft mud at the edge of the highway, and plunged over an embankment to the rocks below. The accident happened west of Pendleton, on a stretch of the highway which has been responsible, because of the soft condition of the shoulders abutting the hard surface, for many automobile accidents.

Farmers' Union Back Pierce Tax

The Oregon and the Idaho Farmers union annual session was closed at Lebanon with an indorsement of the program outlined to the meeting by Governor-elect Pierce in his announced attempt to reduce the burden of taxation carried by the farmers.

The final session was a brief one, the delegates departing immediately for their homes so as to arrive there in time to pass Christmas with their families. Reports of the various committees were heard. The legislation framers recommended measures similar to those advocated by Mr. Pierce and the report was adopted unanimously.

In addition to this, the farmers went on record for strict enforcement of the prohibition laws and against any modification by congress of the Volstead act.

Recommendation to standardize farm products such as grain, hay and potatoes also are made. Election of officers was held yesterday and it was decided that the next convention is to be next December, in some Lane county town.

1923 IS TO BE A BAD YEAR, SAY THE STARS

Happy New Year? Not so says Professor Gustave Meyer, astrologer of Hoboken, N. J., whose card modestly proclaims him "nation's counsellor."

According to the "professor's" predictions, based on a study of the stars, 1923 will see:

Another flu epidemic. Outbreaks of strikes and violence. Terrific earthquakes in midsummer. Subway cave-ins and collapse of skyscrapers.

Wall street failures and financial crashes. Plague in the public schools. Explosions and fires on ships at sea.

Increasing number of divorces and scandal among clergy, press and bar. Continued wave of murder. President Harding's most trying year.

These predictions are founded, Meyer says, on a horoscope labelled: "Birth of 1923; place Washington, D. C."

The horoscope, he explains, shows the heavens divided into mansions, with the signs of the zodiac and the good and evil planets flitting back and forth.

The bad luck of 1923 will be due largely to the influence of the wicked planet Saturn.

Yet the seer drops a few crumbs of comfort to take the edge off the gloom. He foresees, for instance, that "great inventions will multiply, business in general will return to normalcy, and, more important than anything else, 1923 will be a great year for the farmer."

NEW YEARS NIGHT

A large audience enjoyed the showing of "Human Hearts" at the Standard Theatre, Christmas night. For tomorrow, Saturday night, Paramount's great picture, "The Good Provider," featuring the cast that played in "Humoresque," will be shown at regular admission prices. On New Years' night, Lon Chaney, the world's greatest character actor, comes in "The Trap" also at regular prices. There will be no show at the Standard Sunday night. This arrangement is made so that Athena theatre-goers may have amusement on the first night of the New Year.

MASONIC OFFICERS

The following officers of Dolph Lodge, No. 80, A. F. & A. M. were installed Saturday evening, December 23:

A. E. Shiek, W. M.; Lee Johnson, S. W.; Frank DeFreese, J. W.; A. M. Johnson, Sec.; N. A. Miller, Treas.; Reed Hill, Trustee; H. Hoffman, S. D.; James Wood, S. S.; A. R. Coppock, J. S.; J. E. Harr, Tyler; Wm. Booher, Chap.; Ralph Cannon, Marshal.

PRISONER ESCAPES

Rather than wait six months when his sentence would have been served Mike Strumbeta, took French leave from the Walla Walla penitentiary Wednesday. The get-a-way occurred between 2:20 and 3:30 p. m. while the convict was working on the farm adjoining the main building. He had been raised to the rank of a trusty and allowed certain privileges accorded well behaved inmates.

NORTHWEST PROJECTS TO GET MORE MONEY

Interior Department Appropriation Bill Is Reported to the House.

Washington, D. C.—The annual interior department appropriation bill as reported to the house by the house appropriations committee carries \$294,215,300, of which \$254,858,460 is recommended for the United States penitentiaries. Of the latter sum, \$252,000,000 is for the payment of army and navy pensions.

The reclamation service, under the bill, will get \$12,250,000, a decrease of \$3,550,000 from current appropriations.

Various western projects are taken care of as follows: Baker river project, Oregon, \$500,000; Umatilla project, Oregon, \$300,000; Klamath project, Oregon-California, \$700,000; Okanogan project, Washington, \$50,000; Yakima project, Washington, \$1,310,000; Boise project, Idaho, \$1,330,000; King Hill project, Idaho, \$35,000; Minidoka project, Idaho, \$685,000.

The Boise, Idaho, project is given an increase of \$170,000; the Baker river project, Oregon, an increase of \$100,000; the Umatilla project, Oregon, an increase of \$100,000, and the Okanogan project, Washington, an increase of \$25,000 over appropriations for the present fiscal year.

An appropriation of \$125,000 is recommended for development of the Natus unit of the Wapato project on the Yakima reservation, state of Washington. Irrigation projects in Washington have been increased \$141,000 over current law.

BORAH CALLS FOR ECONOMIC MEET

Washington, D. C.—A move to instruct President Harding to call a world economic conference in addition to the proposed world disarmament conference was made by Senator Borah when he introduced an amendment to the naval appropriations bill, now before the senate.

The Borah amendment would take the place of the house provision encouraging the president to call a disarmament meeting to take up things left undone by the conference of November, 1921.

The president would be encouraged to call on "such governments as he deems necessary to send representatives to a conference which would be charged with the duty of considering the economic problems of the world with a view to restoration of trade and the establishment of sound financial and business conditions." Borah's amendment stated:

No mention is made of what countries should be invited or where the conference might be held.

The Borah amendment also embodies the provision of the appropriation bill which specifies that the executive should call a new arms limitation conference to take up the matters of land, sea and aircraft armament "with a view to reaching understanding relative to limiting future construction."

Arbuckle Pardon Arouses Protests.
Los Angeles, Cal.—Protests against the reinstatement of Roscoe Arbuckle continue to accumulate here. Official disapproval of the recent order of Will H. Hayes, titular head of the motion-picture industry, restoring to the plump comedian his right to work in the pictures, was expressed by Mayor Cryer in a telegram to Mr. Hayes, asking him to reconsider his decision.

"Truth in Fabric" Bill Meets Favor.
Washington, D. C.—Favorable report was ordered by the senate interstate commerce committee of the Capper "truth in fabric" bill to require manufacturers of woaden cloth or garments to mark the percentage of wool and other materials contained in their product.

\$16,198,000 for Postal Deficit.
Chicago, Ill.—General Charles G. Dawes, former director of the national budget, made public what he termed the "submerged" balance sheet of the postoffice department. It showed a deficit of \$16,198,000 for the first three months' operation of the postal service this year.

John B. Useless, Esq.

