

### MUNITION PLANT BADLY DAMAGED

Explosion in Loading Room of  
Bethlehem Steel Plant  
Kills 1 Workman

### BLOCK OF CAR LINE SAVES MANY LIVES

Building in Flames but Fire Is  
Under Control at Noon; In-  
vestigation Started

WILMINGTON, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—An explosion in the loading room of the Bethlehem Steel company's munition plant set the plant afire this morning. The explosion was felt 15 miles away.

One workman was killed and five injured. Because the trolley cars are blocked, hundreds of workmen usually working at the time of the explosion hadn't arrived. The fire was extinguished at noon. An immediate investigation was begun.

### OREGON GOVERNOR FILES A COMPLAINT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—Following the receipt of Governor Withycombe's message late this afternoon, the war department announced that the absence of Northwest troops are short of blankets will be investigated.

### Grain Elevators Will Be Built at Camp Lewis

CAMP LEWIS, Dec. 12.—Two grain elevators will probably be under construction here before the end of this week.

### UNIVERSITY GIRLS TO MAKE WAR CANDY FOR SOLDIERS

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, Dec. 12.—Girls of the University of Oregon are preparing to sweeten the holiday season for enlisted men in the army. At assembly Wednesday morning it was announced that Miss Helen Delano, president of the Woman's League of the University, that following a letter received on the campus from Lieutenant Leslie O. Toole, at Camp Lewis, it had been decided to have the girls make 250 pounds of war candy to be sent to one of the companies at the camp.

This is the latest war activity of the girl students in the University. Already large numbers of them are occupying their leisure moments in knitting sweaters, scarfs and wristlets for men in the army and navy, and the girl without her needles and ball of gray or drab yarn is becoming the exception.

Weather Report—  
Yesterday's temperature ranged from 41 to 54 degrees. River fell to 2.5 feet. Rainfall was .12 inch.

### NEW CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE—Balm wood, cheap. Call 2F13 Bell. d12-14\*

FOR SALE—16 shoats weighing from 30 to 40 pounds. Call Bell phone 514-J; Home 7425. Hugh Isom. d12-18

FOR SALE—One young light team, wagon and harness with good position. Address X Y, care of Democrat. d12-18\*

WHY KICK?—Save 20 cents on the dollar. Oregon Cash Grocery. Best Butter, Saturday, 95c per roll. d12-14\*

### CHARLES F. COOPER FILES ANSWER TO DAMAGE SUIT

Alleges that Contract With Port-  
land Firm Kept Him From  
Making Contract

Charles F. Cooper, defendant in the case of Lee Miller against C. F. Cooper, has filed his answer to the complaint. Miller recently filed a complaint to recover \$250 alleged to have been paid as partial rent on a farm, and for \$1300 damages which he claims, to have lost as a result of not getting the farm.

Cooper states in his answer that both Miller and Roy Newport tried to rent a part of the place, and when Miller found that Newport was after the same place he became very anxious to get it and offered Cooper the use of a team in addition to the \$300 rental which he offered.

Cooper alleges that he had made a contract with the Portland Seed company to deliver them a quantity of potatoes and was to let Miller have the place if the seed company agreed to release him. Miller paid \$250 down on the place. Cooper states that he then made a trip to Portland, but the seed company refused to release him or to allow him to transfer the contract to another person.

Through his attorney, L. M. Carl, he returned the \$250 deposit to the court and asks that the case be dismissed and that he recover costs.

### NEW OAKLAND MODEL FOR 1918 ARRIVES

The new Oakland Six for 1918 has arrived and is on display in the show room of the Albany Garage. Messrs. G. T. Hockensmith and Lloyd Templeton, agents, state that they have had a most successful year with the Oakland, and leave it in their 1918 line with a feeling of confidence. During the past year they have sold 47 Oakland cars.

The 1918 Oakland is made in five-passenger touring, two-passenger roadster, convertible models and sedan and coupe. The motor is the 41-horsepower Oakland-Northway, six-cylinder, cast-iron, overhead valves with 2 1-3-16 inch bore and 4 3-4 inch stroke. The wheelbase is 112 inches, and the tires are 32 by four.

It is equipped with Marvel heated carburetor, Delco starting, lighting and ignition system, Exide batteries, Hotchkiss drive, Oakland-Stewart vacuum system gasoline tank in rear one man top, speedometer, dimmers and other modern conveniences.

### COMPLAINT IS FILED FOR RECOVERY OF MONEY

A complaint was filed in the circuit court today by J. L. Oxford against S. F. Reynolds et al, to collect \$800 and interest due on a note. The matter will be tried at the next term of court.

### LEBANON MAN IS IN DENTAL RESERVE CORPS

Dr. Roland B. Miller, a Lebanon dentist, has been appointed First Lieutenant in the dental reserve corps of the U. S. army. County Clerk R. M. Russell this morning received notice of his appointment and the records will be kept to give the county credit on a drafted man when the call comes.

### Foxglove Is Needed to Supply Digitalis

SEATTLE, Dec. 12.—Pick foxglove for your country. That's the appeal of federal authorities to the people of the Pacific Northwest. Foxglove, or digitalis, is valuable as a heart medicine and is found only in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. An organization is being completed to pick, dry and ship the leaves. Foxglove is much needed by army and navy services.

Do Your Christmas Shopping Early.

### CONGRESS BLAMED FOR WAR DELAYS

General Crozier Blames Con-  
gress and War Department  
Red Tape For Trouble.

### MUNITION BOARD IS ALSO GIVEN RAP

Aid From French and British  
Helped to Supply Americans  
With Ammunition.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—Major General Crozier, chief of the ordnance department, blamed congress for its snail like pace, and the war department red tape, and the labor situation, for America's delayed war preparations. Crozier was the first witness at the senate military affairs committee's investigation of the whole military situation.

The munitions board's constant hickering over prices also caused delay, Crozier asserted. The French and British aid while the war plans were delayed enabled American artillery to be supplied. He testified that a lack of funds at the beginning of the war greatly delayed preparations. He said the United States profited by the allies' experience regarding artillery and that Americans will use more high explosives than shrapnel.

### TO SPEAK IN ALBANY ON THURSDAY EVENING

Rev. Father Olson of Portland, head of the Dominican Order in Oregon, will speak in the Knights of Columbus hall Thursday evening, December 13th, at 8 p. m.

The subject of Father Olson's talk will be a trip to Rome, he recently having made a trip to Europe.

Father Olson is a very good speaker and will have an interesting way of telling what he saw on his trip. All are invited to hear him.

### FORESTERS ELECT OFFICERS, INITIATE AND HAVE FEED

Court Liberty No. 25, Foresters of America, held their first meeting in their new meeting place last evening and celebrated the occasion by electing new officers for the year, initiating a class of candidates and enjoying a feed.

The newly-elected officers are as follows: Wm. H. Davis, C. R.; W. S. Royce, S. C. R.; W. M. Parker, secretary; F. W. Horsky, recording secretary; Jas. H. Thompson, S. W.; Chas. Dannals, J. W.; O. W. Rous, S. B.; Andrew Smith, J. B.; Edgar Derry, lecturer; R. D. Snell, J. J. Horsky and F. J. Tracey, trustees; Fred Dawson, druggist, and Dr. F. E. Beauchamp, physician.

### DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE DUE IN ALBANY TOMORROW

Hon. H. G. Starkweather, former member of the Democratic State Central committee and now a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor, will arrive in Albany tomorrow and is expected to spend the greater part of the day in meeting local Democrats.

Mr. Starkweather was the first Democrat to announce his candidacy for the governorship and is now making a campaign of the state.

### CHINESE TROOPS TO PROTECT ALLIES

TEIN TSIN, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—Serious clashes between pro-German and allied supporters in Harbin are reported. Chinese troops were requested to protect allied citizens.



M. A. Miller

That Ex-State Senator M. A. Miller may seek the nomination for governor is indicated by the following item which appeared in this morning's Oregonian:

Milton A. Miller, "Sage of Lebanon," ex-State Senator and Collector of Internal Revenue at the present time, may possibly decide to seek the Democratic nomination for governor. Mr. Miller admits he has a good job now, but when pressed hard enough, frankly confesses that he would like to be addressed as Governor.

### CITY NEWS

#### Not Red Cross—

Dr. G. H. Young, chairman of the Linn County Red Cross, states that the Red Cross is not back of the claim letter which is being circulated in this city. The letter was sent to various persons with the request that it be sent to nine other people, who were to be likewise requested to pass it on to nine others. The thing got to be a nuisance, one young woman receiving as many as five of the letters. It was reported that the Red Cross was back of the letter, but this is denied.

#### Visiting Mother—

Mrs. Harry Bruner and little son of Portland are visiting Mrs. Bruner's mother, Mrs. Helen Bridges.

#### Order to Sell—

Upon the request of the administrator, Dr. B. R. Wallace, Judge McKnight has issued an order permitting him to sell personal property in the estate of Ira E. Shortridge. The stock and fixtures of the Pullman Cafe and a Hupmobile roadster will be sold to pay outstanding bill amounting to \$630 against the estate and administration expenses amounting to \$130. The deceased's portion of the property will go to Floyd Shortridge and his sister, who lives in North Dakota.

#### Administrator Appointed—

Henry Neal has been appointed administrator of the estate of Daniel Neal, who died Nov. 4. The estate is valued at \$5,000, and will be divided between six children.

#### Returned Home Today—

Mrs. S. S. Gilbert returned home this noon from a four-weeks' trip to Spokane. While there she attended the funeral of her mother, Mrs. Jane Hamilton. Mrs. Gilbert says the weather is awfully cold in Spokane, and she is glad to get back to Albany.

#### Likes Work Fine—

A letter has been received from Miss Lilla McCoy, who recently left for Washington, D. C., to accept a government position. She says the trip to Washington was fine. She has been assigned to the small arms division, 1829 I. St., in Lieut. Jackson's office. It is the mail and record division. She says she likes the work fine so far, and as soon as the work is really organized it will be much better. She saw Miss Dena Fromm one day, but they are in different buildings.

### JOSEPH PATTERSON IS HONORED GUEST

Joseph Patterson was the guest of honor at an informal luncheon tendered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Cusick at noon today.

Mr. Patterson has served for two years with the American ambulance corps in France, and has made a splendid record. He left for Portland on the 3:05 train with Senator Cusick.

### GERMANS SWITCH TROOPS TO WEST

Prepare For World's Greatest  
Offensive on Western Front  
During December.

### BIG DRIVE IS EXPECTED TO START VERY SOON

German Pressure on Italian  
Front Looses Force; Many  
Troops Sent to West.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Germans are continuing feverish preparations for their great Western front attack. German airplanes and raiders are unusually active.

General Haig reported the repulse of local attacks north of Lavaquerie. The British successfully raided German trenches near Pontret, northwest of St. Quentin. Prisoners and machineguns were captured.

A perceptible lessening of Teutonic pressure on the Italian front is reported, confirming the belief that the Teutons switched troops from the Italian to the western front.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Director of Operations Maurice declared that the British Cambrai position is enormously in the British favor as to comfort and safety, although the enemy neutralized the success of the first British assault.

### By William Phillip Simms, United Press Staff Correspondent

#### BRITISH HEADQUARTERS

France, Dec. 12.—Long lines of transports carrying reinforcements were seen behind the German lines on the northern British flank in the Cambrai sector. Great flocks of German planes are endeavoring unsuccessfully to prevent British aviators from learning this. This morning the Germans opened the most violent artillery fire on the British flank. Their airplanes concentration are the greatest the Germans have yet disclosed.

PARIS, Dec. 12.—Unusual German activity in the Verdun sector is officially reported. Enemy artillery is active on both banks of the Meuse. The Germans attempted raids but were repulsed.

### HALIFAX DEAD NOW TOTAL FIFTEEN HUNDRED

HALIFAX, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—The munitions ship explosion here killed 1300, according to final official estimates based on the recovery of bodies. A thorough checking at all identification stations and an investigation of the cause of the disaster will start today.

#### Britain Helps Halifax

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The British government sent a million pounds to Halifax for relief work and rebuilding the city.

### ENGLAND POSTPONES WAR AIM STATEMENT

By Ed. L. Keen, United Press Staff  
Correspondent

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Lloyd-George postponed his war aims speech, scheduled for today. Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law told the house of commons that the premier will make his war aims statement before Parliament's Christmas adjournment.

### DAVID MASON NOW OLDEST PAST MASTER

The death of W. T. Wright, former past grand master of the Masonic lodge of Oregon, gives to David P. Mason of this city the distinction of being the oldest past grand master of the lodge in the state.

### EAST ALBANY AUXILIARY TO ORGANIZE TOMORROW

Red Cross to Have an Active  
Branch in East End; Many  
Give Fixtures

The East Albany Auxiliary of the Linn County Chapter of the American Red Cross will be organized Thursday afternoon at a meeting which will be held in the parsonage of the Grace Presbyterian church at 2:30 o'clock. All members of the Red Cross living in that section of the city, as well as those who wish to become members of the new auxiliary are urged to attend the meeting.

The parsonage has been donated for the work of the Red Cross. The stove was given by Mr. and Mrs. James McCourt; an ironing board, electric iron and chairs were furnished by Mrs. W. C. Mitchell; a sewing machine and chairs were turned in by Mrs. D. M. Waters, and the following other articles were given by the following persons:

Mrs. C. B. Davis, chairs; Mrs. V. S. Hackleman, table; Mrs. D. D. Hackleman, table and cupboard; Mrs. E. S. Hart, chairs; Fisher-Braden Co., sewing machine; Albany Furniture Co., two tables; Veal Chair Factory, 12 chairs; G. A. Flood, oil cloth; Hammond Lumber Co., wood; Froman & Barton, damper; Oregon Power Co., lights.

It is expected that with the work close to the home of those living in the eastern part of the city, that the new auxiliary will become one of the most active in the county. It will also make room for more women living in the West End of the city to work at the county headquarters.

### LINN COUNTY'S SHARE OF STATE TAX IS \$90,385

A letter from the state tax commission this morning informed the officers of the county that Linn county's state tax next year would be \$90,385.90. This is close to the estimate made by the county court in fixing the budget for 1917 taxes.

### R. A. M. GIVES \$200 TO MASONIC HOME FUND

At the meeting of Bayley Chapter No. 8, Royal Arch Masons last evening, \$200 was pledged to the Masonic and Eastern Star Home fund, to be paid upon call.

The chapter also elected the following officers: High priest, John R. Penland; king, Chas. H. Cusick; scribe, Bushong; C. of H., Weaver; treasurer, H. N. Bouley; secretary, Ed Washburn, trustee, W. R. Bilyeu. The appointive officers will be named later.

### 60,000 POUNDS OF BEANS SHIPPED YESTERDAY

The Murphy Seed store yesterday shipped a carload of beans, weighing 60,000 pounds and worth over \$6,000, to Albion, New York. The same company has shipped several cars previously this year and has brought a large amount of money into Linn county.

At first it was thought that the government would fix the price on beans, but this was abandoned, leaving the market to regulate itself. A few beans have been commandeered where immense storages have been made. It is said that the government has purchased a quantity of beans from Manchuria.

In Michigan the farmers are holding their crop for 12 1-2 cents a pound, and the Michigan bean is inferior to the Oregon product. A large amount of beans was killed in Michigan by late rains and the crop falling to ripen. Snow fell on many unripe beans. California had a big crop and fine beans this year, as that state is ideally suited to the growing of beans.

#### Eleven Recruits Today—

Up to 1:30 this afternoon 11 recruits had enrolled with Postmaster Stewart for service in the army and navy. Only three more days to enlist.

### RED CROSS DRIVE IS GAINING FORCE

More Captains Are Named and  
Plans Being Perfected for  
Big Smash

### ALBANY CAPTAINS WILL LUNCH AT ELKS CLUB

Rallies Will Be Held Through-  
out County This Week and  
Next to Stir Interest

Under the management of County Chairman C. H. Burggraf, of the Red Cross drive committee, plans are fast being worked out for a rousing campaign to raise this county's portion of the 240,000 new members which are allotted.

A series of meetings will be held this week and next to stimulate interest in the Red Cross, and an extensive advertising campaign will be carried on in every city and in the country. Friday night a meeting will be held at East Knox Butte school house at which the speakers will be Senator E. D. Cusick, Wm. V. Merrill and C. H. Burggraf.

Saturday night a meeting will be held at Harrisburg.

Tuesday evening a big rally will be held in the armory in this city. Judge Henry McGinn, of Portland, will make the principal address, and other talks will be made by local people.

The same evening Dr. G. H. Young will be a speaker at Lebanon, and local people will also be on the program. Wednesday night a speaker will be secured for Brownsville to help out the local speaker.

The committee in charge of the drive met this morning and named the following to act as precinct captains for the places not named last week, and the captains for the city were also named.

The captains of the Albany precincts, with surrounding precincts will meet at a luncheon in the Elks club Thursday noon to discuss plans for the drive and to organize for the most effective work.

The new captains named and their territory follow:

Rock Hill, Mrs. Rose Blackburn; Sand Ridge, Perry Parker; Price, C. M. Kendall; Sunrise, Roy Dowd, Mrs. Trapp, Mrs. D. G. Hodgkins; East Calapooia, Elm to Calapooia to 15th, A. C. Miller; Albany No. 1, Elm to Maple, J. V. Pipe; Albany No. 2, Maple to Washington, L. G. Leveling; Mrs. Neely; Albany No. 3, Washington to Ferry, Jack Hodges; Albany No. 4, Ferry to Lyon; Francis Arnold; Albany No. 5, Lyon to Railroad, L. L. Swan; Albany No. 6, Railroad to Thurston, Ed Cummings; Albany No. 7, Thurston to Main, Ed Humphrey; Albany No. 8, East of Main, Rev. A. M. Williams; Albany No. 9, river to Henry Lyons.

### RUSSIAN REBELS AND GOVT. TROOPS FIGHTING

LONDON, Dec. 12.—Greatly delayed dispatches reported that Bolshevik and Cossack rebels fought around Tamenovka. Korniloff commanded the Cossacks, who are well supplied with arms, machineguns and ammunition. The result of the battle and details are lacking.

### U. S. PATROL BOAT SUNK IN COLLISION

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 12.—(U. P.)—It is learned that a United States patrol vessel was sunk in collision with two other vessels of the Atlantic coast. A meagre report said that all patrol boat's crew, and much of the equipment was taken aboard other vessels. Details are lacking.