

## CLOSING YEAR WAS ONE OF REAL DEVELOPMENT AND NEW YEAR IS BRIGHT WITH PROMISE

### ALLIES REJECT PEACE PROPOSAL FROM GERMANY

Entente Governments Declare That They Refuse to Accept Germany's Insincere and Ineffective Proposition for a Conference—Is a War Maneuver.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—The official text of the allies' reply to the German proposals began arriving at the state department late today. As the United States acts only as an intermediary in transmitting the note to the central powers it will not be made public here.

#### Is War Maneuver.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—The entente governments, in replying to Germany, declare that they refuse to accept Germany's insincere and ineffective proposition for a conference.

The suggested conference without conditions is not a peace offer, the note says, but is rather a war maneuver.

#### Published Tomorrow.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—The allies' answer to the German note of December 12 will be handed to Ambassador Sharp tonight, says the Petit Parisien and published tomorrow.

It is long and sets forth again the responsibility of the central empires for the European conflagration. It insists on legitimate reparations and restitutions demanded by the entente as outlined by Premier Lloyd George and also says that Germany, by failing to formulate proposals for peace, removes in advance any basis for our parlors.

The note seeks to suggest that the Berlin cabinet, having proclaimed in 1914 its contempt for treaties, cannot pretend to obtain the same conditions as powers respectful of signatures and must offer guarantees.

### TRIPLE DRIVE AGAINST RUMANS NOW IN PROGRESS

LONDON, Dec. 30.—The military operations on which interest is chiefly centered at present are the great efforts the central powers are making against the Russians and Rumanians. This campaign is proceeding on a front of about 120 miles, reaching from Cluj pass to the Danube.

One main object of the attack is supposedly the capture of Braila. The central forces are divided into three armies, namely, that in the Moldavian mountain region commanded by General Von Gorok; the ninth army, under General Von Falkenhayn, which is operating on both sides of the Rymnik and the Danube; and the Danube army, composed of Germans, Turks and Bulgarians under General Von Kossch.

The general outcome of the operations during the last week has been an advance of several miles by Gorok and Falkenhayn, with the capture of many prisoners. The Danube army has been almost stationary, the invaders being little nearer Braila than they were ten days ago. The pressure, however, on the Russian right flank in Moldavia and in the center is slowly bringing the invaders nearer the fortified lines on the Sereth.

The only point of interest marked by the military critics here in regard to the western front is a reference in the communique issued by the German war office last night to the "new position north of the Somme." It is not known whether this phrase has any special significance.

Fred Luy of Wellen who has spent the past week in the city visiting friends, left Saturday for his home.

### GROWERS NET GOOD PRICES ON 1916 FRUIT CROP

Association Realizes Average on All Sizes and Grades of Pears of \$1.74 Per Box f. o. b. Medford, After Deducting All Selling Charges—Spitz Net \$1.19 a Box.

A short review of the Medford Fruit and Produce association's work during the 1916 fruit season may be of interest at this time. While it is, of course, too early to report fully on some varieties such as Newtowns and Winter Nells, we are enabled to give definite and final figures on Bartlett, Howell, Comice, Bose and Anjou pears, and on Spitzberg and Jonathan apples. We from \$1.13 to \$1.60 per box, f. o. b. Medford, five out of a total of six cars of Ben Davis and we have sold approximately fifty out of a hundred cars of Newtowns at prices ranging from \$1.15 to \$1.60 per box f. o. b. Medford according to the size and grade, and fourteen out of twenty-five cars of Winter Nells at prices ranging from \$1.15 for six-tier fruit to \$1.80 for five-tier fruit f. o. b. Medford. All of the Spitzberg and Jonathan apples, and all of the Bartlett, Howell, Comice, Anjou, and Bose pears have been sold and accounted for to the growers with the exception of one car of Anjou pears which is not pooled and has been held in storage in New York City for the holiday trade and we expect to sell this week. It is safe to assume that the proceeds from the sale of this one car of Anjou pears will certainly not reduce the averages hereinafter given.

#### Prices Received for Pears.

Our general averages per box, f. o. b. Medford, including both grades and all sizes, after deducting all selling charges, are as follows:  
Bartletts, extra fancy, \$1.62.  
Bartletts, fancy, \$1.55.  
Bartletts, combined extra fancy and fancy, \$1.43.  
Howells, extra fancy, \$1.80.  
Howells, fancy, \$1.07.  
Howells, combined extra fancy and fancy, \$1.50.  
Comice, extra fancy, \$1.87.  
Comice, fancy, \$1.55.  
Comice, half-boxes, \$1.41.  
Comice, combined extra fancy, fancy and halves counting two halves as one whole, \$2.42.  
Anjous, extra fancy, \$2.02.  
Anjous, fancy, \$1.40.  
Anjous, halves, \$1.41.  
Anjous, combined extra fancy, fancy and halves counting two halves as one whole, \$2.02.  
Boses, extra fancy, \$2.22.  
Boses, fancy, \$1.75.  
Boses, halves, \$1.38.  
Boses, combined extra fancy, fancy and halves, counting two halves as one whole, \$2.23.  
The grand average of all the above varieties, all grades and sizes combined, is \$1.74 per box, f. o. b. Medford, after deducting all selling charges.

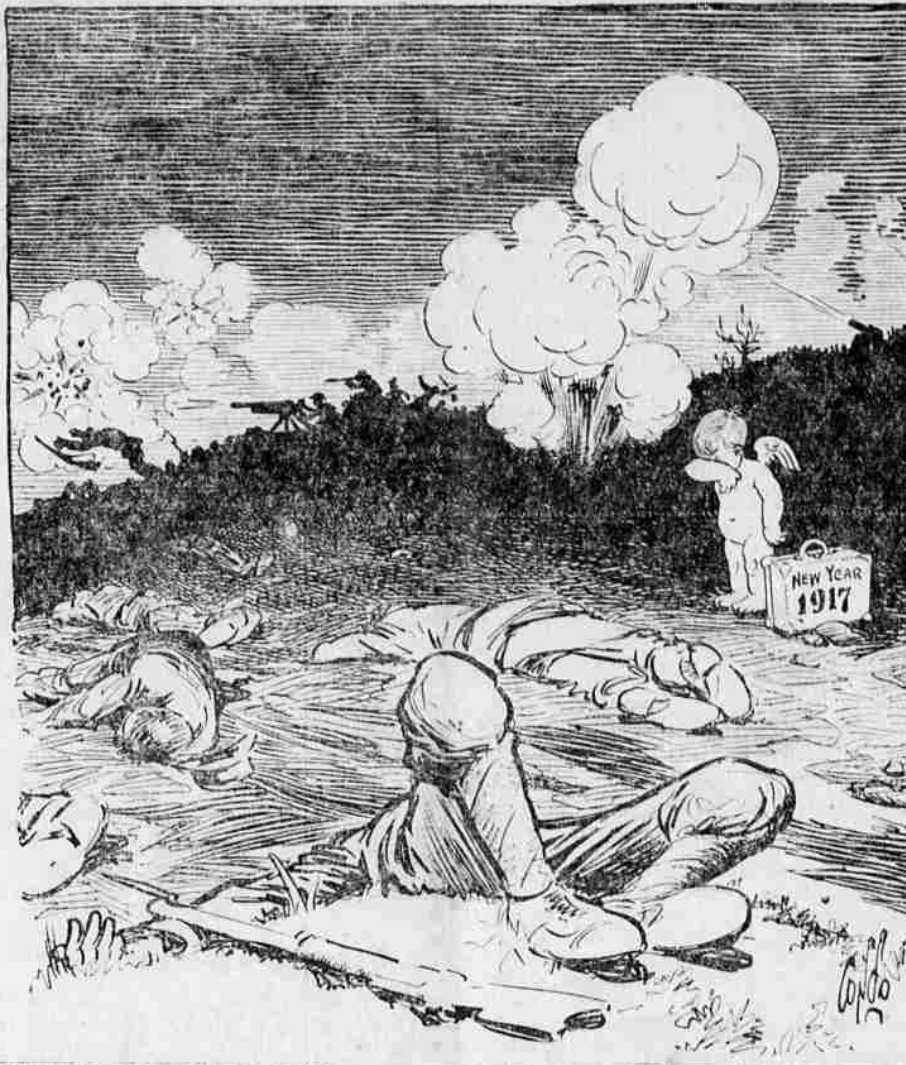
#### Prices on Apples.

Our Spitzberg pool shows \$1.39 for extra fancy, \$1.12 for fancy and a general average on both grades and all sizes, of \$1.19 per box, f. o. b. Medford, after deducting all selling charges. Our Jonathan pool shows \$1.84 for extra fancy, \$1.73 for fancy and a general average on both grades and all sizes, of \$1.75 per box, f. o. b. Medford, after deducting all selling charges. This seemingly low price

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### FREQUENT RAINS FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday, issued by the weather bureau today, are:  
"Pacific states—Probably frequent rains in Washington or Oregon and northern California; temperatures near normal."



### SAY SECOND NOTE SENT GERMANY ON PEACE PROPOSAL

BERLIN, Dec. 30.—It has been learned that a few days ago President Wilson sent a second note, explanatory of the first, to the central powers and the entente nations. This note has not been presented.

The reason for the withholding of the second note is said to be that the German reply, received in the interim, showed that the German government had not been influenced by the "misconceptions regarding the purpose and aim of President Wilson's step which an unfriendly press in both camps attributed thereto."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Secretary Lansing refused to comment on the report that a second explanatory note had been sent both to the central powers and the entente allies to correct misinterpretations of the president's note calling for peace terms. He indicated that under the present policy of silence adopted by President Wilson and himself he would make no statement either affirming or denying such reports. It is felt that much misunderstanding might arise in the popular mind, but it is held that the various governments addressed will be influenced only by the official information which will be quite complete.

Other officials, however, said they were sure no second note had been sent and that the Berlin dispatches referred to by the two statements by Secretary Lansing issued the day after the dispatch of the original note was announced.

### EDWARD F. CAHILL JOURNALIST, DEAD

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30.—Edward F. Cahill, one of the best known newspaper men of the Pacific coast, died last night in this city. He was 72 years old. He is survived by a widow and two sons, Edward P. and John R. Cahill. Identified with many important newspapers of San Francisco and the coast for years, Cahill has most recently been known as editor of the "Candid Friend," page in the Oakland Tribune.

### VILLA ADVANCES UPON CHIHUAHUA WITH 10,000 MEN

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 30.—Federal agents here today sent a report to Washington, saying that Villa was at Jimenez and was advancing on Chihuahua City with approximately 10,000 troops. It was also said by the federal agents that General Francisco Murguia was reported to be making preparations to evacuate the state capital.

Villa captured a train of ammunition and sixteen cannon recently when he took Torreón persons here said to be in communication with Villa, announced today.

General Luis Herrera, a Carranza leader, was tried by court martial and formally executed, the same advices stated.

General Talamantes committed suicide when he saw the flight was lost, it was added. Villa evacuated the town after he had obtained the train of ammunition, the cannon and a supply of shoes, clothing and blankets for his men, the Villa partisans said.

The report that the de facto forces at Monterey had evacuated that city was denied today in a telegram from an American in Monterey, sent yesterday, saying everything was quiet and normal there.

### CARRANZA WANTS TROOPS WITHDRAWAL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Counselor Poff of the state department and Charles A. Douglas, local attorney for the Carranza government, conferred today over the Mexican situation. Mr. Douglas declined to comment and information concerning the conference was withheld by department officials.

NO MAIL TRIBUNE ON NEW YEAR'S DAY  
There will be no issue of the Mail Tribune on Monday, New Year's day.

### TOM LAWSON TO GO TO CAPITAL TO SHOW-UP LEAK

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 30.—In response to a telegram from Congressman Robert L. Henry of Texas, urging that he go to Washington immediately and produce any facts he may have bearing on a "leak" from the state department to Wall Street in connection with President Wilson's recent peace note, Thomas W. Lawson today replied by wire that he would call on the congressman Monday.

"You have libeled congressmen and public officials, and I predict you cannot make good," Congressman Henry stated in the telegram which Mr. Lawson made public here today. It was explained that Mr. Henry made his request in his capacity as a member of the house rules committee, of which he is chairman.

"The good old capital has been wallowing in Wall street leak drafts for forty years," the Lawson reply said. "You and Congressman Wood started this 'leak' merry-go-round, then you sort of run me into it through your press statements and then you made me the whole of it. Now, I say, congressman, have a heart, have a heart. This is my program: Tomorrow I will give you a serious 3000-word bit, then, if you wish, I will visit you on New Year's day, then on Tuesday from the gallery I will listen to you and the other statesmen who missed out on the 'leak' lambast me some more."

### ROUND ROBIN AUTHOR SENTENCED

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 30.—Private Richard Dixon of the Eighth Ohio Infantry was sentenced to confinement in his camp for one month and to forfeit two-thirds of his pay for three months by the summary court of the eleventh provisional division late yesterday, Brigadier General George Bell, Jr., announced today.

Private Dixon was charged with having drafted the "round robin" which was circulated in the Ohio regiment's camp and which was signed by 400 members of this regiment, protesting against conditions in the camp.

### IRRIGATED BELT INCREASED 2000 ACRES IN 1916

Canal Company Spent \$100,000 for Labor and Materials in Development of Water System—Phoenix and Hopkins Laterals Completed—Sixty Miles of Mains Utilized.

During the year 1916 the Rogue River Valley Canal Co. has spent \$100,000 for labor and material, all of this sum being put into circulation in the valley with the exception of a small amount expended for construction cars and rails.

The company has completed during the past year the Phoenix ditch, which carries 60 second feet of water, and has built laterals from which 1500 acres are now under irrigation. The equipment of the Canal company now includes 60 miles of main ditch, the Phoenix ditch and Hopkins canal, and 300 miles of laterals. These canals are built to supply water to 20,000 acres of land. Five thousand acres are already under the ditch, 2000 of which was signed up during the past year. The land under irrigation is devoted to the raising of fruit, alfalfa, beets, corn, berries and other products.

During the past year work has been pushed on the canal connecting Four Mile lake and Fish lake. This ditch, which will carry 75 second feet, is at the upper end thirteen feet in width at the bottom and five feet deep. At the lower end it is six feet wide at the bottom and five feet deep. The ditch was half completed during 1916 and will be finished next season.

The Canal company is the owner of 6800 acres of land, known as Roguelands. This tract is as fast as possible being leveled for irrigation and sown to alfalfa and clover. To pasture on these crops the company has purchased 2000 head of sheep.

In the leveling and cultivation of the company lands modern methods are in use, two powerful Holt caterpillar engines having displaced horses as motive power.

The finishing of the canal between Four Mile and Fish lakes will probably be the only development work of any importance done by the company during 1917. Under the present method of furnishing water right, enough canals and laterals have been completed to serve present needs. Further development waits on the ultimate adoption of the district plan for the irrigation of the valley. Pending the formation of the district, the company will devote itself to a thorough protection of its water rights.

### PRESIDENT FIRM FOR SETTLEMENT RAILROAD ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—President Wilson went to the capital late today and conferred with Chairman Newlands of the senate interstate commerce committee about expediting the railroad legislation program, in view of the failure of the railroads and the railroad brotherhoods to agree on an application of the Adams law.

The president talked with Mr. Newlands for ten minutes and although the senator declined to discuss his visit, it was understood he was anxious that the proposed legislation be brought out of the committee as quickly as possible.

"There was no indication," said Senator Newlands, "that the president had in any way modified or altered his suggestions for railroad legislation."

Mr. Newlands said he believed the committee should be able to conclude its hearings on railroad legislation within the next two weeks.

Senator Newlands declared in his judgment congress would take very decisive action, in so far as any attempt to tie up commerce was concerned.

### 1916 YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS

Impetus Given to Utilization of Natural Resources by Establishment of Industries and Extension of Irrigated Area—Blue Ledge Mine in Operation—Lumber Development.

The year 1916 has witnessed development along many lines in the Rogue River valley. It has seen impetus given to the utilization of the resources of this section, has seen the investment of large sums of outside capital, whereby development of the valley has been and will continue to be pushed. New industries have been established and the irrigated area much extended.

Of prime importance to the Rogue River valley from the standpoint of work given to men and of payroll money put into circulation is the beginning of operations at the plant of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. at Grants Pass and of the Portland Beaver Cement Co. at Gold Hill, each involving an estimate exceeding \$600,000. These establishments will distribute considerably over \$100,000 annually in payroll in addition to large sums spent locally for supplies.

#### Promise Well for Future.

These plants mean the bringing of more people to the valley, larger sales for the merchants, a better market for the farmer. These two are the beginning of the large industries, which, coupled with smaller plants, will bring a true and lasting prosperity to the section.

In Medford and vicinity several companies are operating industrial plants with profit to themselves and the community. The Rogue River Valley Canning Company, the Knight Packing Co., and the Bagley Canning Co., have had a successful year, employing large forces of workers and distributing large sums of money to the farmers in exchange for their products. Medford yellow label canned goods, Knight's catsup and apple butter and Bagley's apple juice and other products are doing their share in putting Medford on the producing and industrial maps.

#### New Industries.

Another year will see carried to completion the sawmill of the Applegate Lumber Co. Stock in this company was sold entirely through local subscription and the company in addition to owning the mill and all equipment, has considerable timber holdings in the hills west of Jacksonville.

With the completion of the sawmill, there will be erected in Medford a branch box factory, which will take the entire lumber output of the mill. This plant will be erected by the Ewauna Box Co. of Klamath Falls and ultimately will be the main plant of that company.

With the coming of the sawmill, there has also come the extension of the line of the Southern Oregon Traction Co. westward to tap the belts of timber. This line, it is planned, will ultimately extend about thirty miles westward to the mines of the Blue Ledge district.

#### Mining Revival.

The year has also witnessed a revival of mining and reopening of the Blue Ledge mine. The first copper ore from the Blue Ledge mine is now being hauled with wagons and teams from the mines to Jacksonville, where it is reshipped to Tacoma, Wash., for smelting. Road funds

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### DIAZ FILIBUSTERING CROSSING A MYTH

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Major General Funston, commanding the American forces on the Mexican border, advised the war department today that he had been unable to substantiate rumors that a Felix Diaz filibustering party had crossed into Mexico from the United States.