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GERMANS TAKE LEAD IN EUROPE'S WAR

BUT RUSSIAN SUCCESSES MAY FORCE KAISER TO DIVIDE HIS FORCES.

While the overwhelming defeat of the Belgian, French and English allies by the Germans the fore part of the week was at first reported as having forced the allies back upon their last defenses and opened the way for the Germans to strike at either Paris or London, or both, later advices from St. Petersburg telling of Russian successes in East Prussia gave rise to the reports that Germany will be forced to weaken her army in Belgium to rush back to the defense of Berlin.

The allies were defeated in the first great battle of the war, which lasted for more than three days and raged from the northern passes of the Vosges, fronting Nancy, to Mons, 20 miles west of the Sambre river, in Belgium, and resulted in the capture of Namur and Charleroi and nearby cities by the Germans. This success rendered possible what Germany probably intended from the start, a concentric attack upon Paris by the armies assembled all along the French frontier and that of Belgium.

But the rapid advances being made by the Russians on Germany's east frontier may force the Germans to change these plans, and this is the dominant note in the latest despatches. Wealthy Germans are reported to be fleeing from Berlin already, in anticipation of an attack forced by the Russians, while the German outposts on the frontier are said to be falling back.

Meanwhile, the Servians have completely repulsed the Austrians and the latter are giving practically no aid at all to Germany, so far as the despatches disclose. Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is also reported to be dying, though this has been vigorously denied.

Japan, so far as is known, has not yet struck any blows at Germany's provinces in the Far East, though its ultimatum to Germany was ignored, following which Japan issued a formal declaration of war.

MANDAMUS WATER PLANT

City Sues to Compel Company to Comply With Its Franchise.

Mandamus proceedings to compel the Olympia Water Works to lay cast iron pipe under all the streets in the big paving district were instituted by the City of Olympia last Saturday against the company and the suit will be heard in the local superior court September 1.

This action was taken under that provision of the company's franchise which requires it to lay cast iron mains under all permanently improved streets and supersedes the decision reached previously by the council for the city to buy the pipe and lay it, filing a lien against it and taking the cost out in the city's water bills.

The company claims, according to City Attorney Bigelow, that it has to apply half of its monthly revenues of about \$2,500 on its bonds, but the city contends that an expense such as this improvement should be preferred above bond payments. If the court sustains the mandamus proceedings and directs the company to proceed to lay the mains and it refuses, the probable result, according to the city attorney, would be the appointment of a receiver who would see that the court's instructions were obeyed. It is possible, too, that the company's franchise might be revoked, though Mr. Bigelow says he does not anticipate such a result.

After suffering for some time from lung trouble, L. G. Lilly died at the home of his brother late last week, the funeral taking place Saturday. His wife died last spring at Lacey, where the family had been making their home. Four little children, one less than a year old, survive and are being cared for by relatives and friends of the family.

ORDERS NEW COAL RATES.

Freight Charges on Roslyn Product Are Reduced.

After a final hearing given all interested parties, to afford an opportunity to point out any injustices or inequalities, the public service commission this week issued a final order, effective in 20 days, reducing freight rates on coal from Roslyn to all other points in the state, which will be of direct benefit to Olympia. Since the Northern Pacific railroad refused to comply with the commission's tentative order to prepare a new schedule of rates, the commission put in effect a complete tariff prepared throughout by its own expert, O. O. Calderhead.

The reduced rates will make it possible to ship the product of the Roslyn mines to all parts of the state, affording competition, while the reduction in the freight will be followed, it is believed, by corresponding reductions in the price of coal.

ASSESSED VALUES ARE \$200,000 MORE

EQUALIZATION BOARD RATES PROPERTY AT \$11,196,201 FOR TAXATION.

With the work of the county board of equalization completed, assessments of real and personal property in Thurston county this year, though made on only a 50 per cent basis, are a little more than \$200,000 higher than in 1912, when a 60 per cent basis prevailed, the total this year being \$11,196,201, according to figures given out this week by County Assessor J. C. Sams.

This increase in assessed valuation, it is expected, will result in a reduction in the tax levy, coupled with reduced estimates for the county offices the officials are said to be making, and is notable in view of the reduced valuations reported by other counties and the further fact that the amount of timber cut in the county during the last two years naturally reduced the assessed valuation on that important item.

Petitions received by the equalization board this year were for only small amounts in most cases, the only petitions of any size coming from the Weyerhaeuser Timber company and the Boston Harbor Railroad, Steamship & Land company. The Weyerhaeuser petitions, 16 in all were mostly asking for reductions of from 50 to 66 per cent in land values, all of which were denied, though two petitions for reductions because the land had been logged prior to March 1, were granted. All of the petitions of the Boston Harbor company were denied, as was also that of Hazard Stevens for a reduction of approximately 40 per cent in the valuation of his ranch near the baseball park.

About 60 petitions were received from individuals asking for reductions in values of lands and timber and where the land valuations appeared to be in excess of those of the surrounding property, reductions were granted. Some timber values were also lowered in cases where individuals presented certified cruises by recognized cruisers.

Table Shows Reductions.
A reduction of only \$49,910 in the assessed valuations, meaning about \$1,500 in tax revenues, was made by the county board of equalization, Assessor Sams says. The following table shows the board's actions, the amounts designated "before" being the assessments as presented to the board by the assessor, and those designated "after" showing the net amounts after the assessments were equalized:

		Personal	Real	Grand Total	Reduction
Olympia	Before	\$ 771,825	\$2,350,972	\$3,122,797	
	After	771,825	2,346,483	3,118,308	\$ 4,489
Tumwater	Before	88,468	185,011	273,479	
	After	88,468	184,406	272,874	605
Tenino	Before	46,342	131,937	178,279	
	After	46,342	125,432	171,774	6,505
Bucoda	Before	3,789	32,333	36,022	
	After	3,789	32,333	36,022	
Outside	Before	1,049,981	6,585,553	7,635,534	
	After	1,037,418	6,559,805	7,597,223	38,311
Total	Before	1,960,405	9,285,706	11,246,111	
	After	1,947,842	9,248,359	11,196,201	49,910

DON'T LET THEM FOOL YOU

The story has been going the rounds this week, evidently with the hope of minimizing the non-partisan convention on primary day and preventing people from attending it or signing the petitions calling it, that signing these petitions or attending the convention—either act—would prohibit any person who might so desire, from voting in the primaries that day.

That is not true. Any one who knows the primary law knows the story is a canard, but in order to be absolutely sure on that point, The Washington Standard put the question up to P. M. Troy, recognized as a most able attorney, and this was his reply:

"There is nothing in the primary law that would prevent any one from voting in the primary and also attending the nonpartisan convention, called for the purpose of nominating county officers.

"Any one that claims or states that if a person attends the convention or signs a call for the convention he is thereby precluded from voting in the primary, is certainly mistaken. All that I can say about it is that morally one should not vote in the primary for county offices which he helps to nominate in the convention.

"As a matter of fact I think it is the duty of every voter intending to attend the convention to vote in the primary, because the county convention will not touch upon the United States senatorship or the congressional office, or upon the supreme judgeships or the superior judgeships, and I think it is the duty of all voters intending to attend the convention to vote in the primaries for these higher offices."

That story is being circulated by designing parties merely to fool you—don't let them do it. Enter the primaries and vote by all means and then go to the non-partisan convention and there put in your word as to the kind of men you want to represent you in the management of the county's affairs.

RACE FOR CONGRESS TO BE SOME FIGHT

CANDIDATES OF THREE PARTIES WILL MAKE POLITICAL HISTORY THIS FALL

TACOMA, August 28.—Not in the political history of Southwestern Washington has there been as hard fought a political campaign as the coming congressional fight will prove to be. This is the prediction of politicians here who have been watching straws that show not only the way but how hard the wind will blow within the next 60 days.

Astute observers consider it almost certain that Albert Johnson will be the nominee of the Republican party; Stanton Warburton, the nominee of the Progressive, and his many friends pick Charles Drury as the standard-bearer of the Democrats. The political atmosphere has sufficiently clarified with the past 10 days for these salient facts to stand up in definite perspective.

It is because Charles Drury is likely to be on the ticket that the campaign is expected to develop very strenuous proportions. Drury believes in a scrap. He feels it is good for the other fellow and he knows it is good for himself. If he is defeated he feels better when he can reflect that he did his best, and if he wins, the crowd, and cackle and hurrah of victory give more genuine satisfaction and self-complacency after a hard fight. Of course the other fellow who has fought hard has the same open sesame to self-felicitation whichever way the winds blows him.

The peculiar, the unusual feature about Drury is that, despite his tremendous aggressiveness and surprising activity in political fights, by some happy adjustment of his psychological mechanism everybody, even his most rabid political enemies, are in a good humor with him and this at the very height of any political combat he enters.

Probably this is because Drury keeps his eyes on issues and not on candidates, and this, in turn, is likely the reason why other candidates, fighting him, focus their eyes on issues instead of candidates. A prom-

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TAXPAYERS MEET HERE SEPTEMBER 5

WILL THEN HEAR REPORTS OF INVESTIGATION AND ADOPT PLANS FOR REFORM

Call was issued this week by Walter F. McDowell, temporary president of the Thurston County Taxpayers' league, for a mass meeting to be held at Rabeck's hall, Olympia, at 2:30 Saturday afternoon, September 5, when report of the league's investigation of the management of the county's offices will be made and recommendations for reform offered for consideration and action.

While the league officers have not been making much of a racket the last few weeks, they have been mightily busy doing the necessary preliminary work, instituting the investigation of the county's offices upon which their recommendations as to economy will be based, and undertaking a campaign for members in all parts of the county. The response to the latter is reported to be very general and enthusiastic.

Circular Letter Tells Objects.
Part of the campaign has been the mailing of a circular letter and copy of the league's constitution to hundreds of people throughout the city and county, setting forth the league's purposes and objects. This letter is:

"Dear Fellow Citizen:
"At a meeting held July 29 by some of our country and city taxpayers at the City hall, Olympia, a temporary organization was effected, known as the Thurston County Taxpayers' league. The object and purpose of the Thurston County Taxpayers' league is to stop all waste and extravagance in the public affairs of our county and get down to a business basis with the constant aim to reduce waste and expense in public affairs and to reduce taxes.

"This Thurston County Taxpayers' league is not a political organization—it is a business organization and expects to have the good will and material support of every good citizen and taxpayer of Thurston county, regardless of politics.

"If you have your own interests and the interests of your neighbor at heart, you should become a member of the Taxpayers' league. All that is required of you to become a member is to sign the constitution—a copy of which is hereto attached—and return the same, together with 25 cents, to the secretary, L. L. Snow, and you are a member of the Thurston County Taxpayers' league."

"For the purpose of serving each section of the county, it is contemplated to have minor leagues in every voting precinct of the county

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PARCEL POST AT FAIRS.

Postmasters Directed to Explain—May Exhibit at State Show.

Postmaster General Burleson has sent a request to the postmaster in every county seat in the state to display a parcel post exhibit at local fairs, for the purpose of better acquainting the public with the many benefits of the system, and Dr. H. T. Graves, acting commissioner of the state department of agriculture, has, through J. E. Shannon, secretary of the state fair, made request for such an exhibit at the state fair at North Yakima, September 21 to 26.

"If the post office officials at North Yakima find it more convenient to handle the large amount of mail that come to the fair grounds during the week, in connection with a display of this kind," says Dr. Graves, "every convenience will be furnished them and special space set apart to afford as thorough a demonstration as Uncle Sam cares to make."

SOME SCHOOLS TO START NEXT WEEK

ALL OF DISTRICTS IN COUNTY WILL BE AT WORK BY SEPTEMBER 3.

Vacation days are nearly over for Thurston county kids. Here in Olympia and in quite a few of the districts throughout the county, school will start next Monday, August 31, but at the most there is only a week's more of grace, for every school of the county will be under way by September 3, according to County Superintendent L. A. Kibbe.

The normal increase in enrollment noted from year to year is expected throughout the county. Preparations in some of the districts indicate that the crowded conditions experienced last year in several places convinced the directors additional instructors are necessary to handle the old pupils and the expected new ones. Tenino will have one new teacher, making 10 for the schools of that thriving little city which is now entering upon the third year of maintaining a four-year high school course.

Other Additional Instructors.
Yelm has an additional teacher, to handle the high school course added there this year, and others will be employed at Rocheser, where on account of the crowded condition of the primary department, the first four grades will be taught this year in the old Jamestown school house; and at Maytown where a regular two-room graded school will be offered this year where there was only one last, an addition of one room to the building just being finished, while Bordeaux may employ an extra teacher on account of the Swiss colony.

Labor day will cause the usual confusion for those schools which will not start the year next week, so that very few of them will really do much until Tuesday, September 8. A good many of them do not propose to open at all on Labor Day, while in others the schoolchildren will be called together and enrolled and some incidental matters attended to. Besides the Olympia schools, the Yelm and Lacey districts are the only other larger ones which will start next Monday, though several of the smaller districts expect to. On the 7th and 8th, however, the schools at Rainier, Bucoda, Tenino, Tumwater, Rochester, Gate, Little Rock, Tono, Grand Mound and other districts will get down to business.

Preparing Study Schedule.
Superintendent Kibbe is now preparing the county course of study, a schedule of the work that must be completed during the year, and it will be ready for distribution about September 15. No particular new features are to be introduced into the school work, he says.

Teachers' examinations are being held in this city Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

BUSINESS PART OF SHELTON IN RUINS

FIRE DESTROYS HEART OF MERCANTILE DISTRICT EARLY THURSDAY.

Fire, starting in an unknown way in Josh Couilly's bakery and not discovered until it was well under way about 3 o'clock Thursday morning, gutted two blocks and a half in the heart of the business section of Shelton and further destruction was prevented only by the valiant efforts of nearly everybody in the city. No estimate of the loss has been made but it is expected to run considerably more than \$200,000.

Beginning at the bakery, the fire worked its way through Polson's dry goods store and the Shelton state bank, then jumped across a street into the Needham Mercantile company, owned by W. H. Maxwell, through a vacant building adjoining, then the Commercial hotel, the Mason County Independent office and George Gibbons' barbershop to the Shelton hotel, which is the only undamaged building in that district.

Dwellings Also Destroyed.

Working the other direction from the bakery, the fire destroyed W. M. Smith's confectionery, Beach's drug store, Kneeland Bros.' confectionery and cigar store and the L. & M. store, while on Railroad avenue it gutted Munson's store, the McDonald Mercantile company, Joe Weinert's butcher shop, I. N. Wood's jewelry store, F. V. Dunbar's drug store and L. F. Barger's store. It also swept over several dwellings in the district, only two being saved, one belonging to George Huntley and the other to Josh Couilly.

Nothing was saved from any of the buildings and all of them, built of wood, are in ruins. The fire was first discovered by some of the men in the railroad yards, but it had gained such headway at that time that it was impossible to do anything but to try to control it within the district in which it started.

Everybody Fought Fire.

Shelton has only a volunteer fire department, but it was not long after the first alarm was given before nearly everybody in the city was out and putting forth every effort to stay the destruction. The buildings, however, were dry as tinder, the fire had gained great headway and hardly before any one realized it the heart of the business section was in flames.

BIG GRANGE PICNIC

Mason Pomona Joins Thurston in Annual Affair.

With the remark that "if they'll take their feet off the farmers' necks, the farmers will uplift themselves," Fred J. Chamberlain of Puyallup delivered the principal address at the annual picnic of the Thurston County Pomona Grange at Priest Point park Wednesday, attended by between 60 and 70 members of the Mason County Pomona and members of every active Grange in Thurston county.

Mr. Chamberlain's talk was largely an earnest plea for greater organization and co-operation among the farmers, though he praised President Wilson's currency legislation and his moves toward rural credits, rapped the state supreme court for its recent decision on the recall, deplored high taxes, scored the legislature for building roads in the mountains instead of the farming districts, and reprimanded those whom he called the "gang" for their opposition to the initiative legislation.

Between 200 and 300 persons attended the affair, the big picnic dinner being served at noon. The program opened with a song by all present, and the other features were a recitation by Earl Lavery, a comic song by F. A. Warner, Fred W. Lewis and L. L. Snow, a talk by Scott Hayes, master of the Mason County Pomona, and comic songs by Miss Inez Clausen and Professor and Mrs. C. C. Thomson.