

# THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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SPRINGFIELD, LANE COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1918

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## UNCLE SAM TAKES OVER TELEGRAPH AND PHONE LINES

Will Retain Present Operating Forces Under Supervision of Committee.

### CO-ORDINATION IS POLICY

Companies' Obligations in Bonds and Debentures Subject to Order of Postmaster-General

Washington, Aug. 1.—Control of telephone and telegraph lines was taken over at midnight by the Postoffice Department and their operation was placed under the general supervision of a special committee created for the purpose by Postmaster-General Burleson.

Mr. Burleson announced last night that until further notice the companies will continue operation in the ordinary course through the regular channels and that all officers and employees will continue in the performance of their present duties on the same terms of employment.

The plan is, however, to co-ordinate the facilities of the various companies to the best interests of the public and the stockholders.

Investigation into wire conditions being conducted by the special committee composed of First Assistant Postmaster-General Koons, David J. Lewis, former members of the tariff commission, and William H. Lamar, solicitor of the Postoffice Department, will be continued so that all possible information can be secured before any changes are undertaken.

"Pursuant to the proclamation of the President of the United States," said Mr. Burleson's statement, "I have assumed possession, control and supervision of the telegraph and telephone systems of the United States.

"Until further notice the telegraph and telephone companies will continue operation in the ordinary course of business through regular channels.

"Regular dividends heretofore declared and maturing interest on bonds, debentures and other obligations may be paid in due course and the companies may renew or extend their maturing obligations unless otherwise ordered by the Postmaster-General.

### 12 MORE MEN ARE CALLED

Mechanics Are Wanted for Certain Branches.

The clerk of the Lane county draft board received a call for twelve men to proceed to the Benson Polytechnic Institute in Portland for training in various mechanical trades used in the army, last Tuesday.

These men must have had at least a grammar school education and must have some aptitude for mechanical work. They are to leave Eugene for the school August 15.

They are to train for the following trades: Auto mechanics, blacksmithing, carpentering, electrical work, machine work, plumbing and sheet metal work.

Men of the class of 1918 may volunteer for this service, but none are to be drafted from this class. However, if not enough volunteer men of the class of 1917, may be drafted.

### New Registration Probable

Washington, July 29.—August draft calls, which are expected to reach 300,000, from the provost marshal-general's reports, indicate that class one in the draft will be completely exhausted by August 1. This means that congress will have to get quick action on the new man power bill when it reconvenes August 19, and that a new registration and classification of America's manhood just coming August 21 will be held before October.

### Court Decides Against Seavey.

On account of allowing a fence to remain down for a period of eighteen months, John H. Seavey had forfeited

his right to thirty acres of land east of Springfield, on the coast fork of the Willamette river, according to a decision handed down in the Lane county Circuit Court. The court holds that the land reverts back to the heirs of Andrew Keeney. The land was acquired by the Seavey family in 1914. The title held by Seavey was faulty and he retained the land under the rule of possession. The court holds the fact that the fence was allowed to be down for so long that it broke the continuation of Seavey's possession. Seavey claims that he was using the land continually during the time the fence was down for grazing land. The land involved in the litigation adjoins a 2000-acre tract owned by Seavey.

### Older Men for U. S. Army.

The bureau of navigation of the navy department today issued rulings raising the age limit for enlisted men from 35 to 40 years and giving permission to all navy recruiting stations to accept enlistments in unlimited number. The two rulings are designed to insure a continuance of the present rate of enlistments following the order issued yesterday by Provost Marshal-General Crowder instructing draft boards not to release men in class one for enlistment in the navy or marine corps.

## ASTORIA COMING INTO HER OWN

Dream of Years as Wheat Terminal Being Realized at Last.

Coincident with announcing today that a grain inspection bureau would be established at Astoria, Frank J. Miller, chairman of the public service commission, said Astoria's port officials had assurance that fully 2,500,000 bushels of grain would be received this season, and predicted it would mark the beginning of the diversion of grain shipments from Puget Sound ports down the Columbia river.

"With the view of diverting grain shipments from Puget Sound ports down the Columbia river, Astoria has just completed an elevator with a capacity of 1,000,000 bushels and has wharfing facilities for 500,000 bushels in sacks," said Commissioner Miller.

"The port officials inform me that they have received assurances from grain dealers that easily 2,500,000 bushels of grain will be received in the port from the grain country adjacent to the Columbia river this season, and in my opinion it marks the beginning of the shipment of grain down the Columbia instead of over the mountains to Puget Sound ports. Heretofore the port of Astoria has had practically no facilities for handling grain shipments.

"The new elevator will be opened August 15, and by then the grain inspection bureau which the commission will furnish the port will have been established and ready for business. The bureau will be put in charge of an experienced grain man as chief deputy, and he will obtain the necessary expert grain samplers and graders. The grain inspection department of the commission is operated on a fee basis, and I am satisfied the fees of the Astoria bureau will be sufficient to defray its expenses. If there is any deficit at the end of the season, Astoria will reimburse the commission, its officials having offered to do that."

Commissioner Miller also said that the commission is now assembling engineering data in connection with its investigation of the grain rates of the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company down the Columbia River to Portland, and that it would make a thorough probe of them from all angles. The investigation of the company's rates was instituted on the theory that they are discriminatory and excessive when compared with the rates on grain over the mountains to Puget Sound ports.

"Generally it has been the practice to figure the cost of transportation per ton per mile, but the commission believes more accurate cost figures can be obtained by figuring the cost per ton per foot, and will proceed on this basis, although it will not entirely ignore the cost per ton per mile theory," said Commissioner Miller.

## YANKEE BRAINS AND BULLETS WIPE OUT PRUSSIAN GUARDS

### Pick and Flower of German Soldiery Sent Against American Troops Go Down to Death in Fierce Duel.

Yesterday was a day of hard in-and-out fighting on the American front, telegraphs Reuter's correspondent on the front north of the Marne. He says that the final capture of Seringes by the Americans was an especially creditable achievement.

### Face German's Best.

The change from rear guard warfare, where the Germans' machine gun nests had the attackers at a disadvantage, to a warfare of attack and counter-attacks, has given the Americans a new opening to inflict heavy losses on the crack German troops. Part of one American division met the 4th imperial Prussian guards north of the Ourcq in the vicinity of Sergy. There had been the bitterest sort of fighting of brave men against brave men. The American soldiers who charged these Prussians manning machine guns tell me they had to shoot at the guns to make them stop fighting.

Seven Germans that were captured were members of the 5th foot guards regiment, a part of the 4th Prussian guard division. They said the day before their company, 150 strong, was thrown into the fight. They refused to retreat and the Americans refused to retreat. The seven said they were all that was left of the company of 150. They were captured in a hand-to-hand fight after their ammunition was exhausted.

The 5th guard grenadiers regiment and the 93d reserve regiment, also a part of the 4th Prussian guard division, suffered heavily likewise.

This is the foremost of all German divisions. Its mission, this time, according to orders taken from German bodies, was to drive the Americans back into the Ourcq. They failed for the first time during the war.

The Americans are game fighters and therefore somehow or other have admiration for these Prussians who fought so hard. Totally different from many Germans against whom our troops have been thrown in this drive, they did not surrender when the Americans got close, but fought to the death.

In the whole two days' fighting of this division we took only 11 prisoners. That tells the bitter story. Instead of firing their machine guns until the Americans were close and then fleeing, these Germans charged with the rifle and bayonet. That kind of fighting our men like and the result was a bloody slaughter.

### Germans Resort to Treachery.

It so happened that two of the companies which helped to meet the Prussians are composed largely of German-American fighters. They showed no sign of love or respect for the fatherland or its best military representatives.

The fight yesterday was violent, with the Germans hurling counter-attacks and the Americans doing likewise. Often the two attacking parties met half way and had it out at close range.

The Germans made use of all their weapons, including treachery, for we have proofs that they carried guns made up like stretchers which enabled the gunners, each bearing a red cross on his arm, to get close to the Americans. The Germans used much artillery fire and gas and bombed our lines nearly all day and during Boche aviators strafed us with machine guns at close range.

### How the Foe Was Trapped.

After the Americans took Seringes, Monday, the Germans kept up a constant artillery and machine gun fire to drive them out. This continued all day on Tuesday and towards evening the enemy began to emerge from the Nesles forest in a way that seemed to forecast a fresh attempt to take the village. Of the fighting which ensued the correspondent writes:

"The Americans, after three days of hand-to-hand fighting through villages,

had learned subtlety and were determined to have a real fight to a finish. They consequently withdrew as if retreating from Seringes and the Germans crossed down from the high ground convinced they had their opponents beaten. Additional German troops came pouring in until the town was occupied as it never had been before.

"But as they began to organize their defense, they found that bullets appeared to be coming in from three sides of the village and it was not long before they discovered that the Americans, while withdrawing from the front of the town, had commenced an encircling movement on both sides, thus forming a ring almost completely around it.

"Then came tragic fighting. The Prussian guard had voted not to surrender and their opponents were just as anxious to see the thing through. It was an affair of small arms, but the Americans proved to be better shots and slowly picked off men here and there.

"Then the Americans began to advance and slowly their encircling ring closed about the village. As the ring drew closer and the defenders saw their doom approaching they redoubled their fire, but still the Americans came on unflinching like the unavoidable stroke of fate.

"When the Americans reached the precinct of the village their fire ceased and with one wild yell, they closed with the foe. The fierce uproar suddenly gave place to a strange silence as man grappled with man. Only the clash of steel on steel and the groans of the stricken could be heard.

"The End of the Prussian Guard. The issue was never in doubt for an instant. At this kind of fighting the American is more than equal to any Prussian guardsman, and in a little more than 10 minutes all was over. Except for a few German prisoners, every German in the village had breathed his last. Such was the final capture of Seringes.

"During the night the enemy twice attempted to retake Sergy but each time he was repulsed with heavy losses. Then he made a fierce assault on Meurcy farm, east of Seringes, which was piled with the dead which he had left there the day before. Every man defending it died at his post. There again the enemy was unsuccessful, though not until steel had crossed steel in the big farmyard and the heaps of German slain had been daubed in the ruins about it.

"This was classic fighting indeed—man against man and the better to win. There was no call for quarter. The pride of the professional soldier was up against the pride of the free man, both preferring death to surrender."

### L. of G. A. R. Give Quilt.

The Ladies of the G. A. R. Iuka Circle held the quilt drawing Saturday evening in the park and had an enjoyable time. A patriotic speech was given by Councilman M. C. Bressler. The first lucky ticket numbered 372 for the worsted quilt was drawn by Newt Livingston of Douglas Gardens and the second number, 172, by Chief Donaldson of this city. The net amount received for selling the chances amounted to \$63. The ladies of the circle are very patriotic and enthusiastic and have worked diligently for the year's work. They have raised by different entertainments and socials the sum of \$102.35 for the Red Cross funds. The Iuka Circle comprises twenty-one members, nine of which are not residents. This makes a creditable showing for twenty-one busy members.

### Family Reunion Is Held.

The fifth annual reunion of the descendants of Eben Blachly and Alexander Seavey was held at the old Seavey

donation claim, on the McKenzie river, a few miles from Springfield, yesterday. There were about fifty people who gathered who are the descendants of the old pioneers. The Seavey, now own approximately 2,000 acres of land near the old homestead. A basket dinner was served and a program was given by the younger members of the family, including patriotic songs and recitations. The members of the Seavey family present were Jess Seavey, Corvallis; William Seavey, Donna; John Seavey, Springfield; James Seavey, of the old homestead; Tom Seavey of the McKenzie river district, and Mrs. D. Wasson of Coburg. Another sister, Mrs. Edwin Bushnell, was not present. Miss Nellie Blachly of Spokane was the only Blachly in attendance. The remainder of the people were other relatives not in the immediate family.

### Arrives Over There.

(1) Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Coffin received word last Monday that their son Ralph, who is a member of the 91st division, had arrived safely overseas.

(2) Miss Hazel Dean has received word that her brother, Orville Dean, has arrived safely over there. He is the son of George Dean, who is at present located near Walla Walla, Wash.

## STATE EDITORS TO GO TO MARSHFIELD

### Annual Convention to Be Held at Coos Bay City August 9, 10 and 11.

The Oregon State Editorial convention will convene at Marshfield on August 9th for a three-days' session. Much interest upon the part of the state editors is being evinced, though on account of labor shortage in the newspaper plants, the regular attendance is expected to show a slight decrease.

Following are some of the topics of the program:

- "What the Newspapers Are Doing to Win the War."
- "The Paper Situation in Its Application to the Pacific Northwest."
- "At What Point Does the Newspaper cease to be a Private Enterprise and Become a Public Utility?"
- "Developing Foreign Advertising."
- "What Is Your Space Worth to Your Advertiser?"
- "How I Keep My Circulation 100% in My Territory."
- "Elimination of the Waste Involved in Free Publicity Through the Mails."

Entertainment features are being prepared by Marshfield citizens.

### Nine Lane Men Off for Army.

Nine Lane county men entrained Monday for Vancouver barracks at 10:45 o'clock, where they will enter the spruce production branch of the army. Five of the men were volunteers. They are: Leroy C. Kirby, Noti; Charles E. Harper, Noti; William L. Lyons, Walton; Gilbert Cook, Swishome; Frederick Clayton Tourcotte, Junction City. They will enter the general service of the spruce production branch of the army. The four men who were taken for limited service were: Ray Eli McPherson, Wendling; Harry Walker Howard, Wendling; Faustine Taverini, Wendling, and Glen Bowen, Dexter.

### Red Cross Benefit.

A Red Cross social will be held at the Camp Creek school house Saturday, August 3, at 8 o'clock. A good program will be given and refreshments served. An admission of 5 and 10 cents will be charged. Everybody welcome.

### Sour Stomach

This is a mild form of indigestion. It is usually brought on by eating too rapidly or too much, or of food not suited to your digestive organs. If you will eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly, eat but little meat and none at all for supper you will more than likely avoid the sour stomach without taking any medicine whatever. When you have sour stomach take one of Chamberlain's Tablets to aid digestion. adv.

### Every Little Bit Helps.

Do your "best," forget the "bit."

## ALLIES REST FOR TIME ON LATELY WON LAURELS

### American and French Forces Hold Firmly All Points in Latest Gains.

### ARTILLERY ONLY IS ACTIVE

### Further Slight Gains by Allied Forces Reported in Dispatches as News Goes to Press.

Whether, as a result of weariness after two weeks of incessant fighting or because of the greatly increased strength in man power and positions of the enemy forces, the allied armies on the Soissons-Rheims front have noticeably decreased their efforts to clear the salient.

If the pause in the offensive is attributable to weariness, the armies of the German Crown Prince also must be worn out, for, despite reinforcements, they have lacked the hardness to throw back their antagonists.

Tuesday night witnessed violent attempts by the Germans to expel the Americans and French from the valuable positions they hold north of the Ourcq in the region of Fere-en-Tardenois, and along the western side of the salient near Oulchy-le-Chateau, where Scottish troops are holding with the French the wedge that has been driven eastward into the enemy line. These efforts were entirely fruitless.

The latest Berlin communication asserts that more than 4,000 prisoners have been taken by the Germans in the past few days and that since July 15 in excess of 24,000 allied troops have been captured.

Whether the Germans have chosen the spot where ultimately they will face about and give battle to the allied forces is not apparent. Great fires behind the lines possibly might indicate the destruction of further villages which it is intended to evacuate and press on northward to a chosen battle line.

As the News goes to press, late dispatches indicate that after a rest of a few hours, American and French troops are again pressing forward at a few points in the Rheims-Soissons salient.

## 25 DRAFTED MEN DESERT EN ROUTE

### Leave Train in California and Southern Oregon at Different Points.

Telegrams have been sent by the receiving officers to the police of several California cities and the adjutant-general of that State notifying that twenty-five men from Ukiah City, Mendocino county, deserted while on the troop train for Camp Lewis which arrived yesterday.

The leader appointed by the local board to deliver the papers for the county's quota of selects and whose name is not known by the officers here was among those who quit the train. The men did not leave all at one place, according to the other selects of the county, but dropped off in different towns in California and Southern Oregon.

The most glaring error made by the local boards in sending men here who are unfit was discovered today when a select from an Oregon county, with one leg six inches shorter than the other and afflicted with a congenital hip disease, was examined in the mustering offices and discharged. Others who have been discharged because of easily apparent physical deficiencies state that examiners sent them here because it was a nice trip and maybe they would be taken.