

OREGON NEWS NOTES OF GENERAL INTEREST

Principal Events of the Week Briefly Sketched for Infor- mation of Our Readers.

A total of 15,000 sheep will be sheared in central Oregon this year, it is estimated.

Members of pig clubs throughout Coos county attended a convention at Catching Inlet.

One thousand acres of alfalfa will be added to the crops of Union county this year as a result of farm bureau demonstrations in that county.

Rapid development in the cranberry industry is taking place in Clatsop county and a considerable quantity of new acreage is being set out this year.

Dr. C. J. Smith of Portland and Charles A. Brand of Roseburg, were appointed members of the state board of higher curricula by Governor O'cott.

Considerable grading work is already under way on the section of the Pacific highway between Albany and Jefferson, which will be paved this summer.

John Walden, deputy warden of La Grande, reports to State Game Warden Shoemaker that deer and pheasants are on the increase in Union and Wallowa counties.

Fees received by the state motor vehicle registration department for April total \$6099 more than for April, 1918. The total received for last month was \$43,222, as against \$37,319 for April, 1918.

Labor conditions everywhere on the Pacific coast except at Los Angeles have improved in the last week, according to the report of the department of labor. Portland's unemployment dropped from 2400 to 1200.

Construction of the 18-mile paving project near Brooks, on the Pacific highway, has been started. The work will cost approximately \$400,000, of which the state and government will each pay half. This is a post road.

L. O. Herrold, who was awarded the contract by the state highway commission for the clearing and grading of the 11 miles of highway between Scappoose and Deer Island, has assembled a crew and is making good progress on the contract.

C. V. Johnson, former mayor of Corvallis, is to be at the head of the new state real estate department, according to announcement made by Harvey Wells, insurance commissioner. The new real estate law becomes effective on May 29.

A consignment Shorthorn sale and show which, as an initial effort in eastern Oregon, brought higher average prices than the first Shorthorn sale in Portland, was conducted at La Grande by the Pacific Northwest Shorthorn Breeders' association.

Jay Stevens, former fire marshal for Portland, now with the fire prevention bureau of the Pacific coast, with headquarters at San Francisco, is to be in Oregon in a short time to conduct an educational campaign for fire prevention.

Establishing a new record at its own plant, and making what is claimed to be the best time ever achieved in the construction of steel hulls in the United States, the Northwest Steel company of Portland launched the West Chatala 37 1/2 days after the ship's keel had been laid.

Grading work costing approximately \$500,000 will be started in Grant and Wheeler counties this summer, according to announcement by the state highway commission. Contracts for this extensive work will be awarded when the commission meets in Portland on May 10.

A review is to be made of all oil indications in Oregon, according to a letter from George Otis Smith, director of the United States geological survey, to Senator McNary. This investigation is to be made in cooperation with the Oregon state bureau of mines and geology.

Theodore Roosevelt Jr. will be unable to attend the state meeting of the Spanish war veterans in Salem during June. He has so notified Harvey Wells, state commander. It was first believed Roosevelt would visit Oregon, but a sudden change of plans eliminates this state from his summer itinerary.

Twenty-nine vessels loaded at the mills on the lower Columbia river district during April and their combined cargoes amounted to 20,283,793 feet of lumber. In the same period five vessels loaded 1,575,000 feet at the

up-river mills, making a grand total of 22,158,793 feet of lumber that left the Columbia river in cargoes during April.

Nine wooden steamers launched during April in the Oregon district represented a total of 35,000 tons, dead weight. For the first four months of the year there have been 75,000 tons of wooden vessels floated. The tonnage of the entire fleet launched since February 17, 1918, when the first government carrier left the ways, is 268,500 tons.

Assignment of the historic battleship Oregon to the Oregon naval militia as a training ship in Portland harbor will be strongly urged by Mayor Baker upon Acting Secretary Roosevelt of the navy. Mayor Baker sent a telegram asking the conditions under which the navy department would place the famous battleship in Portland harbor.

Whether the coyote menace in Umatilla county is decreasing or not, the bounty fund for the extermination of the animals has suffered because of the work of hunters during the past month. The records of the county clerk show that \$739 was paid in bounties. Payments were made to 45 trappers. The largest catch turned in was 25 skins.

A number of sheep sales have been closed at Condon during the past week and at prices that were highly satisfactory. Mixed coarse yearlings have brought \$8.50; fine wool wethers, \$6.50; 6-year-old ewes, \$8, and March lambs, \$4. These prices are only about 20 per cent less than the record prices paid for similar stock at this time last year.

Places for laborers far outnumber the men applying for them in the Eugene section, according to Frank L. Armitage, superintendent of the federal labor bureau in Eugene. There are 75 positions open at the present time and the employers are having difficulty in obtaining enough men to carry on their enterprises. The greatest demand comes from the lumbering and logging camps and the farms.

Johannes Meier Barseth, a native of Norway, was forever barred from becoming an American citizen by an order signed at Astoria by Circuit Judge Eakin upon the recommendation of V. W. Tomlinson, federal naturalization examiner for this district. According to the records, Barseth, who had been a Columbia river fisherman had claimed exemption from the draft on the grounds of being an alien.

Calling on Portland housewives to roll up their sleeves and don their kitchen aprons rather than pay the increased cost of bakers' bread, and declaring the 1-cent raise decreed by the wholesale bakers as "arbitrary and unwarranted," the Portland Grocers and Merchants' association adopted resolutions amounting to an appeal for a citywide boycott on the "staff of life" as manufactured by the city's bakeries.

A \$10,000 fund which the recent legislature appropriated for the Oregon naval militia can be used toward defraying the general expenses of keeping the battleship Oregon in Oregon waters if the navy department will consent to loan the vessel to the state for an indefinite period. This offer was made by Governor O'cott in a telegram which he sent to Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy.

That Mrs. Ole Streed of Portland, who so mysteriously disappeared from Arlington, April 11, drowned herself and her two little daughters, age 3 and 5 years, in the Columbia river, now seems established. The body of the youngest child, Vivian, was found in the river about three miles below Arlington and the body of the other child, Virginia, was found near Blacklock. The mother's body has also been recovered.

Sororities and fraternities at the University of Oregon must pay a 50 per cent penalty because they have not paid their war revenue tax, assessed against all social organizations, says Dr. George Hewitt of the internal revenue collector's office, Portland. From November 1, 1917, to April 1, 1918, all persons initiated into a fraternity or sorority are supposed to have paid to the government 10 per cent of their initiation dues and monthly dues not later than one month after initiation.

General revision of telephone exchange rates, which means all local telephone rates, was denied by an order issued by the public service commission in the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company case, which was the biggest telephone rate case ever heard by the commission. Increases in rates, however, were allowed by the

commission for all business telephones operated by this company in the state, and increases were allowed in rates for residence telephones at Albany, Corvallis, Oregon City and Grants Pass.

Herbert Nunn, state highway engineer, accompanied by Assistant Engineers Bishop and McLeod, County Engineer Libby and County Commissioner Harlow, have left Eugene to select a route for the Central Oregon highway between Eugene and a coast section. This highway was decided upon last year as a project to be built jointly by the state, county and forestry department. A survey was made last year over the summit of the coast mountains by way of fertile Lake Creek valley, but it is said that the engineers were not satisfied with a portion of the route and another one will be selected. The new road will open the Lake Creek valley to outside traffic. On account of poor roads development has been greatly retarded. The highway will end at Florence at the mouth of the Siuslaw.

Recognition of Reds Not Planned.
Washington.—Lord Reading, the British ambassador, authorized the statement that suggestions that Premier Lloyd George had advised the recognition of Lenin or Trotsky, the Bolshevik leaders, were unfounded.

ITALIAN DELEGATES TO RETURN TO PARIS

Efforts Made to Conciliate
Italy Are Attended With
Success.

Paris.—President Wilson, Premier Clemenceau and Premier Lloyd George, composing the council of three, sent a communication to the Italian government inviting it to resume its place at the peace conference.

Vittorio Orlando, the Italian premier, and Baron Sonnino, the foreign minister, are to return to Paris, it is officially announced.

The policy of Japan is to return the Shantung peninsula in full sovereignty to China, retaining only the economic privileges granted Germany and the right to establish a settlement under the usual conditions at Tsing Tao, it was declared in a statement issued by Baron Makino, head of the Japanese delegation at the peace conference.

The status of Italy as one of the five great powers has been brought into question by her withdrawal from the peace conference, and it is this status which proved a powerful lever in inducing Italy to accept the invitation to resume her place at the peace table.

French and British diplomats in Rome for several days have been discussing the controversy with Premier Orlando and Foreign Minister Sonnino in an endeavor to straighten out the tangle.

The invitation of the council of three, it is understood, has in view the elimination of the personal element in the controversy and the paving of the way for a territorial adjustment acceptable to Italy when the conferees are again together.

President Wilson, David Lloyd George and Premier Clemenceau have settled the question of the German undersea cables. The decision was reached that the cables were spoils of war and belong to Britain, Japan and France, the powers which took possession of them.

The council of three also settled the status of the Kiel canal. Germany probably will retain proprietorship of the waterway, but tolls for passage through it will be levied under international control.

PRESIDENT MAY CALL CONGRESS JUNE 1

Washington.—Intimation that a special session of congress will be called by President Wilson to meet about June 1 is contained in confidential dispatches received in Washington from Paris.

It was said in authoritative administration quarters that it was quite possible that if the situation in Paris should develop rapidly the special session might meet even before June 1. In that case the call would be made by cable.

The dispatches made it clear that the president was confident he could return to the United States before the end of this month.

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