

The Observer

MORO, OREGON.

FRIDAY, August 16, 1918

The price of The Observer is \$1.50 per year, 75 cents for six months, 50 cents for three months—but if paid in advance we accept \$2.00 in full for 2 years. Shorter terms than one year 12 1/2 cents per month.

A Blue Mark here will answer an inquiry, when entered upon our calendar, giving the date of the paper as the date at which your current subscription expires.

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Information of Our Readers.

The Oregon interstate fair will be held in Princeville this year, October 1 to 5, inclusive.

The Sika Spruce company, of Coquille, is establishing a new shingle mill in the Fishtrap district.

Preparations are being made by the labor council of Coos bay for a mammoth celebration in North Bend and Marshfield on Labor day.

Sixty-one members of the Oregon Agricultural college faculty have withdrawn to enter government service since the declaration of war.

A sawmill owned by John M. Robins at Swan Lake valley in Klamath county was destroyed by fire with a loss of between \$10,000 and \$12,000.

The prune growers of Polk county have formed a green prune pool. The minimum price paid for the green fruit will be 2 1/2 cents a pound delivered at the Dallas warehouse.

The Iowa association of Oregon will hold its annual picnic at the state fair grounds at Salem August 17 and it is expected that former Iowans from all over the state will be present.

The George Perry sheep ranch on Rock creek was purchased last week by John J. Kelly of Heppner, consideration named being \$45,000. The ranch embraces 3500 acres of land in Morrow and Gilliam counties.

Oregon has been divided into 23 divisions with a community labor board given jurisdiction over each district to prepare for mobilization and distribution of labor, chiefly of the unskilled class, in war industries.

A new magazine for Sunday school workers in Oregon, to be known as the Oregon Sunday School Outlook, will be published in Portland under the auspices of the Oregon Sunday School Association, beginning in September.

An immense run of Chinook salmon in the Columbia river, which began several days ago and is still continuing, has made it probable that this season's pack will exceed that of last year. Canneries are all working at capacity.

Work has begun on the construction of a fill to replace much of the trestle work adjacent to the big Oregon Electric railroad bridge over the Santiam river between Dever and Talbot, where the railroad crosses from Linn into Marion county.

In the mountain district about 20 miles south of Camas valley, a double tragedy occurred when two men were caught by a falling tree. They were Melvin Murphy and Robert Benham. Murphy was killed outright, and Benham seriously injured.

Only one fatal accident, out of a total of 591 industrial casualties, was reported to the state accident commission for the week ending August 8. This was the case of John M. Person, who was accidentally killed in Portland while engaged in the shipyards.

Through intervention of Senator McNary a modification has been secured of the order of the railroad administration prohibiting reduced rates on shipments of exhibits to the state fair. All exhibits sent to the next state fair may be transported in one direction free.

Oregon's fourth liberty loan quota probably will be double that of the third loan, according to information conveyed in a letter to Governor Withycombe from James K. Lynch, of San Francisco, governor of the federal reserve bank there. The quota of the last campaign was \$18,495,000.

The Oregon Historical society estimates its expenses for the next two years at \$24,300 and the department of public instruction at \$41,068. In reports filed with the state tax commission. Receipts for the historical society are estimated at \$1500 and for the department of public instruction at \$20,000.

Shipyards of the state expended \$12,218,216.29 in salaries and wages during the first six months of 1918, for 2,266,727 working days or an average wage for all classes of \$1.41 per day, according to figures which have just been completed for State Labor Commissioner Hoff's biennial report.

Wherever practicable women will be used on state highway work in the future, according to State Highway Engineer Nunn. They will be assigned to positions of inspecting, checking rock and similar lines of employment. Orders have gone forth to engage as many women as possible and to release men for other service.

Governor Withycombe believes the state military police can be cut down to two-thirds its present size on the first of the year, and that by 1920, regardless of whether or not the war continues, it can be cut to half its present size. Accordingly he declared that no less than \$382,000 can be lopped off the \$655,000 which Major Delch has estimated will be necessary for the organization during the next biennium. This would leave \$274,000 for the use of the police.

At a conference with the capitalization committee of the war industries board, Representative Sinnott was informed that the agricultural experts have reported favorably on the Warm Springs irrigation project and that the outlook is good for favorable action on the bond issue, though no definite action can be taken now.

George F. Rodgers, shipbuilder of Astoria, and former mayor of Salem, wants to use convicts to build ships. In a letter received by the state board of control Rodgers states that he is satisfied that free labor would not object to convicts working in the yards, and he states he is willing to give full pay for their services.

The body of Walter S. Brockman, the largest owner of cattle in Walla Walla county, was found near a trail on the Snake river, where apparently he had fallen over the cliffs. Lying near him was his pack mule, also dead, and some of his horses were nearby. He was at work on the trail and is believed to have met his death accidentally.

The Industrial Accident commission will have an estimated deficiency of \$110,000 for the present biennium, according to a supplemental report filed with the state tax commission. Expenditures for the first six months against the state's share of expense make an expense of \$360,000 likely for the biennium, as against an appropriation of \$250,000.

Various timber owners and lumber operators asked Governor Withycombe to suspend the hunting season, which opened Thursday, that the danger from disastrous forest fires might be minimized. Lumbermen believed that the hunting season should be deferred until changed climatic conditions reduce the liability of forest fires. The governor, however, decided to allow the hunting season to open August 15 regardless of the protests.

The initiative and referendum pamphlet for the general election contains 14 pages, the smallest issued in the history of the Oregon system. Six measures are covered, including establishment of normal schools in eastern and southern Oregon, a home for defective and delinquent children, prohibiting commercial fishing in the Willamette and seine and set-net fishing in the Rogue river and repealing bills covering advertising delinquent tax lists and cost of legal publications.

In event the legislature listens to a recommendation of the Industrial Accident commission to make workmen's compensation compulsory, it will cost the state but \$286,974.16 to conduct that commission during the next biennium. On the other hand, if the recommendation is not abided by, the state's share of the accident fund for the two years will be \$1,200,000. These facts are brought out in the special report of the Accident commission just filed with the State Tax commission.

Henry L. Corbett, of Portland, submitted his resignation as chairman and member of the state council of defense to Governor Withycombe, to become effective immediately. William F. Woodward, of Portland, was named to succeed Mr. Corbett. Mr. Corbett said his selection in connection with the Military Training Camps' association made it necessary for him to resign. His new position will take him on inspection work through the camps of Oregon, California and Washington, and will consume much of his time.

More than 100 pounds of surplus honey per colony is the record of some Oregon Agricultural college bees in tests carried on this summer. The result is attributed almost entirely to winter care by A. L. Lovett, entomologist, who made the tests. Other colonies, similar in every way but wintered in the usual manner, made no such record. Plenty of stores, plenty of room and plenty of protection make up the formula. The successful colonies were wintered in a double hive, the upper part filled with stores, the whole protected from cold and moisture.

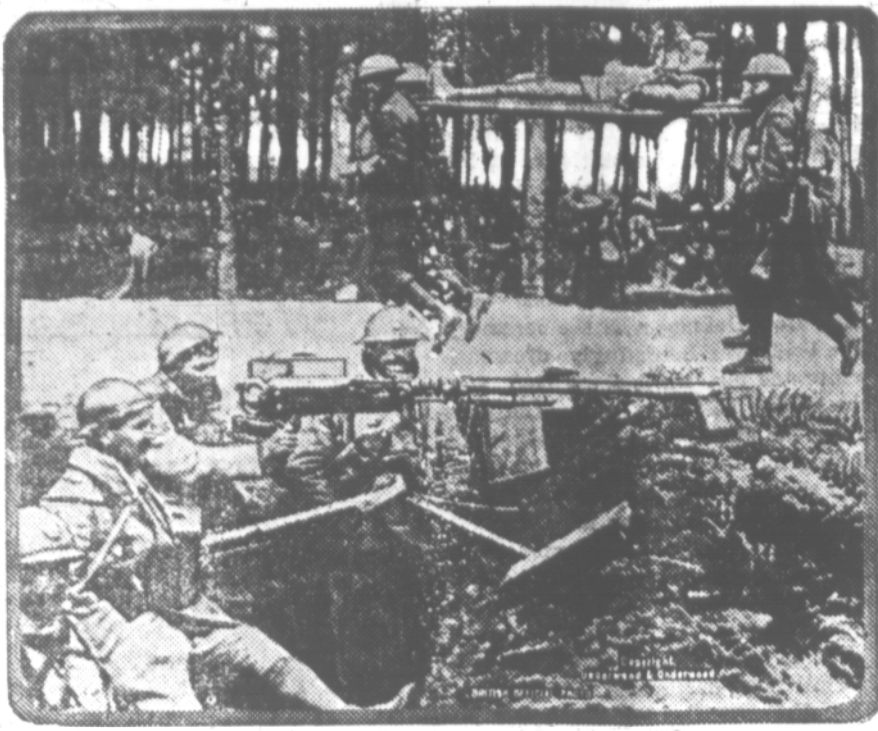
At least five state institutions will need further funds through the state emergency board before the end of the year, and the total necessary will be above \$100,000, probably in the neighborhood of \$112,000. This estimate is based on figures in recent reports from the institutions in the hands of Secretary Goodin, of the state board of control. The requirements to complete the present biennium will be about as follows: State hospital for the insane, \$63,000; state training school for boys, \$55,000; state tuberculosis sanitarium, \$7000; industrial school for girls, \$2000; penitentiary, \$35,000.

Fees of the state treasurer's office, including those on inheritances and on interest on deposits, are expected to increase over \$100,000 in the next two years, bringing their aggregate up to \$305,500, according to a statement filed by State Treasurer Kay with the tax commission. Expenses for the office for the two years are estimated at \$35,900. The Public Service commission, exclusive of the state grain inspection department, estimates its expenses at \$97,100, with fees of \$2000 from log boom companies. The state weather board asks \$30,080, minus fees of \$12,200, and the bureau of mines and geology \$50,000. The Florence Crittenton Home expects \$7500 from the state as part of receipts totaling \$10,500.

Many Interpretations Possible. "Too much silence," says Booth Tarkington, "is open to suspicion. It may be reticence, or it may be a vacuum. It may be dignity, or it may be false teeth."

Stomach Versus Soul. If you want to know the plain truth about it, the average man's stomach will exercise a great deal more influence upon his check-signing hand than his soul will.—Houston Post.

BRITISH WOUNDED PASS THROUGH FRENCH LINE



During the fiercest of the fighting in a battle in France British wounded on the way to hospitals were carried past the lines of the French. As he passes the trenches filled with machine gunners in action this wounded Tommy, interested, has raised his head to watch his French cousins help hold the Hun. Away at the rear in the woods cavalry horses can be seen corralled while their riders wait the command to advance.

MURDER OF NATION BY RUTHLESS HUNS

How the Poles Were Slain and Starved and Frozen During the German Drive.

F. C. Walcott Tells of the Scenes of Horror He Witnessed Along the Road from Warsaw to Pinsk—Million Persons Homeless.

"This I have seen. I could not believe it unless I had seen it through and through. For several weeks I lived with it; I went all about it and back of it; inside and out of it was shown to me—until finally I came to realize that the incredible was true. It is monstrous, it is unthinkable, but it exists. It is the Prussian system.—F. C. Walcott.

The following is a statement by F. C. Walcott, who served as an assistant to Mr. Hoover during the time America was doing all that was possible to feed the starving millions of Belgium and Poland and northern France. In this work he was brought in direct contact with German military officials, and saw the conditions which the German invasion had created among the civilian population:

I went to Poland to learn the facts concerning the remnant of a people that had been decimated by war. The country had been twice devastated. First the Russian army swept through it and then the Germans. Along the roadside from Warsaw to Pinsk, the present firing line, 230 miles, nearly half a million people had died of hunger and cold. The way was strewn with their bones picked clean by the crows. With their usual thrift, the Germans were collecting the larger bones to be milled into fertilizer, but finger and toe bones lay on the ground with the mud-covered and rain-soaked clothing.

Wicker baskets were scattered along the way—the basket in which the baby swings from the rattle in every peasant home. Every mile there were scores of them, each one telling a death. I started to count, but after a little I had to give it up, there were so many.

That is the desolation one saw along the great road from Warsaw to Pinsk, mile after mile, more than two hundred miles. They told me a million people were made homeless in six weeks of the German drive in August and September, 1916. They told me four hundred thousand died on the way. The rest, scarcely half alive, got through with the Russian army. Many of these have been sent to Siberia; it is these people whom the Padewski committee is trying to relieve.

In the refugee camps, 300,000 survivors of the flight were gathered by the Germans, members of broken families. They were lodged in jury-built barracks, scarcely water-proof, unlighted, unwarmed in the dead of winter. Their clothes, where the buttons were lost, were sewed on. There were no conveniences, they had not even been able to wash for weeks. Fifth and infection from vermin were spreading. They were furnished, they daily ration a cup of soup and a piece of bread as big as my fist.

In Warsaw, which had not been destroyed, a city of one million inhabitants, one of the most prosperous cities of Europe before the war, the streets were lined with people in the pangs of starvation. Famished and rain-soaked, they squatted there, with their elbows on their knees or leaning against the buildings, too feeble to lift a hand for a bit of money or morsel of bread if one offered it, perishing of hunger and cold. Charity did what it could. The rich gave all that they had, the poor shared their last crust. Hundreds of thousands were perishing. Day and night the pictures is before my eyes—a people starving, a nation dying.

The above statement by Mr. Walcott is a terrible arraignment of the Hun, but no more terrible than he deserves. What has happened in Poland, in Belgium, in northern France and every other country that has been blighted by the Hun's presence would happen in America should the allies, by any chance, fail to win this war. It would mean the enslavement of American men, the starving and death of American women and children. Either the Hun or humanity must perish.

POLES DRIVEN TO GERMANY TO WORK

Hun Commander's Brutal Order Issued to Conquered and Helpless People.

Every Able-Bodied Man Forced to Leave His Starving Family and Labor Under Shocking Conditions for the Oppressor.

"This I have seen. I could not believe it unless I had seen it through and through. For several weeks I lived with it; I went all about it and back of it; inside and out of it was shown to me—until finally I came to realize that the incredible was true. It is monstrous, it is unthinkable, but it exists. It is the Prussian system.—F. C. Walcott.

F. C. Walcott, a member of the United States food administration, and during the time America was feeding the civilian populations of Belgium, Serbia and northern France an assistant of Mr. Hoover in these invaded countries, has pictured in a graphic way the conditions he found among the people it was his duty to help. After describing the terrible conditions in Poland in 1916, the millions that were dying of starvation, the hundreds of thousands of defenseless people that had been ruthlessly cut down by the sword of the German conqueror, he says:

In that situation, the German commander issued a proclamation. Every able-bodied Pole was bidden to Germany to work. If any refused, let no other Pole get a bite to eat, not so much as a handful, under penalty of German military law.

This is the choice the German government gives to the conquered Pole, to the husband and father of a starving family. Leave your family or die or survive, the case may be. Leave your country which is destroyed, to work in Germany for its further destruction. If you are obstinate, we shall see that you surely starve.

Staying with his folk, he is doomed and they are not saved; the father and husband can do nothing for them, he only adds to their risk and suffering. Leaving them, he will be cut off from his family, they may never hear from him again nor be from them. German will set him to work that a German workman may be released to fight against his own land and people. He shall be lodged in barracks, behind barbed wire entanglements, under armed guard. He shall sleep on the bare ground with a single thin blanket. He shall be scantily fed and his earnings shall be taken from him to pay for his food.

That is the choice which the German government offers to a proud, sensitive, high-strung people. Death or slavery.

When a Pole gave me that proclamation, I was boiling. But I had to restrain myself. I was practically the only foreign civilian in the country and I wanted to get food to the people. That was what I was there for and I must not for any cause jeopardize the undertaking. I asked Governor General von Beseler, "Can this be true?"

"Really, I cannot say," he replied. "I have signed so many proclamations; ask General von Kries."

So I asked General von Kries, "General, this is a civilized people. Can this be true?"

"Yes," he said, "it is true—with an air of adding, Why not?"

I dared not trust myself to speak; I turned to go. "Wait," he said. "And he explained to me how Germany, official Germany, regards the state of subject peoples."

It is hard for us to imagine such a condition in America as Mr. Walcott has described as existing in Hun-riden Poland, and yet that is just what would exist should our boys, and the boys of our allies, now fighting in France fail to defeat the soldiers of this murder empire. This fair country of ours would be made into a German province; our people would be the slaves of the Junkers of Germany, subject to the beastly whims of the officers of the German army. In no war in which America has ever engaged have the stakes been so great as in this present conflict. Should we, by any chance, lose; should the Hun, by any chance, win; our liberties, our happiness, everything Americans hold dear, would be lost.

PLAY-GIRL OF WESTERN FRONT

Wonderful Part Played by Elsie Janis in Keeping Up Morale of Troops.

SINGS TO BOYS OVER THERE

Many a Company Has Marched to First Night in Trenches With More Gallant Swing Because Elsie Cheered Them on Way.

By ALEXANDER WOOLLCOTT. Paris.—The theater was no theater at all. It was just the great train shed which serves as the workshop and headquarters for a small army of American engineers who are lending the P. R. R. touch to the astonished landscape of France. Though retreat had sounded an hour or so before, it was packed to suffocation with Yanks, for all that day rakish posters, turned out in the company painter's best style, had intrigued the eye with the modest announcement:

ELSIE JANIS—AMERICA'S GREATEST ACTRESS—FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.

And at last, with warning foots from a distant whistle and a great wave of laughter as the order was passed along to clear the track, a locomotive trundled in out of the night, in its cab a pair of proud and grinning engineers, on its cowcatcher Elsie Janis. A moment later and the engine was near enough to the stage for her to clear the space at a single jump and there she was, with her black velvet tam pushed back on her tossing hair, with her eyes alight and her hands uplifted, her whole voice thrown into the question which is the beginning and the end of morale, which is the most important question in the army:

"Are we downhearted?"

The Thunderous Response.

You can only faintly imagine the thunderous "No" with which the train shed echoed. And it is the whole point of Elsie Janis—as well as the whole point of all the mummies now being booked to play for the A. E. F.—that whatever the spirit of the boys before her coming, they really meant that "No" with all there was in them, that any who might have been just a little downhearted before, felt better about it after seeing and hearing her. For, like the rare officer who can inspire his men to very prodigies of valor, so the flashing Elsie is compact of that priceless thing which, for lack of a less pedantic phrase, we must call positive magnetism. More than one company has marched off to its first night in the trenches with brighter eyes, squarer shoulders and a more gallant swing because, at the very threshold of safety, this lanky and lovely lady from Columbus, Ohio, waved and sang and cheered them on their way.

That is why, when the history of this great expedition comes to be written, there should be a chapter devoted to the play-girl of the western front, the star of the A. E. F., the forerunner of those players who are now being booked in the greatest circuit of them all, the Y. M. C. A. huts of France.

For her, and for her life, there is always room. And work aplenty to do. There are troops to be frod—as by martial music—on the edge of the advance.

Barn-Storming With Vengeance.

For Elsie it has been barn-storming with a vengeance, a tour of tank towns in more senses than one. It has meant traveling without a maid for once in a way, playing a whole season with a one-dress wardrobe, bivouacking in strange and uninviting hotels.

It has meant warbling as a cabaret singer among tables of some officers' mess or mounting a bench to sing through the windows of some contagion barracks where the isolated doughboys had been tearing their infected hair with disappointment because they had heard she was in the post and knew they could not get out to see her.

It has meant lingering for an extra performance at some hut because a whole new audience was coming through the starlit heavens from the aviation camp down the lines. In all her years on the stage she has known no such tumultuous, heart-warming welcomes as are her nightly portions in the biggest time a booking office can offer to a player in the year 1918.

The boys swarm up on the stage and slap her on the back and vow there never was such a girl since the world began. They cheer her until they are hoarse, and she is dizzy with pride.

WALTHER-WILLIAMS GARAGE

THE DALLES, OREGON.

TAKES DAUGHTER TO CAMP

Virginia Drafee, Sole Support of Child, Carries Her With Him to Cantonment.

Camp Lee, Va.—A. W. Carpenter, a Virginia drafee, arrived at the camp with his three-and-a-half-year-old daughter. He claimed he was the sole support of the child and had brought her to camp, asking to keep her with him. The answer at the base hospital will "adopt" child if the father gives his legal name.

In too many cases, a wife measures her husband by his faults.

Me on the Pool. Me on the Pool. Me on the Pool.

Dal on the Pool. Dal on the Pool. Dal on the Pool.

Few persons to appear as J. C. and A. V.

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