

From Washington
207 Second Street

SECOND EDITION

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

WEATHER

Max. 46; Min. 38; Pre. .47.
Rain tonight and tomorrow

Forty-fourth Year.
Daily—Sixth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1915.

NO. 248

FIRST STEPS TO WATER VALLEY BY COMMITTEE

Committee Appointed at Mass Meeting Makes Report—Petition for Creation of District to Be Submitted to Vote of Land Owners Within District.

To Land Owners:
The committee to initiate an irrigation district in the Rogue River valley elected at the mass meeting held at the public library, Medford, November 23, 1914, makes the following statement:

As the result of numerous meetings of the committee, the boundaries of the proposed district have been formulated so as to include, roughly speaking, that part of the floor of the valley lying between Rogue River and Talent, excluding all incorporated towns and cities.

The question of the best ways and means to inaugurate a campaign for the creation of an irrigation district has been one which has puzzled the committee, and to which considerable of its time has been devoted. It has now determined upon the plan set forth in the following letters:

January 6, 1915.
"To Messrs. Carpenter, Beckwith, Anderson, Sommer and Perry, the committee appointed by a mass meeting of land owners for bringing about irrigation in the Rogue River valley.

"Gentlemen: Continuing our conversation of yesterday, I beg leave to submit the following statement of the position and attitude of the Rogue River Valley Canal company toward recent irrigation developments in this valley:

"If the landowners in the Rogue River valley prefer to secure irrigation through the instrumentality of an irrigation district rather than through individual contracts with our company, we will be the last to oppose this course. Our chief concern is that the land owners should be convinced of the value and necessity of irrigation. We do not contend that our system is the only one that can be devised for irrigating this valley, but we are confident that it is the most feasible system and that when the land owners of the valley finally demand irrigation we shall be able to offer them the best and cheapest way of securing it, no matter whether that demand comes through an irrigation district or by way of private contract.

"As further evidence of our confidence in this respect, this company will, if your committee sees fit to inaugurate a campaign for an irrigation district, give you every assistance in its power. It will contribute to the necessary expenses; it will turn over to the committee all its records and any other data which it has; it will place at its disposal its field force and other employees.

"This company offers to do this because it realizes that a campaign for an irrigation district must be essentially a campaign of education as to the value of irrigation.

"We wish further to state that it is distinctly understood that by accepting this offer neither the committee, collectively, its members individually, nor the irrigation district, if formed, are to be deemed to be under the slightest obligation to the company. This company will take its chances of being able to convince the expert advisers whom the irrigation district may employ and the land owners themselves, who will have the final and controlling voice, that its plan and irrigation system are adequate and the best available, and that such proposition that it may make will not only be the cheapest and most attractive, but that it will be reasonable and fair and free from anything resembling a hold-up.

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VILLA ARRIVES TO CONFER WITH SCOTT

EL PASO, Texas, Jan. 8.—General Villa arrived this afternoon at Juarez. Preparations were begun for his conference with General Scott.

TURKS MOVING CAPITAL FROM CONSTANTINOPLE

Preparations Under Way to Transfer Archives of State—Allies' Fleet Hammering at Dardanelles, While Victorious Russians Invading from East—March Across Carpathians.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Constantinople, regarded by the allies as one of the greatest prizes of the war should they win and Turkey be forced to give it up, may be abandoned soon as the seat of the Turkish government. A dispatch from Sofia, Bulgaria, gives in circumstantial detail an account of unsettled conditions at Constantinople, where it is said that internal disorders, as well as attacks from without apparently are feared.

It is asserted that preparations have been made to remove from the city archives of state and the treasury, should the necessary arise, and that at Adrianople arrangements are under way to receive the government officials. An Anglo-French fleet is hammering at the Dardanelles, which, if passed, would give access to Constantinople. East of the city on the Russo-Turkish frontier, Russian forces, which are said to have defeated the Turks, are seeking to penetrate Asiatic Turkey in the direction of Constantinople.

The Russian sweep across Bukovina, Austria's northwestern province, and through Galicia to the Carpathians, against which the Austrians have been driven back, is admitted in an official statement today from Vienna. The Austrian military authorities say that the retreat of their troops was made necessary by the numerical superiority of the Russian forces.

THIRTY THOUSAND TURKS ANNIHILATED IN DEEP SNOW

PETROGRAD, Jan. 8.—There was given out in this city this afternoon an official communication from the headquarters of the Russian army in the Caucasus reading as follows:

"In the combat of Ardahan, in Trans-Caucasia, forty miles northwest of Kars, we defeated and dispersed the component parts of the Ottoman army, which formed part of the first army corps. This corps had been stationed at Constantinople. A number of Bashli Buzouks brought from European Turkey, as well as bands of Adjar tribesmen, who have taken up the cause of Turkey, fought against us at Ardahan.

"We captured a large quantity of war booty. We buried more than 150 bodies of the enemy's troops.

"It has been established that the ninth Ottoman army corps, 30,000 men strong, has been completely destroyed. These detachments were entirely overwhelmed in the snow.

BATTLE RAGING ABOUT SALTILLO

LAREDO, Texas, Jan. 8.—The battle of Saltillo, expected for several days, began today at 3 a. m., according to an official Carranza announcement made today at Nuevo Laredo. The fighting is outside the city. The Carranza forces having evacuated Saltillo two days ago, retiring toward Hidalgo. The official message said that, after several hours, the fighting was still going on.

Villa troops in and around the city were attacked by about 15,000 constitutionalist troops. Early reports from the battle said that hundreds already had been killed or wounded. The Carranza forces were attacking from mountains about the city and were pouring in a fire from 15 cannon.

FRENCH REPORT CAPTURE SECOND TOWN, ALSACE

Sharp Fighting in Progress at Several Points, With Minor Victories for Each Side—Eastern Armies Similarly Inactive—Trench Warfare Becomes Rule in Poland.

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Capture of another town in Alsace to the south of Sennheim, is reported by the French war office in its statement of today. The German communication neither affirms nor denies the report, saying merely that fighting is still in progress for possession of the town. It is stated, however, that repeated French attacks in Alsace broke down under the German artillery fire.

In a few other localities between the North Sea and Switzerland sharp fighting is in progress, in which each side has scored its minor victories but over most of the line there is little activity.

Eastern Armies Inactive
The armies in the east are similarly inactive. The German communications mentions an engagement east of Rawka river in Poland where it is said that the advance is still in progress, but the spectacular clashes of great masses of troops during the earlier part of the war have no parallels now along the Warsaw front. There, as in the west, the Germans and Russians have dug themselves into the ground and are taking up the tedious operations of warfare in the trenches.

The reports reaching London show that General Von Hindenburg, the German commander in Poland, for some time past has made no appreciable progress toward Warsaw, the mud of Poland evidently having done for him what the broken dykes and the resultant inundations did for the Germans in West Flanders.

Expects Reinforcements
A dispatch coming to London from Copenhagen says that Von Hindenburg is expecting reinforcements and that with an army of one million men he purposes to make one more supreme effort to break through to the Polish capital. The Russians would appear to have had ample time to reinforce themselves and to strengthen their positions around Warsaw, and it is the opinion of British observers that the trench warfare for which the western theater of the war has become famous, will be waged in the region of the Polish rivers.

Austria-Hungary again admits retirement of the forces in Bukovina and it is from this Russian forward movement before which the Austrians are giving way that the most spectacular developments of the next fortnight may be expected, according to opinion held by some British observers of the war.

CATHOLIC CLERGY MALTREATED BY GERMAN TROOPS

LONDON, Jan. 8, 11:26 a. m.—At the request of the Belgian legation in London, the British press bureau today issued detailed allegations of the maltreatment of the Catholic clergy in Belgium and the destruction of their institutions by German troops. This statement says that churches and religious houses were destroyed or profaned in almost every village and in many towns where the German troops passed. In most cases the edifices were utilized as stables and prisons and when not placed in safe hiding the sacred vessels were stolen.

The statement makes the declaration that members of the clergy have been exposed to special indignities at the hands of German soldiers. In the diocese of Liege, Namur, Malines and Ghent many priests and others connected with the churches were either shot or hanged. Many other priests were carried off to Germany, where they appear to have been "subjected to abominable usage."

TRAGEDY OF LOVE BARES DUAL LIFE OF LAWYER.



MRS. IDA ROGERS

Both his wife and "the other woman" knew of the double life of Lorry Elton Rogers, a prominent attorney of New York city. It was stated at Lebanon Hospital, in New York city, where the woman, known as Mrs. Ida Sniffer Rogers, lay dying of blepharitis of mercury poisoning. In the same hospital their son John, two and a half years old, also was dying, while their daughter Lorida, eight months old, died as a result of the poison administered by the mother. That Mrs. Caroline Giddings Rogers had known for several years of her husband's relations with the other woman who bears his name was asserted by Dr. W. Grant Hague, for three years the family physician of the woman who took poison. Nur was "the other woman" in ignorance of the fact that Rogers was married and that he had been married once before and divorced.

COMMISSION FORM WORKS SATISFACTORILY IN SWEDISH CITIES

To the Editor:
While I have not made a special study of municipal affairs, the commission form of government seems to have worked very successfully in my native country, Sweden, where most of the cities are small and conditions often very similar as they are in Medford, as far as such similarity is possible.

I have lately noted two references to the satisfaction this method is giving in Sweden, being from leaders of the opposing political parties of that nation. D. P. L. Talberg (liberal), deputy speaker of the lower house of Sweden, says: "The plan has distinctly raised the intellectual level of the representatives—a great step forward in Swedish political life." The late Swedish prime minister, A. Lindman (conservative) says: "All parties appear to like the new method."

I do not desire to mix up in political discussions in regard to the management of the city affairs of Medford, but this splendid election method has been tried in nation after nation, and has proved to be more than satisfactory, and is undoubted-

FATHER OF OREGON SYSTEM SAYS CHARTER IS BEST THING YET

To the Editor:
Some friend very kindly sent me a copy of the proposed new charter for Medford. I have read it with much interest, especially the provisions for a business manager and for election of members of the council by proportions of all the voters of the city (who vote) instead of by pluralities in wards or districts.

This plan is in use in many of the countries and cities that are most advanced in the science of self government by the people. This charter gives Medford an opportunity to take a step in municipal government (well in the front rank of the cities of the United States, and I hope your citizens will adopt the charter by an overwhelming majority. It will be by far the best thing they have ever done in city building.

Sincerely yours,
W. S. UREN.
Portland, Jan. 7.

Women's Christian Temperance Union in Favor of New City Charter

To the Editor:
There are probably many people in Medford who, like ourselves, find it hard to understand all the features of the new charter and come to an intelligent opinion on it, though we see many improvements over the old. To those may we say: Can we not, with good judgment and safety, follow the lead of men whom all know to be upright and good business men?

Look at the list of men of national prominence who are urging cities to adopt such charters as a means of bringing better government and better business methods into city affairs: President Wilson, ex-President Taft, ex-President Roosevelt, Governor Johnson of California, President Eliot of Harvard, Senator Bob LaFollette of Wisconsin. These are only samples of the list.

And let us consider who of our Medford citizens are for the charter and who against it. There are doubtless good, honest men on both sides. But is it not a fact that the group of men who have become known as progressive, public-spirited, unselfish in working for the city, successful in their own business and properly called as among our most prominent men, are for the charter? And are not those who are known as knockers and selfish in their unwillingness to work for the common good lined up against the charter almost to a man?

Can we not each of us easily decide to which group we want to belong?
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

WILSON ASKS NATION BE TRUE TO HIGH IDEALS

President Defends Policy of Administration Before Large Crowd at Jackson Day Celebration at Indianapolis—Shackles Off Business, What Is to Be Done With Liberty?

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Jan. 8.—President Wilson today defended the policies of his administration before a large crowd of people which filled Tomlinson hall here. He was introduced by Governor Hatton of Indiana.

"I have always thought with regard to individuals that if a man was true to himself he would then be true to other persons; and I believe that applies to a great country like ours, that a nation that is habitually true to its own exalted principles of action will know how to serve the rest of mankind when the opportunity offers. That is a very deep philosophy of life which it is very thoroughly worth while living up to.

"We have a great many things to do in this country that we can do only if we keep our equilibrium, only if we think and speak justly about one another, only if we try to do the just thing from day to day in the daily task.

"We have been trying at Washington to remove some of the shackles that have been put upon American business; but after you have removed the shackles you must determine what you are going to do with your liberty. And there are many tasks to perform for mankind. There are many things to be bettered in this world which we must set ourselves to make better.

"So what I want to say to you now is this, merely:
"Let us seek sober, common counsel about our own affairs and then when the time comes, when we can act upon larger fields, there will be no mistake as to what American will do for the peace of the world."

JAPAN WILLING TO NEUTRALIZE PHILIPPINE ISLES

CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—W. Morgan Shuster, for eight years an American official in the Philippines, before becoming an international figure in the financial affairs of Persia, told the senate Philippines committee today he believed Japan would be glad to enter into a treaty with the United States to neutralize the islands.

Shuster could not conceive of any foreign power attempting the conquest of the Philippines after the withdrawal of the United States. There was an unwritten Monroe doctrine in the Far East maintained by Japan, he said, which would make that nation oppose the entry of any other power into the Philippine group.

"It is my opinion Japan does not want the Philippines," he said, "and would be glad to enter into a neutralization treaty for their protection on our withdrawal."

SALUTE HERALDS FIGHT CENTENARY

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 8.—Celebration of the centenary of peace between Great Britain and the United States was begun here today with a salute of twenty-one guns timed to end 100 years, to the moment, after Andrew Jackson triumphed over the British army at Chalmette. Other ceremonies of the peace celebration included the unveiling of a statue of Jackson on the spot where the general had his standard at Chalmette and the formal exchange of greetings between Assistant Secretary Peters of the treasury department, who is President Wilson's representative, and the envoy of King George, Consul Carew-Hunt.

NEW CHARTER AUTHORIZED BY CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Purdin Relates History of Charter Framing Commission, Consisting of Twenty-one Persons—Desirable Features Are Set Forth—Let City Go Ahead, Not Back.

To the Public:
On December 23, 1913, I read a paper before the city council in which I advised the adoption of a new charter by the people of Medford, and named a committee of seven to prepare and submit to the council a draft of the same, to be submitted by the people for adoption or rejection.

The committee appointed failed to act, and in February, 1914, the matter was taken up by myself and others, and it was decided to proceed in a different manner to bring about the desired result, and after several meetings in my office, where there were in attendance several members of the council and others of our people, it was decided that a larger committee would be better, and the members thereof were selected by the various persons at the meetings, and following this plan, on the 18th day of February, 1914, Councilman Porter, at a meeting of the council, offered for adoption by the council a resolution creating a charter commission of twenty-one persons, consisting of the following:

Commission Named
S. Vilas Beckwith, Dunbar Carpenter, Charles M. English, Leon B. Haskins, Mrs. F. W. Hollis, A. C. Hubbard, L. L. Jacobs, E. E. Kelly, Mrs. George F. King, F. V. Medynski, T. W. Miles, George H. Miller, Porter J. Neff, Dr. E. B. Pickel, J. A. Perry, M. Purdin, Geo. Putnam, R. W. Ruhl, Ben C. Sheldon, H. L. De Armond and W. I. Vawter.

It was moved by Sargent and seconded by Hargrave that the resolution be adopted as read, and the same was adopted by the council by the following vote:

Porter, aye; Medynski, aye; Emerick, aye; Sargent, aye; Hargrave, aye; Miles, aye.

These are facts, as may be verified by the records, and do not confirm the claim made by opponents of the charter that the council had nothing to do with creating the charter commission.

In my opinion, one of the best arguments in favor of the new charter is that under it we hold elections once in two years in place of once each year, as we do under the old, as this reduces the strife and turmoil attendant on our elections one-half.

No Argument Made
The claim that under the new charter the council could pay the manager a salary of \$5000 or more, if they saw fit, is no argument against it, as under the present charter they could pay the engineer or attorney or other officer such a sum as they may agree upon, but they do not pay any officer or employe of the city more than they feel he is worth to the city. There will always be something that must be trusted to the council, as there now is, and we must hope that there will be other honest men on the

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PAGE RECEIVES BRITISH REPLY TO AMERICAN NOTE

LONDON, Jan. 8.—Ambassador Page today received from the British government the preliminary reply to the American note protesting against British interference with American shipping. He forwarded it immediately to Washington.

The time of delivery of the more definite supplementary reply which the British government is to make is uncertain. It probably will be within two weeks.

Further negotiations between the two governments concerning specific cases of detention of American vessels will precede the preparation of the final British answer.