Or.Hist.Soc., 207 2d strt

SHERMAN COUNTY OBSERVER

Established 1887. Moro, Sherman County, Oregon. Friday, August 6, 1915. Five Cents

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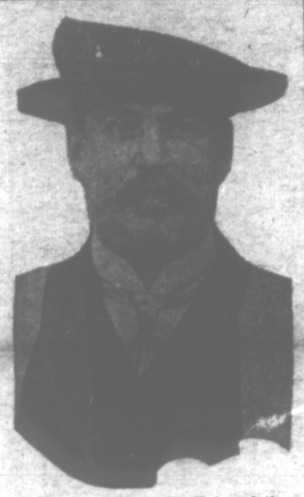

Photo by American Press Association.

General Botha, former Boer leader, now premier of South Africa, who led an army against the German South African Colonies and captured them.

REDFIELD SAYS CRITICS UNFAIR

Chicago.—With one week elapsed since the steamer Eastland sank at its wharf, with 2500 excursionists on board, investigation to determine the blame for the accident had simmered down to a federal grand jury inquiry, although a county grand jury continued to hear testimony, and Secretary Redfield, of the department of commerce, went ahead with the steamboat inspection examination required by law. Federal Judge Landis forbade the examination by others of witnesses desired for the federal grand jury and had taken possession of the vessel and all documentary evidence available. Secretary Redfield took notice of adverse criticism of his inquiry, and in a speech before the hearing said he was profoundly pained by the attacks made on him before he had had time to delve into the case. He offered to make any sort of an investigation anyone could suggest provided charges were properly filed against anyone.

The total dead is placed at 836. While 158 are still reported missing by the Western Electric company, a possible total of 994, the missing list has rapidly dwindled.

BRYAN NOT A CANDIDATE

Has No Expectations and No Plans Looking to Holding Political Office

Portland.—William Jennings Bryan intends to take just as active a part in politics for the rest of his life as his opportunities and abilities allow. He made that plain in a formal interview after having read an interview in a local paper which put him in the light of parrying the question of his presidential intentions.

But that program he has mapped out for himself does not include any personal emoluments, such as any more public offices for himself. He made that also plain in the following words:

"I have no political expectations whatever and no plans looking to the holding of any office in the future. The work which I have mapped out for my remaining years does not include the occupying of any political position."

Fire Blight Spreading.

Pendleton, Or.—Frequent complaints have been made of the effect of fire blight on fruit trees in this city recently. The disease has been unknown here.

In the Milton-Freewater section fire blight has damaged the orchards to such an extent that revaluations of properties are being made by the tax assessor, to allow for the injuries to crops.

British Submarine Sinks Transport.

Petrograd, via London.—An official communication issued here says a British submarine has sunk a large German transport in the Baltic sea.

THE MARKETS

Portland.

Wheat—Club, 90c; bluestem, 95c; red Russian, 87c; forty-fold, 94c; red fife, 90c.

Hay—Eastern Oregon timothy, $17; alfalfa, $13.50.

Butter—Creamery, 27c.

Eggs—Ranch, 24c.

Wool—Eastern Oregon, 28c; valley, 30c.

Mohair—31c.

Seattle.

Wheat—Bluestem, 99c; club, 93c; red Russian, 90c; forty-fold, 95c; fife, 92c.

Barley—$24 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, $17 per ton; alfalfa, $14 per ton.

Butter—Creamery, 27c.

Eggs—24c.

A Fortune Telling System

By F. A. MITCHEL

A table was between them. They had been playing euchre. She suggested a game of hearts.

"No, thanks," he said, "I am not so stupid as to play a game of hearts with a coquette. Your victims are already sufficiently numerous without adding so unworthy a person as myself."

"You know very well what I mean. You simply wish to say something smart."

She was shuffling the cards, but her mind was not on them. What her mind was on, or, rather, what was on her mind, did not interest him. She was right in inferring that his remark was intended for something smart.

While she was listlessly shuffling the cards she leaned forward so that the perfume of a flower she wore in her corsage was perilously near his nose. Her red lips were still nearer his. She was looking down at the cards, but presently raised her eyes. They met his resting upon her admiringly, but she dropped them at once.

"Shall I tell your fortune?" she asked.

"Do."

She began to distribute the cards on the table in four piles. Whenever she put a card on the fourth pile she paused and studied it. He asked her what process she was using and she told him it was one she had learned from a fortune teller. A spider laying for a fly is not expected to speak the truth.

She put down four cards, then another four cards, the second fourth card being the knave of spades.

"That's you," she said.

"I'm no knave."

"But you're awfully smart. You scintillate with bright sayings."

He swallowed this little bit of preliminary bait, and it made him hungry for more.

Presently the ten of diamonds fell on the second pile of cards.

"That's a wealthy girl who is angling for you," said the fortune teller.

"What's her name?"

"I know her name, but I'm not going to tell you."

The two of spades fell in the first pile.

"A black deuce indicates that she is crafty. Better look out for her. She will make you a lot of trouble."

The ten of hearts fell on the first pile.

"That's the girl who really loves you. She is true hearted, and if you return her love she will make you very happy."

"I don't quite understand this scheme under which you are working all this out," he said, with a puzzled expression. "I don't see why the ten spots are a couple of girls or why you infer those things, no matter what pile they fall on."

"Of course you don't. What kind of fortune would it be if you did?"

By this time she had dealt all the cards and, putting them together again, shuffled them and began anew, this time laying them in six rows, placing one card beneath another, so that all were exposed. The third card in the first column was the ten of diamonds, and the fourth card in the sixth column was the jack of clubs.

"Too bad!" exclaimed the fortune teller. "The expected has happened. The rich girl has thrown you over for a man who is brutal."

"That's the queerest fortune telling system to understand I ever came across," he said.

She continued to deal the cards very slowly. They were both watching them intently as they fell, gradually bending lower and lower over them. At last a rebellious strand of her hair grazed his forehead. A fine wire is sufficient to carry an electric current, and a few hairs may carry a love current. The ten of hearts fell at the bottom of the fifth column. She left her hand on it, and, putting his hand on it at the same time, he touched hers. She did not withdraw hers, and he maintained his position.

"Don't go any further till you have explained to me why this card falling at the bottom of the fifth column means that the girl who loves me is"—

"Is what?"

"What you're going to say about her."

"What am I going to say about her?"

This dialogue, spoken slowly and softly, is not especially brilliant, but it was quite sufficient to serve the purpose of these two—that is, keeping their hands in touch. She raised her lashes and looked into his eyes with something that might have been reproachful; it might have been inviting; it might have been anything he chose to infer it to be. Meanwhile the fragrance of the flower mingled with her breath, circled about his nose and permeated through it up into his brain.

It would be sacrilegious to follow further the blending of these two young hearts. Besides, it would be a repetition of what has occurred since Cupid first began his pranks. And yet the little rascal has an infinite variety of ways of practicing his profession, and nothing is achieved in life in so many different ways as the drawing together of a pair of lovers.

"I say, mummy," he said when their daughter was receiving attention from a desirable parti, "you'd better teach her that fortune telling game you taught me."

"It is not necessary," replied the wife and mother, with dignity.

"Humph! That's about as intelligible as your fortune system."

RUSSIA LOSES BIG PORT ON BALTIC

Germans Have Captured Mitau And Are Within Striking Distance of Riga.

London.—The Germans have captured Mitau, the capital of Courland, and are now within striking distance of Riga, the seat of the governor-general of the Baltic provinces and Russia's greatest port on the Baltic.

Warsaw is ready for the evacuation which was intimated by the Russian war minister in his address in the Duma. For days there has been an exodus of the population. Factories, government institutions and hospitals have been moved and the city has been stripped of everything that might be of military value to the Teutons.

With the taking of Mitau and the favorable progress of the fighting east of Poniewesch, according to the Berlin statement, it would seem that communication by rail from Courland and Kovno eastward has been severed by the Germans.

With the ports of Memel, Libau and Windau already in their hands, should the Germans be successful in their quest of Riga, they would shut Russia off entirely from the sea by way of her southwesternmost governments.

The German and Austrian campaign for the possession of Warsaw was met by the Russians with strong counter-offensive movements against the attacks from the Vistula, near Ivangorod, between the upper Vistula and the Bug, and in the Narew sector near Rozan.

KAISER DECLARES CONSCIENCE CLEAR

London.—Emperor William has issued a manifesto to the German people on the occasion of the anniversary of the outbreak of the war, according to a dispatch received in Amsterdam from Berlin. In the manifesto, which was issued from the main headquarters of the German army, the emperor says:

"Before God and history my conscience is clear. I did not will the war. After preparations for a whole decade the coalition powers, to whom Germany had become too great, believed that the moment had come to humiliate the empire, which loyally stood by her Austro-Hungarian ally in a just cause, or to crush it in an overwhelming circle. No lust for conquest, as I already announced a year ago, has driven us into the war.

"Full of gratitude, we can say that God was with us. The enemy armies who boasted that they would enter Berlin in a few months are with heavy blows driven back far east and west. Numberless battlefields in various parts of Europe and naval battles off near and distant coasts testify what German anger in self-defense and German strategy can do. No violation of international law by our enemies will be able to shake the economic foundation of our conduct of the war."

BRITAIN HOLDS FIRM

Maintains Orders-in-Council Are in Accord With International Law.

Washington.—Three notes from Great Britain and one from Germany, all dealing with the commercial rights of neutral nations in wartime, are before Secretary Lansing.

The first British note defends the orders in council, the second justifies the allies' efforts to cut off Germany's export trade and the third defends prize court proceedings. The German note continues the discussion over the sinking of the American ship William P. Frye, and is said to justify Germany's course in sinking merchant ships provided she pays for them.

The United States shortly will reply to the British notes, but it is not known what course will be pursued regarding the German note.

Grand Aerie of Eagles in Session.

Spokane, Wash.—Spokane and the state of Washington officially welcomed delegates to the grand aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, which opened its session here Monday.

On a stage representing an Indian camp Governor Lister and city officials delivered addresses of greeting to the visitors, and grand officers of the Eagles responded.

Trade With Germany Falls Off.

Washington.—The effect of the war on the trade of this country with Germany is clearly shown in a statement of the declared value of exports to the United States through the ports of Hamburg, Kiel and Luebeck, made public by the department of commerce. During the first six months of 1914, these ports sent to the United States goods valued at $14,994,585. This year, in the same period, the shipments amounted to $1,159,257.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

J. B. Mason was elected mayor of Klamath Falls.

Ranchers of Grant county are complaining of shortage of help this year.

Work has started on the telephone line between Wasco and Maryhill, Wash.

Quest for members for the new commercial club at Klamath Falls resulted in obtaining 75 names.

A special school election at Holly, 15 miles east of Brownsville, authorized a new union high school.

The annual Wasco County Fair and Rodeo will be held in The Dalles from September 28 to October 1, inclusive.

Three of the 156 accidents reported to the state industrial accident commission for the week ending July 29, resulted in fatalities.

G. D. Smith, a Baker fuel dealer, pleaded guilty to using short weights, and was fined the minimum under the new law, $5 and costs, which he paid.

A special election will be held at Donald in August to place an assessment of 5 per cent on assessed valuation for purposes of carrying on street work.

George Hayes of Pendleton was kicked by a mule and sustained several broken ribs and although seriously injured, it is reported he will recover.

Corporation Commissioner Schulderman gave permission to the Northern Grain & Warehouse company, of Portland, to increase its capital stock from $100,000 to $250,000.

George Winters of Corvallis, a graduate of the state normal school at Monmouth, has been elected principal of the schools at Ballston, Polk county, for next year.

Three hundred persons attended the dedication of the Community hall erected at Dundee by the Dundee Woman's club. Dr. C. H. Chapman made the principal address.

Following the circulating of recall petitions against the members of the county court, Waldo F. Finn, roadmaster of Polk county, has filed his resignation with the court.

Thirty-one of the 49 applicants have received state licenses to practice medicine in Oregon, according to information from the Oregon State Board of Medical Examiners.

Joe Brown, who stabbed Eugene Isaacs to death on the Klamath reservation about 50 miles north of that city, recently, came to Klamath Falls and surrendered to the police.

Five brothers are members of Leonidas Lodge, No. 36, Knights of Pythias, of Scio. They are Frank, Roe, Arthur, Clifford and John Shelton. All of them reside in or near Scio.

In addition to scouring upwards of 500,000 pounds of wool this season, the Pendleton scouring mill has graded and baled in excess of 3,000,000 pounds which has been shipped in the grease.

A reduction of about 25 per cent in lighting rates of the Eastern Oregon Light & Power company was made by the public service commission of Oregon. The order became effective on August 1.

Ten life and 17 five-year certificates have been issued as a result of the recent semi-annual teachers' examination in Oregon, it was announced by Superintendent of Public Instruction Churchill.

A reform of the method of printing monthly county court proceedings has been effected by the county court of Clackamas county and as a result approximately $75 was saved the first month, according to County Judge Anderson.

A meeting was held in Albany by the fruit growers of that section at which fire blight was the principal subject under discussion. Several prominent speakers were present, among them members of the faculty of O. A. C.

L. J. Simpson of North Bend has announced that he will not be a candidate for the republican nomination for congressman from that district. He had started to make the race, but will withdraw, he says, because of press of business affairs.

Herring by the wagonload have been shoveled up off the tideflats on the Siuslaw during the past week. The school of fish which entered the Siuslaw is said to be the first of its kind in seven or eight years, and is one of the largest, according to old residents.

Plans are being made at The Dalles to build a new road of 25 miles from Ward's Mill, 17 miles southwest of Dufur, to Government Camp. This highway, if built, would shorten the proposed "loop" road around Mount Hood from Portland by 30 miles. At the same time it would afford the tourist a wonderful scenic route, one of the best in this part of the state.

S. Benson, Portland philanthropis and millionaire lumberman gave $100,000 to School District No. 1 for the purpose of building the first unit of the trades school building on the site recently purchased in East Portland. The only restriction attached to the gift is the condition that the school district contract to spend an equal amount during the year 1916 in the construction of the second unit of the same building.

LATIN AMERICA IS INVITED TO CONFER

Lansing Asks Representatives of South American States to Discuss Mexico.

Washington.—The United States has decided to ask the co-operation of South and Central America in the next step to restore peace to Mexico. The ambassadors from Argentina, Brazil and Chile and the ministers from Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, have been asked to confer with Secretary Lansing here.

While the state department characterized the conference as an informal one, the sentiment has been growing among American officials that the next step in the Mexican situation should be one which would meet the approval of the world and should be taken in concert with the nations of Central and South America, even if in the last event the trend should be toward military action.

The conference is the step President Wilson and the cabinet had in mind when a few weeks ago a statement was issued to the American people on the Mexican situation, and intended for the information of the Mexican leaders themselves. This statement declared in forceful language that the patience of the United States was becoming exhausted with three years of revolution and chaos, and that unless the Mexican leaders themselves found some way to accommodate their differences, the United States, as Mexico's next friend and neighbor, would be constrained to decide what means should be employed to restore peace.

AMERICAN SAILORS KILLED BY SNIPERS

Washington.—Two American bluejackets were killed in an attack by natives on Port-au-Prince, Haiti, held by Rear-Admiral Caperton with 400 men from the cruiser Washington. The attacking party was beaten off without having approached closer than the outskirts of the city, and order was maintained in the city itself. No sailors were wounded and the loss of the attacking force was not reported.

The dead are William Gompers, seaman, of Brooklyn, and Cason S. Whitehurst, ordinary seaman, of Norfolk, Va.

The attack came at 8 o'clock in the evening, the bluejacket battalion bearing the brunt of the fighting. From the brush, beyond the last houses, snipers opened fire on them. The fire was returned and the attackers driven off but not before Gompers and Whitehurst had been killed.

With the consent of the United States, French marines have been landed at Port-au-Prince. A detachment from the cruiser Descartes is now guarding the French legation.

VILLA EXECUTES MERCHANTS

Six Put to Death for Refusing to Give Funds to Rebel Leader.

El Paso, Tex.—The confiscation of the property of merchants doing business in Villa territory and the execution of six of 42 Mexican merchants, imprisoned by the northern leader after a conference at which unsuccessful efforts were made to raise a forced loan, was reported by persons arriving here from Chihuahua City, where the conference was held. During the conference it was said General Villa said: "The American government can go to hell if it does not like my actions." Foreign merchants, it was said further, were then ordered to leave the country.

Villa is quoted as having charged the merchants with exacting exorbitant prices for their goods, and is said to have given this as his reason for the confiscation order.

German-American Alliance Meets.

San Francisco.—From all parts of the country delegates arrived here to attend the eighth annual convention of the National German-American Alliance, which opened Monday.

Arizona Drys Win Ruling.

Los Angeles.—The United States circuit court, sitting en banc, denied application for a temporary injunction to restrain the state authorities of Arizona from enforcing the prohibition amendment to the constitution. The court held that "near-beer" was alcohol, and its importation into the state was a violation of the state constitution.

Japanese Cabinet Retires.

Tokio.—The crisis in goverment circles brought about by charges of bribery against Viscount Kanetaka Oura, minister of the interior, led to the entire cabinet led by Premier Okuma tendering their resignations.

Viscount Oura's resignation was presented and accepted by the emperor.

A Sensitive Lover

By SARAH BAXTER

Barnard was walking the floor. When a man walks the floor with a knit brow it is evident there is something on his mind. And there was something on Barnard's mind—a good deal, in fact. He was a worshiper of Miss Brayton, and Miss Brayton was very ill. Barnard had heard that the doctors were desirous of making the experiment of a transfusion of blood, but had not thus far found any hearty person who was willing to give up his or her blood for the purpose.

Barnard had offered himself to Miss Brayton, and she had refused him. He was now ready to give her his blood or his life, if necessary, but would not this be placing her under an obligation which might cause her to reconsider her refusal? It seemed to him like taking an unfair advantage of her; that it would be an obtrusion, an ungracious act, rendering him liable to a charge of trying to win her by unfair means. Besides, Barnard had always said that unless the girl he wanted waited him, and that very badly, he didn't want her.

How would it do for him to give her his blood without her knowing from whom the gift came? Barnard stopped short in his walk and tugged at his mustache. Then he took up his hat, crammed it down on his head and hurried away to Miss Brayton's physician.

After an interview it was settled that the invalid should receive Barnard's blood without knowing it. This could be done by performing the operation in a room dimly lighted, with Barnard's face covered. No one but the doctor and the couple operated on need be present, and the identity of the blood given need not be divulged.

The operation was performed, and Miss Brayton regained her health and strength. Barnard had the satisfaction of having saved her life, but saw no more evidence of a predisposition for him than before. Indeed, it was not long after the operation that he heard she was engaged to a man whom he had feared as a rival. This threw Barnard into despondency.

One evening at a young persons' gathering, at which Barnard, Miss Brayton and her fiance, Mortlake, were present, Barnard heard a young lady near him say that there was a very pretty romance between Miss Brayton and Mr. Mortlake. Barnard pricked up his ears, but failed to learn what the romance was. But a week later he met a friend who asked him why he had not got in ahead of Mortlake when Miss Brayton was ill and offer her his blood. Thus it came out that Mortlake had saved his fiancee's life.

This was a romance with a vengeance. Mortlake had undoubtedly won the girl by claiming to have saved her life at the risk of his own.

That evening Barnard was walking the floor in a more disgruntled state of mind than before. His rival had beaten him by a lie, and he was not in a position to set the matter right. True, he had only to refer the matter to the surgeon who performed the operation, but this would be interfering between a girl and her lover—a dog in the manger business that was far beneath a man of Barnard's sensitive honor. On the other hand, what right had he to permit the girl he loved to marry a man who had lied to get her?

Barnard, being in a quandary, remained in a quandary. These sensitive fellows who keep themselves in the background are usually overlooked by girls who, did they know the facts, would most assuredly prefer them. Barnard was too refined in feeling to save either himself or the girl he loved.

But one morning Miss Brayton, being indisposed, sent for her physician. During his visit she told him that there was a certain secret which she knew he was pledged to keep, but she knew it all the same. Then she announced to him her engagement.

"I congratulate him," said the doctor. "He took considerable risk for you and deserves you."

"How he must have loved me!"

"I fancied he was doing it for love."

"It would have been ungracious for me to refuse him after the sacrifice he made for me."

"You have got a fine fellow. I took a fancy to Barnard the moment I laid eyes on him."

"Barnard!"

"Yes, Barnard. You're engaged to Barnard, aren't you?"

Miss Brayton's eyes grew as big as butter plates.

"Was it Mr. Barnard who saved me?"

"Why—yes—I thought you knew."

The cat was out of the bag.

Soon after this revelation Mortlake received a note from his fiancee stating that she must break her engagement with him, since she had discovered that she could not love him.

Barnard heard that the girl he loved was free, but since she had pledged the doctor to keep mum he had no idea of the cause of the breaking of her engagement. One day he received a note asking him to call. He did so, and Miss Brayton frankly told him that in refusing him she had mistaken her feelings. Barnard was not slow in giving her an opportunity to correct the mistake. They were married, and it was not till the day after the wedding that his wife told him the secret.

"Why didn't you tell me that before?" he asked in an injured tone.

"Because I didn't propose that you should indulge in any more nonsense."

EDWARD D. BALDWIN

Edward D. ("Ned") Baldwin, secretary of the Republican State Central Committee, talked about as a possible candidate for Secretary of State of Oregon.

BRIEF WAR NEWS

Bad weather is interfering with the operations in the Austro-Italian theater.

Both the French and German official reports tell of great activity by aviators on the western front.

During the month of July, Berlin says, the Germans captured more than 95,000 Russians between the Pilica river and the Baltic alone.

An unconfirmed report comes from Rome that the Austrians are preparing for the evacuation of Trieste, and have already removed the machinery of the munitions factories.

Announcements which are apparently inspired, declare Emperor William will include in the proposals for a new and independent state of Poland, not only the Polish provinces of Russia, but also the Galician domains of Austria and certain German territory, including the Duchy of Posen and Danzig as a free port.

The first year of the war has cost the belligerent governments about $16,500,000,000 in direct expenditures for military purposes.

This is the expense of putting about 9,000,000 men into the field for the central powers, and about 13,000,000 for the allies. It does not include, however, the far greater amount lost through the destruction of towns and villages, the ravaging of the countryside, the wrecking of bridges and railroads and the wholesale sinking of ships, and the economic loss through the diminution in productive industry, the killing of the strongest men in the community, and the creation of a class of cripples and madmen. The war is now costing about $45,000,000 a day, $2,000,000 an hour, and $30,000 a minute.

SHORT NEWS NUGGETS

Miss Catherine Barker, the $30,000,000 heiress, of Chicago, was married at Harbor Springs, Mich., to Howard Spaulding, Jr.

Net profits of $390,244.01 were earned by the Panama-Pacific Exposition during the 23 weeks of operation, which ended July 31, according to a financial statement issued.

Chas. Becker, former police lieutenant of New York, convicted of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, a gambler, was executed at Sing Sing. After three shocks he was pronounced dead.

From the pulpit of Trinity Methodist Episcopal church at Berkeley, Cal., Judge Alton B. Parker, democratic candidate for president in 1904, made a plea for stronger coast defenses.

In exports of domestic products, in aggregate value of foreign trade and in favorable balance of trade the United States made a new high record in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1915. Figures made public by the department of commerce show that imports and exports combined totaled $4,442,864,272, an increase of $184,000,000 over 1914 and of $164,000,000 over 1913, the prior high record year in total trade.

July Deficit $16,000,000.

Washington.—Treasury receipts for July, the first month of the new fiscal year, ran $16,000,000 behind expenditures. A working balance of approximately $100,000,000 is still available, however, from all sources.

Movies to Tell Weather.

Washington.—Fifteen cities now get daily weather forecasts through moving-picture shows.

Wherever desired the weather bureau will co-operate with moving-picture shows by furnishing the forecasts for presentation.

Bad Portland Fire Tuesday.

Portland, Ore.—Fire which broke out Tuesday morning at 2:30 in the pool hall in the basement of the Alisky building, at the northwest corner of Third and Morrison streets, burned over almost a quarter of the block, resulting in a loss of property of about $250,000.