

Join the Red Cross To-day. Remember the Boys Who Are Fighting For You

St. Helens Mist

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NO. 1

JOIN THE RED CROSS SAYS MAYOR BALLAGH MAKES PROCLAMATION

Urges Citizens to Join Red Cross Society.

That Mayor Ballagh is heartily in sympathy with the Red Cross membership drive is evidenced by the following proclamation:

"Whereas, the American Red Cross, through its president, Honorable Woodrow Wilson; its chairman, Hon. Wm. H. Taft, and the chairman of its war council, Hon. H. P. Davidson, has called upon all loyal and patriotic citizens of the United States to affiliate with said organization by becoming a member thereof; and

"Whereas, the week of December 17-24 has been designated by the aforesaid as a time for the membership affiliation; and

"Whereas, the state of Oregon has been assigned the quota of 240,000 members, being 30 per cent of its estimated population; and

"Whereas, to fulfill its quota it is necessary for every man and woman in Oregon to join the Red Cross;

"Now, therefore, I, Edison I. Ballagh, mayor of the city of St. Helens, do hereby urge all citizens of the city to at once seek membership in the American Red Cross and to do all within their power to increase the membership, to the end that the city of St. Helens will not be found wanting in this respect. Membership in the Red Cross in this war for the sake of democracy is an obligation upon every loyal citizen.

"Dated at St. Helens, Oregon, this 17th day of December, 1917.

"EDISON I. BALLAGH,

"Mayor."

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM EXTENSIVE

Farmers Deserve Great Credit for Their Efforts.

By D. C. Howard, Agricultural Agent. Nothing but a true spirit of patriotism and service can keep the farmers going under the present strain of labor shortage. Farmers are now virtually without help and are being constantly called upon to increase production. In many cases farmers' wives are taking the place of farm laborers and the farmers are obliged to work long hours to keep the farm going.

That this is the most serious situation facing the American farmer today was brought out at the annual agricultural council meeting held in St. Helens last Saturday. Farmers the country over are obliged to cut down operations or work from 12 to 16 hours per day. While this condition exists other lines of industry more favorably affected by war prices are outbidding the farmer on wages. At the same time the farmer is paying the price of labor shortage by working long hours himself, and the workmen in all other industries striking in demand of an eight hour day and higher wages. The farmer is asked to produce more yet he has much less help to do it with. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, the government has placed an agent in each state to help the farmers in this situation. Mr. J. W. Brewer, who was present at the meeting, has been appointed to this work in Oregon. He stated that the situation was most serious and that the plan for keeping some of the labor on the farm while being worked upon is not yet complete. Certainly the thousands of men following the unessential lines of work and amusements must eventually be pressed into useful service.

Among the lines of work which the agricultural council decided as most essential for the county agent to work upon are the following: Drainage, fertilizer demonstrations, lime demonstrations, potato selection and disease control, silage corn trials and livestock improvement. While some of these projects will not be pushed to any great extent owing to labor shortage, they all mean greater production in the immediate future.

Paul V. Maris, state county agent leader, emphasized the need of systematic production in order to meet the nation's need. Farmers organized for definite purpose will accom-

DANGER FROM CHRISTMAS TREES

Helpful Hints as to Tree Decorations for the Great Holiday.

State Fire Marshal Harvey Wells has sent out the following useful suggestions as to the decoration of the Christmas trees. Mr. Wells states that especially at this time all should remember to protect and preserve the home, for by so doing we will be doing our "little bit" to help the government conserve food and property and in addition will keep the old home waiting to receive the soldier boy when he returns from the trenches. The suggestions are:

Don't decorate Christmas trees with paper, cotton or other inflammable material.

Use only metallic, tinsel or other non-inflammable material, and set the tree securely, so that children in reaching for things can not tip it over.

Do not permit children to light or relight candles when parents are not present; they frequently set fire to their clothing instead. The tree itself will burn when needles have become dry.

Keep matches out of reach of children at holiday time; they like to experiment with them.

The light, inflammable decorations in stores, churches and bazaars make fires easy to start and easy to spread. A match, a gas flame, or any electrical defect may do it. Watch gas jets.

Do not make the slightest change in electric wiring without consulting the electrical inspector.

Many fires are caused by candles on Christmas trees. The tree should be fastened firmly, so that it can not be upset. Cotton, which is used to represent frost or snow, catches fire very easily. The same effect can be secured by the use of asbestos or mineral wool, which is safe. The candles should be placed on the tree so they can not set fire to branches above them, and should not be lighted by children. Before the gifts are distributed the candles should be extinguished. Electricity is much safer than candles for lighting Christmas trees. Doors should remain closed while the candles are burning, because of the danger from drafts swaying the branches or blowing curtains against the tree. The floor under the tree should be protected by a piece of zinc or iron.

publish decidedly more than farmers organized without a purpose or not organized at all.

The council, which is composed of one representative from each grange and farmers' organization in the county, voted to change the plan of its organization. In the past each delegate worked simply through the direction of his organization. Under the new plan, each delegate will select a committee of five of the leading farmers of his community. With these he will work out definite plans toward meeting the needs of the community and will call upon the agent to do certain work. This will mean work definitely arranged in advance for the agent, and should get decidedly better results. The council voted not to elect officers until after this organization is complete. Another meeting will be called late in January.

In the county agent's annual report some interesting and valuable results were reported on some demonstrations with the use of fertilizers on potatoes and corn. Ray Tarbell, of Yankton, by the use of 800 pounds of commercial fertilizer increased the potato yield 3,400 pounds, or a profit increase of about \$12 per acre. By the use of 15 tons of manure per acre he increased the yield by 5,000 pounds. On stubble ground the use of 400 pounds of fertilizer gave a profit of \$10 per acre. Mr. Tarbell also increased his potato yield by 24 sacks per acre by careful seed selection, and where the seed was treated with corrosive sublimate the yield was increased 28 sacks per acre. By the use of 200 pounds of steamed bone fertilizer per acre on ground planted to corn for silage, O. A. Buckstrom, of Mayger, brought the yield up from 2 1/2 tons per acre to 8 tons, or a gain of 5 1/2 tons of silage corn.



JOIN THE RED CROSS NOW!

JOINT INSTALLATION AT MASONIC LODGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Masons and Eastern Stars Will Install New Officers.

At its last regular meeting, St. Helens lodge, A. F. & A. M., elected the following officers to serve during the ensuing year.

Worshipful Master—A. L. Stone. Senior Warden—A. J. Peel. Junior Warden—R. F. Niblock. Senior Deacon—Harley Turner. Junior Deacon—H. F. Kemp. Treasurer—John Phillip. Secretary—E. E. Quick.

At its last regular meeting, Mizpah Chapter, Eastern Star, elected the following officers:

Worthy Matron—Mary Christie. Worthy Patron—L. L. Baker. Associate Matron—Louise Baker. Conductress—Mrs. N. O. Larabee. Associate Conductress—Mrs. H. J. Southard. Secretary—John Phillip.

The appointive officers were given as follows: Mrs. L. R. Rutherford, Ada; Mrs. Jas. Dart, Ruth; Mrs. Flora Owen, Esther; Mrs. E. E. Quick, Martha; Mrs. Thos. Iebster, Electra; Mrs. John Sten, warder; E. A. Crouse, sentinel; Miss Madeline Thomas, chaplain; Mrs. E. A. Crouse, marshal; Mrs. J. J. Day, organist.

Saturday evening, at the Masonic hall, the lodges will hold a joint installation. The members have the privilege of bringing immediate relatives and no doubt a large crowd will be present to witness the ceremonies.

A SOLDIER RETURNS AND A SOLDIER GOES

Harry C. Urie was honorably discharged from Troop F, 1st Cavalry, at San Francisco, last week and returned to St. Helens Monday. A compound fracture of his leg which he suffered years ago was the cause of his discharge. Harry had been in service since last April and he had never mentioned that his leg had been broken, preferring to remain with his troop, but the fact was finally discovered and, against his own wishes, he was discharged. He was a good soldier and made a record with his troop loading and firing three magazines in ten seconds. As young Urie returned, a brother, Jack, was leaving Vancouver for San Antonio, Texas, a member of the aviation corps.

BRITISH LOSSES LESS

British shipping losses last week were 14 vessels of more than 1,600 tons, and four under that tonnage, as compared with 21 the week previous. France lost only one ship during the week. Norway lost two small craft.

BRITISH CASUALTIES IN WEEK WERE 17,976

British casualties reported in the week ending today totaled 17,976 officers and men as follows: Officers killed or died of wounds, 331; men killed or died of wounds, 3,181. Officers wounded or missing, 1,039; men, 13,425.

COLUMBIA RIVER RISES RAPIDLY

Much Damage Done by High Water Which Prevails.

On account of the recent heavy rains, the Columbia river and tributary streams raised rapidly and much damage has been done to property and livestock along the banks of the rivers and streams. The most serious damage is reported to have occurred at Woodland. The Lewis river went on a rampage and rose so rapidly that the residents of that city were unable to move their belongings to a place of safety before the flood was upon them. In the streets of the city there was from 4 to 6 feet of water, and much damage was done to the stores and their contents. Yesterday the rain ceased and the Lewis river is falling, and if no more rain falls the damage will not be very serious. The Columbia river at St. Helens rose 12 feet in four days but no damage was done, so far as can be ascertained.

COUNTY SCHOOL NOTES

By J. W. Allen

The idea of a teacherage or a teacher's cottage, or a home for the teacher has taken root and is growing quite rapidly. Such a home is a financial asset to both the district and the teacher. The district with a teacher's cottage will be able to secure, many times, a better teacher than it would otherwise. This home is not to be donated free to the teacher, yet it is a great inducement many times in securing the services of the best teacher possible. When a schoolhouse has been erected, many times the district, at little expense, may remodel the old schoolhouse into a good home for the teacher, and this they should do. The best teacher will not contract where the living conditions are unsuitable. This point has been greatly overlooked, but at the present time it is being considered nation wide.

The schoolhouse should be a community center. It should be used where no other building is available for religious and civic purposes. The school board, of course, is in charge of their schoolhouse, and they should permit its use impartially.

The food cards have been quite generally signed throughout the county, and our people are proving themselves patriotic by living up to their pledges. More cards will be sent gladly for the asking.

It is sincerely to be hoped that the teachers and the pupils of the state of Oregon will not be found slackers when it comes to doing their "bit" toward winning the war. We sincerely urge teachers and pupils to assist in the purchasing of thrift stamps, Liberty Bonds, etc., and the work of the Red Cross.

Owing to the fact that patrons do not visit their schools as much as they should, we have appointed Thursday, January 11, visitors' day for Columbia county. All parents are urged to visit and inspect their school on this day. A good school is the result of team work on the part of the parent, pupil and the teacher. We want a better co-operation and a better understanding among these vital factors of a good school. Visit your school on visitors' day and as many other times as convenient.

The one-room school is still serving a great portion of our people, but the numbers served by the one-room school are growing smaller each year. The one-room school with a teacher trying to do the work in eight grades cannot be expected to do the work of the two-room school where each teacher has but four grades. Nor can the two-room school do as efficient work as the four-room school. The one-room school is a good school, much better than no school, and we must have them. However, the trend of today is consolidation. The improvement of our roads is the first essential to consolidation. Pupils are being conveyed by motor power and otherwise for considerable distances in order to take advantage of a consolidated school. Pupils may be easily conveyed a distance of ten miles over good roads easier and more quickly and with less discomfort than they formerly traveled one mile on foot. Patrons should bear in mind that the one-room school, after all, is the poorest school pos-

CITY COUNCIL ELECTS ANOTHER MEMBER

A. J. KELLY THE MAN

Budget as Published is Adopted at Special Meeting.

At its regular meeting Monday night the city council elected Aaron J. Kelly, of West St. Helens, a member of the council to fill the vacancy caused by the election of E. I. Ballagh mayor. The choice was unanimous, and Mr. Kelly took the oath of office and entered at once upon the duties before the council.

One of the most important matters brought before the council was the necessity for the immediate building of a dock at the foot of St. Helens street on the property recently purchased from Rutherford and Shinn. If such a dock is built it would be constructed on a small scale to take care of the present needs, but so constructed that when necessary it could easily be enlarged. It is understood a suitable dock and small warehouse and a 20 foot road to the dock could be built for \$1,500.

The council adopted a resolution declaring its intention to assist the sheriff in enforcing the new government regulations relative to alien enemies. While not definitely decided, it is probable that the "dead line" will be the east side of the Strand, and no alien enemy will be allowed to cross the Strand.

The council met in special session Tuesday night for the purpose of adopting the budget, or hearing objections thereto. Inasmuch as not a single citizen took enough interest to attend, the council concluded that the taxpayers as a whole must be entirely satisfied with the budget, and by unanimous vote adopted it.

No other business appearing before the council, upon motion, the council adjourned.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ON FOR RED CROSS

Columbia County Must Secure 1200 Members to Fill Quota.

The drive for membership in the American Red Cross is now on in earnest and J. W. Allen and H. P. Ross, who are conducting the campaign in Columbia county, feel much encouraged. Scappoose, Warren and the Nehalem valley have sent in reports which indicate that much work is being done and success met with. Rainier and Clatskanie are Red Cross towns and will doubtless turn in their full quota. In St. Helens the work has been turned over to the local Red Cross society, but several of the business men will take a couple of days off today and tomorrow and assist them in securing additional members. Some of the head men at the shipyards and the mill will be delegated to induce the many employes of those concerns to join the Red Cross, and the committee of business men will make a thorough canvass of St. Helens.

While the membership drive was opened on the 17th, very poor progress has been made up to date, largely on account of the weather conditions, but from now on, or until the 24th, which closes the week, the campaigners will make every effort to bring the enrollment up to 240,000, which is 30 per cent of the population of the state.

If you don't say yes and produce your dollar, there are only two answers which you can give for an excuse, said C. C. Chapman, state chairman. One is, "I am a German or a pro-German," and the other is "I am destitute." Those who refuse are in one class or another. The Red Cross committee will be around to see you. Remember, all it takes for a membership in this noble association is "A heart and a dollar." We know you have both.

That consolidation where possible is the modern idea. For proof of this statement, this county has two consolidated schools, Vernonia and Scappoose. There is no danger in either case of these districts returning to the one-room school. This is sufficient evidence in support of consolidation to those who really care.

The next eighth grade examination will be held January 17 and 18.