

TO ADVERTISERS.

The East Oregonian has the largest paid circulation of any paper in Oregon, east of Portland and over twice the circulation in Pendleton of any other newspaper.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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Forecast for Eastern Oregon by the United States Weather Observer at Portland.

Fair tonight and Saturday.

COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

NO. 8741



### FRENCH HOLDING OFFENSIVE BACK AROUND VERDUN

Drive Apparently Is Checked After Germans, at Great Sacrifice, Capture Several Outlying Points.

### RENEWAL OF DRIVE EXPECTED

French Forces Fortify Positions to Meet Tenth Attacks—Berlin Declares French Have Lost Enormously—Several Villages Stormed and Taken by Kaiser's Troops.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The French are checking the German drive against Verdun and apparently are holding their own except at a few minor points, a special dispatch from Paris declared. With the capturing of Semoigneux and other positions eastward, the Germans are within two miles of Fort Douaumont, within easy range of Tannenberg and Vaux. The guns of these positions are trained on the attacking forces, while a perilous fire can be directed from field redoubts and advanced trenches. The French believe the Verdun offensive is about to fall because of the enormous cost in human life.

The French have been aware of German preparations for some weeks. Battles between airmen and bomb attacks against artillery positions have been constant over the battlefields. The French were aligned in their effort to prevent the Teutons closing in on Verdun, from their positions six and eight miles distant.

BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The French losses around Verdun have been very heavy, while the German losses are only such as might have been expected, headquarters announced. The amount of booty taken was not commensurate. Fortified villages and farms five miles north of Verdun, were stormed and captured. Prisoners taken in the drive number 10,000. The towns taken include Champeuxville, Sorbelle, Marmont, Chambrette and Ornez.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The German offensive against Verdun is slackening, it was announced this afternoon. No attacks were made last night and artillery firing has become less violent. The French artillery is holding its own along the 25 mile front. There is every indication the offensive has been checked, temporarily at least. The French are organizing new positions behind Beaumont Heights, east of Champeuxville and south of Ornez near Verdun. They are preparing to meet the expected renewal of the drive.

### State Convention of W.C.T.U. May be Held in City

MOVEMENT IS BEGUN HERE FOR MEETING IN CITY DURING NEXT FALL.

To bring the annual W. C. T. U. state convention to Pendleton this fall is the purpose of a movement now on here in which the W. C. T. U. organization and the Pendleton Commercial Club are cooperating. If successful, it will mean an important convention for the city in October. Last year the convention met at Newberg and 150 delegates attended. Should the convention come here it is estimated the attendance will be equally large or better.

The selection of a meeting place for the state convention rests with the executive committee which is to meet in Portland March 6. At that time Mrs. J. C. Woodworth, county president for Umatilla county, will present an invitation to Pendleton in behalf of the Pendleton W. C. T. U. and the Commercial club. Mrs. G. W. King, local president, is also working on the subject.

The state convention has never been held in Pendleton and seldom if ever has the convention come east of the Cascade mountains. Accordingly the claim for recognition this year will be based largely on the argument that eastern Oregon is entitled to the meeting.

The state convention usually lasts for a period of three days and the attendance is drawn from the various community leaders in the association's work throughout the state.

Alaska's Trade Balance Gains. WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Alaska's trade with the outside world increased \$12,000,000 last year, according to figures made public by the department of commerce. The balance of trade in the territory's favor was \$27,000,000. Exports were valued at \$55,000,000 and imports at \$28,000,000.

### Site for Proposed Harvester Company's Plant is Secured Near the Round-Up Grounds

A site for the location of the Blewett Harvester Co.'s plant has been secured in the tract of land on West Court street directly opposite the Round-up grandstand. The tract is 420 by 200 feet and a bargain for the land has been closed with the Matlock estate, the purchase price being \$5000. The location affords the company a connection with both the O. W. R. & N. and the Northern Pacific tracks.

The work of completing the financial arrangements for the new company is still underway here and the workers are meeting with success. Yesterday some soliciting was carried on by a committee composed of J. F. Robinson, J. V. Tallman and Wesley Matlock. Among those signing up for stock yesterday were Dr. F. W. Vincent, manager Pacific Power & Light Co., \$500; The Peoples Warehouse \$500 and H. W. Collins, \$300. Other subscriptions are being received today and the committee is confident that within a few days time the needed amount will be secured. Approximately 15000 is yet to be raised and some good subscriptions have been promised in a tentative way.

A. R. Blewett, president and manager of the company, left this afternoon for Spokane to close up some business there. He will be back Monday and intends bringing his superintendent with him so as to take up immediately the task of constructing the needed buildings here with a view to getting equipped and ready for operation at the earliest possible moment.

The plans for establishing the harvester factory here are still contingent on raising a certain amount of money locally. However the amount needed is so small that it is assumed the sum can be fully raised so all preparations are being made for going ahead.

The harvester enterprise is arousing much enthusiasm among business men and farmers who are acquainted with the machine. One feature of strength about the scheme is the fact that owners of Blewett harvesters are strong boosters for the machine and for the location of the factory here.

### Wealthy Victims of "Badger" Game Will be Called to Give Testimony When Trial Starts

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—Wealthy victims of the Seattle "badger" gang will be called as witnesses when the case against Louis Sichel, Isabel Clayburg and Lillian Peterson, comes to trial. Prosecutor Lundin assured this today. A new complaint against Sichel is being filed, charging conspiracy to blackmail a wealthy mining promoter. Miss Clayburg will be extradited.

### Picture of Chicago Poison Victim



This artistic study shows a good likeness of the Chicago suburb, and for whose murder William Orpet, University of Wisconsin Junior, is now being held in custody.

### Blizzards Hinder Russian Pursuit of Turkey's Army

OTTOMAN FORCE FALLING BACK BEFORE OFFENSIVE OF THE GRAND DUKE.

PETROGRAD, Feb. 25.—Blizzards are hindering the Russian pursuit of the Turks who were driven from Erzerum. The Slav right wing is approaching Risch, east of Trebizond. The Russians dislodged the Turks from the fortifications at Bideswith in the mountain passes. The Turks are retreating toward Karmaneh.

### NAVAL FACILITIES SHOULD BE IMPROVED ON PACIFIC COAST

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Representative Stephens suggested that the house naval committee transfer the reserve ships of the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific coast. Admiral Winslow, Pacific fleet commander, said this was inadvisable now. He expressed the desire to keep the Atlantic fleet intact. He favored improving facilities on the Pacific coast. He said he thought Puget Sound yard should be better prepared, though he regarded it questionable whether the nation should spend money on Mare Island. He would favor sending a board of officers to the Pacific coast to locate a new yard. He said 48 submarines for the coast would not be excessive and counseled the construction of larger types than now used.

### COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS TO MEET HERE

A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION WILL BE FORMED AT GATHERING TOMORROW.

To discuss various subjects pertaining to school work the superintendents and principals in Umatilla county will meet in this city tomorrow. Sessions will be held both morning and afternoon. These meetings have been held annually for several years at the call of the county superintendent and it is planned to form an organization tomorrow.

Between 20 and 25 instructors are expected to be present at the meeting tomorrow. Among the subjects to be discussed will be "The Professional Certificate," "School Industrial Fairs," "High School Tuition Law," "School Budgets," "The County Athletic and Declamatory Contests," and "The Spelling Contest."

The professional certificate to be discussed is a certificate given by the state superintendent as recognition to those teachers who prove themselves successful and progressive by meeting certain qualifications. These certificates may be used as credentials by teachers going from one county to another.

### Wheat Regains Old Position Following Sensational Decline

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—After a sensational slump yesterday, wheat advanced sharply in the early trading today. The market seemed confident. May wheat sold at 112 1-4.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—(Special)—May, 113-114 3-4; July, 115 1-2-115 7-8.

Portland. PORTLAND, Feb. 25.—(Special)—Club, 34-35; Bluestem, 107-109.

Liverpool. LIVERPOOL, Feb. 25.—Wheat—Spot No. 2 hard winter, new 128 5-8; No. 2 hard winter, choice, 128 1-2; No. 2 red western winter, 128 3-4. In American terms the top Liverpool price for No. 2 hard winter is \$2.12 per bushel.

### VESSELS COLLIDE BUT PASSENGERS RESCUED

NORWOLK, Feb. 25.—The lines Cretan and Dorothy, under their own steam, are expected here tonight following a collision last night off Thinkle Shoals. The Cretan has a big hole in her starboard bow.

Seventy five of the Cretan passengers and crew are aboard the Dorothy.

### May Succeed Marye as Envoy to Russia



DAVID R. FRANCIS.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 25.—David R. Francis of St. Louis, secretary of the interior under Cleveland and at one time governor of Missouri, has an offer from the president to take the ambassadorship to Russia as successor to George T. Marye, who resigned. Mr. Francis has not replied yet to the president.

No reason has been announced for Ambassador Marye's resignation, but it is understood his health has been so impaired that further residence in the Russian climate might endanger his life.

He has informed the state department that his formal letter of resignation has been mailed from Petrograd. He is expected to start for the United States immediately after the arrival of Fred Morris Dearing, who has been transferred from Madrid to Petrograd as first secretary of embassy.

### Germany Said to Ask Definition of Defenses on Ships

UNCONFIRMED MESSAGE SAYS THIS CONTAINED IN BERLIN'S REPLY.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Germany's reply to America's refusal to accept the armed merchantmen decrees, asks America to define defensive armaments, an unconfirmed Amsterdam message stated. The reply should reach Washington within a few days. Officials believe Germany is prepared to yield rather than break with America.

According to the Amsterdam message, Von Jagow asks what size guns America deems necessary for defense of merchantmen in view of her contention that these ships have the right to arm strictly for defense. It is thought Germany thus hopes to force the state department to define defensive armament and embarrass belligerent ships entering America with comparatively large guns. It is believed the query is intended to prolong negotiations between the nations until excitement subsides. Then Germany will find a graceful way of exonerating herself from her awkward position. The Amsterdam report set the English forecast that Germany intended to defy America.

### Wealthy Banker Killed.

SAN JOSE, CALIF., Feb. 25.—Fighting with a burglar in the dark kitchen of a home George Jones, 70, a wealthy retired banker, was stabbed to death while his wife groped in a room for her husband, thinking he was suffering from nightmares.

Pennsylvania railroads in the last fiscal year killed 1182 persons, mainly trespassers.

### NEWS SUMMARY

- General.
- French are holding German offensive at Verdun.
- Bandits hold-up N. P. train near Seattle and escape with loot.
- Cabinet stands solidly behind Wilson in his fight against warning Americans against traveling on armed ships.
- Local.
- Blewett harvester factory to be built opposite Round-up park.
- State W. C. T. U. convention invited to meet here.
- Principals of schools in county to meet here tomorrow.

### Two Bandits Hold up N.P. Train and Steal Five Pouches Registered Mail

HEAVILY ARMED MEN, NEAR SEATTLE, STOLE FIVE POUCHES REGISTERED MAIL.

TACOMA, Feb. 25.—It was learned this afternoon that more than 15000 in negotiable paper in registered mail sent from Tacoma alone was the booty of the bandits who held up the North Coast Limited. Post office inspectors are checking the parcels and letters contained in the registered bags. No word has been received from railroad agents with passes who are searching for the two bandits.

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—Two bandits, heavily armed, held up the Northern Pacific eastbound North Coast limited train near Covington, 25 miles east of Seattle last night, and after unloading the baggage and mail cars which they ran a short distance up the track, stole five pouches of registered mail which had just been received from the orient and was being forwarded to New York.

The bandits used five charges of dynamite in an attempt to blow open the express safe but reports received shortly before midnight said the safe had withstood the effects of the explosions. Officials of the Northern Express company said the safe contained nothing but company reports being forwarded to St. Paul.

Iron Engine Two Miles. After robbing the mail car and failing to blow open the express safe the robbers uncoupled the engine which they ran two miles up the track to within a mile of Ravendale, where they abandoned the engine and escaped into the surrounding forest.

Four of the registered mail pouches were found on the floor of the engine cab. The pouches had been cut open and letters and packages rifled. Postoffice officials were unable to make even a guess as to the value of the loot obtained by the robbers.

The passengers were not molested, although they were badly frightened by the robbers who fired several shots to intimidate them after the train was stopped.

### Pendleton High Girls DEFEAT ATHENA, 27 TO 10

BOYS CLASH WITH LA GRANDE TONIGHT IN LAST GAME OF THE SEASON.

Pendleton high girls won from Athena last night 27 to 10. The game was fast and furious throughout. A large crowd from Pendleton was present on the side lines to help the girls win. This is perhaps the last game the girls will play this year.

Tonight Pendleton high school plays La Grande high for the eastern Oregon championship. Besides the regular game a preliminary will be played by a class team. The whistle blows at 7:45 o'clock.

Except along the Caspian coast, Persian agriculture is dependent almost entirely on irrigation.

### Noted Author in Serious Condition



HENRY JAMES.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The illness of Henry James, the author, is so serious that even a temporary improvement in his condition is not expected, but because of the nature of his malady it cannot be said to be immediately critical.

### CABINET STANDS SOLIDLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT

Lusitania Case Will Not be Closed While Armed Merchantmen Decree Threatens Former Pledges.

### WARNING QUESTION BLOCKED

Wilson Refuses to Budge from Stand That Americans Are Entitled to Every Right—President Holds That Decree Transgresses International Law—Clark Is Opposed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Arguments of the house conference today failed to swerve President Wilson from the stand that Germany's armed merchantmen decree transgresses international law. After an hour's session with Speaker Clark and Representatives Kitchin and Flood, there still was a disagreement between the president and congress about the decree.

Must Recognize Rights. Wilson emphatically declared he would not budge from the plan of insisting that Germany recognize every American right. Clark replied just as positively that the house overwhelmingly is in favor of issuing a warning. After much argument, all promised Wilson to prevent the house taking action today. Flood and Clark said they had heard rumors that the Germans intended to postpone the operation of the decree.

Warning Resolution. When the senate convened, Gore immediately introduced a bill making it illegal for Americans to travel on armed vessels during the war and also a resolution warning them to refrain from such travel. The senate tabled the Jones resolution requesting the president not to sever diplomatic relations with any nation and not place America in a position where she could not honorably avoid a war. The senate confirmed the nomination of Henry Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico.

Cabinet Backs Wilson. After a two hour session, the cabinet declared itself solidly behind the president and resolved not to close the Lusitania case while the armed merchantmen decree threatens to invalidate the previous Lusitania pledges.

Leaving the conference this morning, Clark said:

"I told the president what the sentiment in the house is. Stone's letter and the president's reply are the last words on both sides of the question. There is a rumor the Germans will postpone the operation of the decree. I am just guessing at this, but, if true, it will give us more time for consideration. The sum and substance of the conference, outside explaining the temper of the house and much arguing of both sides, is that the situation is fully set out in the two letters. There was a great deal of talk about international law and precedent, which is unnecessary to repeat."

Compromise Move started. A compromise movement developed in congress to favor the passage of a resolution to prescribe the maximum caliber of defense armament on ships and warning Americans not to travel on ships carrying excessive armament. Some think it will be possible to influence the president to approve this plan.

Wilson expressed his disapproval to the publicity given the differences between himself and congress. He said this was irritating and capable of misinterpretation which would perhaps make Germany less willing to make concessions.

Bryan endorsed the warning bill with a telegram to Representative Bailey, saying: "If congress has the right to declare war, it certainly has the right to prohibit peace and restrict travel from taking unnecessary risks."

### CAPTAIN TELLS OF WORK OF GERMAN RAIDER MOEWE

TENERIFFE, Feb. 25.—The German sea raider Moeve, captured by British commerce off north America between January 18 and February 2, according to the captain of one of her victims which arrived today, the Moeve encountered the 4854 ton British steamer Flamenco enroute to Valparaiso. She attempted to escape but was wrecked for help she was overboard and sank after two hours. One woman was drowned and two wounded. The captain of the captured victim said the Moeve took the steamer Corbeide into the mouth of the Amazon, transferred her coal and then sank her.