

Rogue River Courier

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WHOLE NUMBER 1074.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

OFFICERS OF C. E. UNION NAMED

Convention of Christian Workers Will Come to Close This Evening, All Churches Joining in Union Services

The new officers of the Oregon Christian Endeavor union were elected last night by the delegates in attendance at the convention here, the officials for 1916 being as follows:

President—Lloyd Carrick, Portland.

First Vice-President—E. Earle Felke, Portland.

Second Vice-President—Miss Edna Whipple, Eugene.

Third Vice-President—Miss Clara Calhoun, Grants Pass.

Secretary—Elihu Charman, Oregon City.

Treasurer—Miss Estelle Ford, Portland.

At the afternoon session of the convention a nominating committee was appointed, and the report made by this committee was unanimously adopted when presented to the body of delegates at the banquet at the Oxford hotel later in the evening.

The watchword of the convention has been "efficiency," and that the Christian Endeavor movement throughout the state might reach a higher degree of efficiency the work has been divided into departments, and superintendents for each were elected at the banquet. The departments, with the superintendent of each, follow:

Extension—E. Earle Felke.

Intermediate—Miss Marjorie Hanson, Portland.

Missionary—Miss Estelle Ford, Portland.

Quiet Hour and Tenth Legion—Miss Gertrude Eaklin, Salem.

Evangelism—Alva Patten, Hillsboro.

Efficiency—Miss Wille McGee, Eugene.

Citizenship—A. H. Barker, Hayesville.

Introduction—Miss Esther Stearns, Oakland.

Junior—Miss Opal Whitely, Cottage Grove.

Saturday was a busy day for the endeavorers, and the various addresses proved a rich treat for the delegates and for the local people who attended. Business sessions were held both morning and afternoon, though an adjournment was taken early in the afternoon that the courtesy of the Commercial club might be accepted in an automobile ride around the city and the valley. Practically all of the delegates availed themselves of the opportunity to see the Rogue valley, 30 automobiles being provided for them.

At the "millionaire" banquet at the Oxford in the evening, Rev. C. T. Hurd, of Klamath Falls, acted as toastmaster, and numerous responses were made by individual delegates. Later the delegates repaired to the Presbyterian church, where the convention meetings were held, and following a song service, Paul Brown delivered an excellent address upon "Efficient Soul Savers." The Campfire meeting was under the direction of Rev. C. T. Hurd.

Today's services will conclude the sessions of the convention. At 7 o'clock this morning there will be a sunrise prayer meeting, with Sunday school at 9:45 and church services at 11. In the afternoon there will be a meeting for "Juniors and the Junior Conference." The song service at 3:45 will be immediately followed by the installation of officers, and an address by Paul Brown upon the "Call for Leaders." All

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BRITISH TAKE GERMANS FROM UNDER U. S. FLAG

Washington, Feb. 19.—A British battleship stopped the liner China off the coast of Japan and seized 18 passengers, mostly second class, according to a report of the Shanghai agent of the company to its San Francisco office, which was telegraphed to the state department today.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—Reports that a British warship had stopped the liner China, flying the American flag, off the coast of Japan, and had seized a number of German refugees on board, who were en route to America, reached the China Mail Steamship company today, according to A. M. Garland, a high official of the company. The Germans were refugees in the orient who were seeking a haven in the United States during the period of the war. It is supposed that the British naval officers seized the Germans as being persons eligible for military service. Garland declared that his last advice indicated that about 40 Germans were scheduled to leave Kiao Chau on board the China and he believes these are the persons who were seized.

The China is the only big passenger liner plying the Pacific which flies the American flag since the Pacific Mail line discontinued business.

The China was owned by the Pacific Mail Steamship company before that company retired its flag from the Pacific ocean. Several months ago the China Mail company, financed by Chinese capital, purchased the vessel as the first of a fleet of ships to go into the passenger trade on the Pacific.

Captain F. E. G. Frazier, of Oakland, commands the China. The vessel is 3,100 tons burden and is reported to have carried about 100 passengers when she was stopped.

LAST WORD SAID IN LUSITANIA CASE

Berlin, Feb. 19.—Germany has said her last word in the Lusitania case and will not prepare another note about it, according to strong indications among officials today.

Though they are not commenting for publication on the reports that Secretary of State Lansing will not recognize Germany's right to torpedo armed merchant ships without warning, the official attitude is known to be:

Germany does not believe that America should interrogate her too closely about how the new policy shall be enforced, as the method is a naval secret, which Germany regards as purely a military question concerning only herself and her allies.

Ambassador von Bernstorff has been fully instructed about the Lusitania case, and he was permitted to make the change in the proposed settlement which was suggested in his recent conference with Lansing.

And again, officials declare that the Lusitania incident was really closed at that conference and that the new warfare plans have nothing to do with that case.

THE LINER APPAM IS LIBELED BY COMPANY

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 19.—The British and African Steamship company of Liverpool today brought libel proceedings against their liner, Appam, seized by a German commerce raider and brought into this port.

FARRAR AND CARUSO HAVE WORDY DIFFERENCE

New York, Feb. 19.—Because both Geraldine Farrar and Enrico Caruso are temperamental, they got into a wordy tiff over their opera-rehearsals, but the other singers believe they will remain in the company.

BREAK GROUND FOR SUGAR FACTORY MONDAY AT 11

Moving Pictures to Be Made by Representative of the Pathe News Company—Meeting Will Be Held in the Commercial Club Assembly Room to Hear Expert Geo. Austin Tell of the Culture of Sugar Beets

Monday, at 11 o'clock, ground for the new sugar factory in South Grants Pass will be broken. Who will be honored with putting the first shovel to the earth has not been announced, but the local committee is arranging for a suitable ceremony for the occasion, and the entire population is invited to be present and join in the festivities of the hour. Moving pictures will be made of the event by W. A. Van Scoy, representing the Pathe News people, who is remaining in the city for the purpose, and all over the country the scene will be thrown upon the screen. Should the weather at the appointed hour Monday not be propitious, a later time will be fixed, and Mr. Van Scoy and his movie camera will remain in the city.

At three o'clock Monday afternoon the people of the Grants Pass district will meet Alex Nibley, secretary of the Oregon-Utah Sugar company, and George Austin, the chief beet culture expert for the Utah sugar people, at the Commercial club assembly room. There Mr. Austin will go into detail concerning beet growing, his many years of experience qualifying him above all other men in the United States to speak with authority. Tuesday the gentlemen are to go to Wilderville, and the balance of the week will be put in in other portions of the valley.

The first work to be done upon the site of the new sugar factory is the erection of a tool house, which has been built to house the tools of the workmen during the construction period. Mr. Gilman and the other gentlemen representing the Dyer company, the contractors who are to build the structure, have made a preliminary survey of the site, and have tentatively agreed upon the exact site for the factory proper. Confirmation of this, however, will await the coming of Messrs. Nibley and Austin Monday, and also upon an examination which will be made Monday to see the character of the undersoil for foundation. The site which Mr. Gilman seems to consider with most favor is 2,000 feet directly south of the railroad bridge, about where the gun club has its trap house and shooting ground. Surveyors Saturday found this site to be 40 feet above

the level of the river. The soil here is decomposed granite, and the foundation for the factory will have to go down to either the cement gravel that underlies the soil, or at least to the gravel strata that is found. It is expected that the walls may have to go down to a depth of five or six feet to find a firm foundation.

A sugar factory uses a great deal of water, and Mr. Gilman says that it is probable that this will be pumped direct from the river. He said that a centrifugal pump might be placed at the river and water pumped into a reservoir at the factory, when it could again be raised to the top floor of the building, necessitating a further raise of 40 feet, that being the height of the building. Six miners inches of water will be required for the factory.

PORTLAND HOCKEY TEAM CHAMPIONS

Portland, Feb. 19.—Portland is 1916 champion of the Pacific Coast Hockey league today by virtue of a four to one victory over the Victoria Orphans last night.

While 3,500 howling fans added to the excitement, "Moose" Johnson in the second period zig-zagged down the ice through a field infested with the enemy and single-handed shot the goal that broke the one to one deadlock and decided the championship for Portland.

GIRL ATTEMPTED SUICIDE WITH POISON FOR EXERCISE

Toledo, O., Feb. 19.—Asked if she had a motive for attempting to commit suicide with poison, Irene Lane, 20 years old, told the doctor, "No, I took it for the exercise."

TILLMAN WANTS MORE SHIPBUILDING YARDS

Washington, Feb. 19.—Senator Tillman let it be known today that he expects to ask congress to appropriate the necessary funds for the construction of two more yards for the construction of battleships. The yards will be located on Puget sound, at Charleston, S. C., or at Norfolk, Va., he said.

BOYS AND GIRLS TO CONTEST FOR PRIZES IN SUGAR BEET CULTURE

Growing sugar beets is going to be one of the principal occupations of the boys and girls of Josephine county during the coming season, and some valuable prizes will be the inspiration added to the intrinsic value of the saccharine vegetables. H. C. Seymour, representing the extension department of the agricultural college, has been in the county during the past week, and at every meeting held in connection with the organization of the industrial club work found an intense enthusiasm over the beet culture project.

The Oregon-Utah Sugar company will offer a number of prizes in the contest, and will supply all contestants with seed. The contest will be based upon the production of a plot containing one-sixteenth of an acre. All expense incurred in the culture of the crop is to be carefully recorded, and the prizes will be distributed according to the profit realized upon

the crop. Other prizes are to be offered at the Josephine county fair, to be held on September 19, 20 and 21. Exhibits of the beets for the fair will consist of 10 samples from each of the young growers, and an analysis will be made for sugar content, the premiums to be given according to size and perfection of the beets and the per cent of sugar which they contain. The factory people will buy all the beets grown by the contestants.

Mr. Seymour states that he found a greater interest in this county over industrial club work than in any other county he had yet visited. A number of the pupils of the public schools are interested in the organization of pig clubs, which are organized under direction of the industrial club work, and both boys and girls are preparing for exhibits of their skill as farmers, stockraisers, dressmakers and culinary artists at the county fair, and later at the state fair.

BLUNDER MADE BY KAISER IS BELIEF AT WASHINGTON

Washington, Feb. 19.—That Germany has blundered in her decree of war against armed enemy merchant vessels and, realizing it, is now trying to find a way out of her difficulties, was the interpretation put upon United Press Staff Correspondent Ackerman's dispatch here today.

The fact that he revealed that Germany does not want to be questioned too closely about the decree was the first word of how the Teutons view America's refusal to acquiesce in the decree. And, it is believed, the story constituted a hint that despite the utterances of the German press, the kaiser's government recognizes it has placed itself in a very awkward position.

Inasmuch as Ackerman did not state that Germany will not reconsider her decree, it is accepted here as an indication that Berlin may be willing to yield to the United States, but is puzzled how to do so without raising an outcry in Germany.

Though Secretary Lansing would not comment upon the Ackerman dispatch, another department official said:

"Austria and Germany have blundered. They made a mistake in issuing the decree, which, in effect, is an ultimatum. The principal effect it has thus far is to impair seriously relations between the United States and the central powers. At a time when there was some sympathy with their contention about armed ships, the Teutons issued a decree to which the United States could not possibly accede.

"Our position, already officially expressed, is that any modification of the armed merchantman phase of international law can only be achieved by agreement of all parties concerned, and that it is as much a usurpation of authority for the central powers to make the declaration that they did as it would be for the United States to change the international law on the subject."

RUSSIAN TROOPS LAND ON TURK SOIL

(By United Press Leased Wire.)

London, Feb. 19.—Under protection of warships, Russian troops are landing 70 miles east of Trebizond, a Turkish Black sea port. Only feeble resistance has greeted them.

Petrograd advices indicate that these forces will move westward to join the troops released for other service by the fall of Erzerum, and now heading for Trebizond. Inasmuch as Trebizond is poorly fortified, the joint expedition probably will encounter no serious resistance.

The landing parties were transported from Batum, where they have been held in readiness for several months. The fact that they were not used before leads to the belief that Grand Duke Nicholas commands more men than had been supposed and that he now plans an aggressive Armenian campaign, a move toward Constantinople, or a junction with the British in Mesopotamia.

If the latter plan is the occurrence in mind, it is believed the Russians will go to Diarbekr, 140 miles southwest of Erzerum.

It is believed that not more than 30,000 Turks were captured at Erzerum, though this total will be swelled if the retreat from that city becomes more confused.

The defenders abandoned heavy artillery after unsuccessfully attempting to destroy some of it.

Last night's Petrograd official statement said "the forts in the fortress itself and in the surrounding country are full of Turkish dead," and claimed that already 200 guns had been counted, not to mention large quantities of other booty.

IS GERMANY DRIVING AT PARIS?

Correspondent Thinks That the New Offensive on Western Front Is Another Attempt on French Capital

By William Philip Simms.
New York, Feb. 19.—Has the long anticipated big offensive begun along the western front?

Are the recent daily smashes in Artois and Champagne the prelude to an early attempt to pierce the lines and the start of a drive toward Paris, Calais, or Cologne?

If not, what is the meaning of the fighting in France?

Despite continuous pounding of artillery all along the line and the spirited clashes of infantry for the possession of certain sections of the trenches, the indications are that the big offensive from either side is still some distance off. Apparently both Germany and the allies are jockeying for position, playing for the inside track.

There is no doubt that Germany is expecting the allies to launch a terrific punch against her in the spring. This blow, she reasons, after looking at the map, is likely to fall in Champagne and in Artois, north of Arras, or in that vicinity.

The battle line is shaped something like the letter "L." If the German line can be broken over an extended front along the bottom of the L (in the Champagne and along the top of the L (around Arras) the forces holding the corner will have to retire, even though unattacked, lest they be cut off by a junction of the two drives beginning in Champagne and Artois.

This is probably the explanation of the frenzied attacks hurled by the Germans against the allies in these two regions. They wish to prevent the French from getting a good foothold from which to make the spring.

The Germans are undoubtedly trying to harass the allies so much that preparatory work such as trench digging can be hindered.

On the other hand, the French are undoubtedly prepared for a big German offensive. It is believed inevitable. It is said in Paris that German public opinion at home will demand action in the western theater of war, and French plans have, beyond any doubt, been made for an attack.

Surprise in Paris would not be great were the Germans to try seeking a new route to Paris. At any event, it seems little likely that any real serious offensive movement will be undertaken by either side until the weatherman turns on enough good weather to make the handling of artillery easy. Indeed, the stamping of the past two or three days in the western operations after a brief outburst of activity has been due to stormy weather.

Rainy weather, with the accompanying saturated ground, bogs and loblollies, is not especially helpful for an advance, inasmuch as big guns are the backbone of the war and can scarcely be moved to advantage over such positions.

The present fighting in France therefore seems to be only the sharp preliminary clashes of armies struggling for the advantage in a double offensive movement.

CAUSE OF EXPLOSION REMAINS A MYSTERY

Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 19.—Officials of the Smet-Solvay company were unable today to account for the explosion at their plant last night which killed five persons and badly injured five others. They said there were no indications of a bomb plot.