

TAXPAYERS MEET
CONSIDER BUDGETSeveral Recommendations
Made to County Court Con-
cerning business.

REVIEW ROAD MATTERS

More Maintenance on County High-
ways Declared to be Vital Need
at Present—Some Money
Wasted, is Charged.

The annual meeting of the Douglas County Taxpayers' League was called to order at 10 o'clock this morning in the city hall by the president, Mr. B. W. Strong. The city hall was crowded to capacity with members of the league, numbering about 75. The total membership of the league is at the present time given as 500, but it is almost impossible to secure a larger attendance than was registered at today's session.

After the reading of the minutes of the previous session and their adoption, the president called for the reports of the several committees. The committees, however, were unable to report and it was decided to allow them more time and they were given until the afternoon session.

Judge G. W. Riddle, chairman of the road committee, made a partial report prepared by two members of the committee. This report was read and adopted. The new work which has been put on the roads was commended highly and it was suggested that the county court pay more attention to the maintenance of the present county roads. The maintenance work being done at the present time was declared to be inadequate.

Upon motion made by Dr. Bailey it was voted to reduce the number of league directors from twenty-five to eight. A nominating committee of three was appointed to name the candidates for these offices. It was also decided to have a representative assembly in the county to look after the road development work.

August Schloeman made a lengthy talk in which he charged waste of county property. He stated that he had noticed county road building material and implements lying out in the open during the winter months, and declared that the taxpayers are spending their money and getting no results.

John McKean took the floor and said it was his belief that the road patrolmen are in need of more help. He cited an instance of where the patrolman was engaged in improving a road in his district.

Judge Riddle had the following to say concerning maintenance of the roads: "They don't maintain the roads in winter time. The road workers don't put in any time on our roads when it is wet and rainy, and the truck holes are very much in evidence. Instead they wait until summer time and then use a scraper, which often does more damage than good. The scraper is a fine implement when used right, but it is very seldom employed for the right purpose. There should be a better system provided for the maintenance. I heartily approve the action of the county court in not selling the road bonds at the present time. They would only sell at 85 cents on the dollar. I look for a period of normalcy very soon and perhaps our county officials will then dispose of the road bonds at better figure."

Fred Gott declared that the present system of building roads is all wrong. "I am in favor of spring, not winter improvement," he stated. "There is little use of filling up the truck holes in the roads during the winter and then have the gravel and the holes all the deeper. The thing to do is to improve the roads in the spring. During the summer they will become well packed and by winter time they will be ready for travel."

Edward Gurney in his talk to the meeting favored the present system in comparison to our present one. "Even though we have to pay more taxes, I think that a permanent road program would be better than anything else. The roads should be started at a central point, at Roseburg, and constructed out in all directions."

Dr. Bailey pointed out to the taxpayers the item on the 1921 budget prepared by the county court and stated that the salary and expenses of the county fruit inspector. The budget states that he is allowed \$600 per year as salary and expenses. Dr. Bailey declared that this is not sufficient and made a motion to the effect that the league recommend to the county court that no money be allowed. The motion was unanimously adopted. It was shown that the county fruit inspector is an important office and some of the taxpayers even favored the hiring of an additional inspector to assist in inspecting the fruit growers against the taxpaying stock.

The taxpayers met again this af-

KEY POOL SOLD.

A lot of turkeys, consisting of nearly two thousand fine birds, was sold today and shipped to San Francisco under the direction of County Agent Haslett. While it was not made public the price received for the turkeys, it was in excess of Saturday's quotation of 45 cents and will probably net the growers in the neighborhood of 50 cents per pound. Upwards of 800 birds were pooled in this city and the balance came from Oakland. The turkeys were prepared for shipment today and will be sent to the San Francisco market at once.

PORK PRICES DROP.

(By Associated Press.)
PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—The local livestock market today reported hogs had slumped to \$9.50 and \$10.25. The cattle market is weak, sheep are holding steady. Eggs are declining in price with a weak market. Butter remains same as late last week.

noon at 1:30 o'clock, and following this session they met with the county court and offered several recommendations concerning the 1921 budget.

At the afternoon session several talks were made and Colonel Day discussed at length several items on the 1921 budget. The sundry items committee recommended that the league ask the county court for an explanation of the courthouses expense account the poor and indigent account, the current expense account and miscellaneous account. The report was adopted and at the meeting late this afternoon with the county court the taxpayers will expect an explanation from the officials. The eight directors for the ensuing year were elected as follows: F. Thiel, Yoncalla; S. D. Evans, Roseburg; C. O. Garrett, Glendale; C. H. Bailey, Dixonville; Fred Byron, Olalla, and Loyal Emery, Umpqua.

An account of the meeting with the county court will be given in tomorrow's issue.

Measure Protects
Farmers Interest

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The house ways and means committee has approved the Fordney emergency tariff bill, which is designed to protect the farmers from loss in disposal of their 1920 crops. The house committee made two changes, adding lemons to the list, with a duty of one and a half cents per pound. The committee also increased the rate on peanut oil from 20 to 26 cents per gallon. Representatives in the house from the agricultural districts pledged support to the bill, but instructed the committee to urge frozen beef, lemons, and canned salmon to be included in the list of articles protected by the high tariff.

Vale Murder Case
Finally Cleared

VALE, Or., Dec. 20.—The body of George R. Sweeney, the Vale tailor, who has been missing since September 14, was unearthed yesterday at Watson, following the admission of George Howard that he had buried the body after dragging it from the Owyhee river, in which he had sunk the corpse after placing it in a trunk following the murder. Sheriff Noe and Acting District Attorney Lytle, after weeks of questioning and cross examination, obtained from Howard a diagram of the spot where Howard admitted that he had secreted the body of his victim. The first confession of Howard alleged that the body was still in the river, but persistent dragging of the stream failed to locate the trunk containing the murdered man. Following the admission that the body had been removed from the water because he feared the trunk would float to the surface and he be implicated in the murder, Sheriff Noe and deputies went to the spot and after an hour's digging in the frozen ground found the corpse. Howard stated that after killing Sweeney in order to get possession of an automobile, he left the body in the machine all day covered up with a lap robe. That night he jammed it in a trunk and sunk it in the Owyhee river. Later in September, deciding to leave, he took the body out and after working all night finally got it buried where it was found yesterday.

A Pacific Highway map, giving a detailed view of the Pacific Highway from Portland to the California State line has been received by the Umpqua Hotel from the State Highway Commission.

The News-Review.

CHICAGO AFTER
MEAT PROFITEERSFair Price Committee Will Is-
sue Daily Quotations for
Consumers.

OF NO REAL SERVICE

Federal Trade Commission Sees No
Particular Good in Wheat
Speculation—Advocates Law
Be Enacted by Congress.

By Associated Press.
CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—Reversion to the methods employed during the war in fighting the high prices on food stuffs were adopted today, the fair price committee announced. "Fair price" quotations for meats will be issued daily. Charges have been made that retail meat dealers are making greater profits now than at any time during the war. It is also alleged that this same condition exists in many towns and cities throughout the country, both east and west. While the producers are getting around six cents for beef cattle, the same meat is sold over the block from 25 to 40 cents per pound. Consumers are on the point of revolt. It is stated, and to bring down the price in Chicago the fair price committee will expose the profiteering methods of the retail butchers.

Suggests Congress Act.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—That the president is without authority, under the existing law, to "shut out wheat imports," but he apparently has certain powers under the Lever act which are sufficient for him to stop trading in wheat, the federal trade commission says in a special report to the executive. The report goes on to state that "while the evidence is not available that future trading is responsible for the decline in wheat prices, it does not appear that future trading in wheat, as at present operating, is of indisputable service to the grain trade." The commission suggests that if regulatory action is employed that the question should be considered by congress, and regulation not connected with the war powers of the government be enacted.

Neuner Will Not
Recommend Parole

A very polite letter was received by District Attorney Neuner today from S. A. Cramer, who was convicted of having been implicated in the robbery of Pete Trivich at the government quarry near Scottsburg, nearly two years ago, in which the prisoner, who is now serving his sentence in the penitentiary, asks the District Attorney to recommend him for parole.

Cramer states that he has been a model prisoner and that he feels that he is wasting his time and that he could make as good a record out of the prison as he could inside. In answering the letter the district attorney states that he has no recommendation to make until the minimum sentence, at least, has been served.

"The parole law of the state of Oregon, as it is now used and twisted, is a farce," said attorney Neuner. "It simply makes a mockery out of justice, and if this policy is to be continued in the future I can see no use of apprehending and convicting criminals and sending them to the penitentiary, to be turned out in a short time upon society."

"I think my record will bear me out that where leniency is warranted or where there are extenuating circumstances in connection with the commission of a crime, that I have never hesitated in raising my voice in the behalf of the person on trial. In the case where the prisoner is youthful and there is a possible chance of making a man of him, I have always given my support to any move for leniency to the violator."

"But, in the cases of hardened criminals that commit these crimes premeditatedly, I think they should be given plenty of time to think over their misdeeds and no doubt should be construed against the public before they are liberated and allowed to again prey on the weak and unprotected."

"A little more strict observance of the laws should lead to less lynching and resorting to the unwritten law, which seems so prevalent throughout our country."

RECOVERS TURKEYS

Grant Clayton, one of the prominent turkey raisers of the county, recently missed three of the finest birds from his flock. He suspected a neighbor and secured the services of the sheriff and constable and a search of the suspected man's premises resulted in the finding of one gobbler alive, and a 22 pound hen was found killed. Another had been eaten. Payment was made for the stolen birds and no complaint was filed.

EX-CONVICT KILLED
IN PISTOL DUELFrank Wagner Who Robbed
Store at Scottsburg Is
Killed by Posse.

BONDS ARE RECOVERED

Deputy Sheriff Christofferson of Clatsop County Finds Evidence
Which May Lead to Finding
of Other Stolen Goods.

Frank Wagner, ex-convict, who on the night of October 21, 1920, blew up the safe at the John Hedden store and post office at Scottsburg, was killed by a posse at Columbia Beach, near Astoria, about noon yesterday, in a pistol duel between himself and a posse of guards from the state penitentiary and Clatsop county officers. Liberty bonds to the value of \$5500 bearing the name of John Hedden were found hidden with other plunder. Deputy Sheriff H. Christofferson found other evidence which will doubtless result in the finding of the remainder of the valuables stolen from the Hedden store and will be here in a few days to go with Sheriff Quine to Scottsburg to make a search for the stolen goods.

The death of Wagner occurred at the D. English place at Columbia Beach, when a posse led by Warden Compton of the state penitentiary came upon Wagner in a little blacksmith shop where he was forging safe-cracking tools.

Wagner started the duel by firing two shots in answer to the command "hands up." Immediately the posse returned the fire and Wagner fell dead from two bullets.

Hedden's store, which also served as the post office and bank at Scottsburg, was robbed on the night of October 21. That date was only a few days after Wagner had made his escape from the penitentiary where he was serving a 40 years term for cracking a safe at Astoria. After cracking the safe Wagner appropriated valuables worth between \$20,000 and \$25,000. The largest part of this amount was in Liberty bonds, mortgages, notes, etc., although there were several thousand dollars in cash. A number of watches were also taken and the post office supplies removed.

Evidence was secured showing that Wagner then took a boat and rowed to Reedsport, catching a train there and riding to Eugene, from where he went to Portland and on to Astoria. At Astoria he cracked several safes before his hiding was discovered.

Wagner escaped from the penitentiary on September 18, with another convict, Earl Riley. They were trustees and were employed at the brickyard outside the main prison walls. They were fired upon by the guard but neither was hit, and reached a forest, where they separated. Riley was captured in Portland four days later, but Wagner was not caught until Sunday.

Shortly after his escape guards were put on his trail and he was tracked to Reedsport, and it was believed that he had gone to his former home on Cook Bay. Guard Robert Gibson was stationed at Reedsport and Guard L. T. Robertson was stationed at Roseburg, and they were at these places when the robbery occurred at Scottsburg. Wagner was immediately suspected but he made good his escape before he could be apprehended.

A few days ago he was seen by an officer in Astoria and his hiding place at the D. English ranch learned. As a result a posse consisting of L. H. Compton, warden; Percy M. Vanderveer, parole officer; E. H. Halley, principal keeper; Emory James, Robert Gibson, Louis Hubbard, John Davidson and Sol Huddard, guards, all of the penitentiary, and H. Christofferson and A. C. Schriener, deputy sheriffs from Clatsop county, surrounded the blacksmith shop where Wagner was engaged in making tools for use in cracking safes.

As soon as the officers were in their positions around the building, one of them called to Wagner to come out with his hands up and surrender. Wagner answered the challenge by stepping to the door where he was seen by one member of the posse and fired two shots, neither of which took effect. This was quickly followed by the volley from the posse which rattled the building.

Wagner was struck by two of the bullets. One entered the left side of his abdomen, ranged upward and came out below the right arm. The other bullet struck Wagner in the right chest, passed through his head and emerged just above the right ear.

When the officers entered the building Wagner was dead and the body was turned over to Coroner Hughes.

D. English, owner of the building where Wagner was working, immediately was arrested on a charge of harboring a fugitive from justice. He showed the officers where Wagner had secreted some plunder in an old

INVITE A CHILD
TO XMAS DINNERReceipt Card for Gift in Cam-
paign to Save Lives is
Invitation.

BIG EFFORT IS MADE

Oregon People will Be Asked to Save
Lives of Over 25,000 Starving
Children in Famine Districts
of War Torn Europe.

Who is the hardest hearted man in Oregon.

He is expected to be found between December 19 and 25 in some county or town. He may be in Portland or he may be in the state outside, but he is the man who will refuse to buy, or help buy the life of a starving child in East Central Europe at \$10 apiece. He is the man who, being told that Oregon is responsible for the lives of 25,000 of the 3,500,000 starving children afflicted by a famine in Europe's former war zone will keep his hands and his money in his pockets. If he is not found, the campaign organization formed in this state at the request of Herbert Hoover, will decide that Oregon is 100 percent merciful.

No effort for the relief of need has ever been put forth in Oregon, it is said, with so little noise or oratory, or yet, with such quiet determination on the part of the many thousands of workers to make it a success. Almost imperceptibly it has taken precedence over all other of Christmas activities, simply because the people of Oregon cannot bear to let the children of Europe's blackened battlefields starve.

Oregon's campaign was organized by W. B. Ayer in direct response to Herbert Hoover's appeal. Robert H. Strong was appointed general director and Robert E. Smith, outside director. Liberty loan workers were added to the representatives of the American Red Cross, Jewish Joint Distribution committee, Federal Council of Churches, Knights of Columbus, Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. and the most gratifying feature as the workers prepare for their whirlwind drive, is the discovery that the war left the state with an organization capable on less than a week's notice of responding to so tremendous a need as that of the children in Europe.

Oregon's quota is 25,000 lives, all equally divided between Portland and the state outside. In other words the state is expected to contribute a total sum of \$250,000.

The receipt cards to be used take the novel form of accepted invitations from Europe's little folks as invisible guests at the Christmas dinners of Oregon.

Dramatic Club
Is Formed Here

At a meeting held the latter part of last week, a high school dramatic club was formed. Twenty four girls and thirteen boys enrolled at this time and several others have signified their intention of joining. Owing to the Christmas holidays, no meeting of the new club will be held until after the first of the year. Principal C. H. McKnight is instrumental in starting the club which will probably be under the direction of the English teacher. A dramatic club has always been considered an important part of high school life. Formerly, there was such a club here, but was dropped for some reason, and has never been revived. The club will give a play before the close of the spring term. It is composed of the best dramatic talent in the high school, and will do much to improve and add to the achievements of the year.

Red Cross Seal
Campaign Success

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—"Will seven swins taken last summer equal one bath for this winter?" queried a little freckled faced urchin in one of Oregon's schools recently when he was told that he must have at least two baths a week if he would become a member of the Modern Health Crusade, the health education program of the Oregon Tuberculosis Association. The seven swins were commended, but the bi-weekly baths were announced as an arbitrary part of the health program.

Health Crusaders, numbering 69,000 children have been enlisted during the past year, not only improving health standards, but also stimulating interest to such an extent that schools are selling Christmas

barn close by.

Frank Wagner, otherwise known as "Dutch Frank," the three-minute safe man, has been known in police circles for years as one of the most expert safe crackers in the entire country.

BREAD PRICES LOWERED.

Local housewives, who have been forced to dig down in their apron pockets for an extra penny with which to purchase bread at 11 cents per loaf, will grin a grin of complete satisfaction at the announcement to the effect that the two local bakeries, the Model and the Oregon, will tomorrow lower the price of the "staff of life" to 10 and 15 cent loaves. Although the drop in price is not enormous, it will at least be a relief to know that two nickels are gradually beginning to assume normal purchasing power.

seals in far greater numbers than ever before, thus providing means for increased health work.

State, rural and city schools are flooding the Portland office with second, third and even fourth orders. Portland schools started in with 300,000 seals, and the first week re-orders were close to 100,000. "The children simply clamor for the seals and we have difficulty in keeping a supply," said a Portland teacher.

Medford is offering a cup to the school selling the most stickers. Baker is conducting an essay contest, with the sale as a background. Eugene and Lane county are having unusual success through the schools, having already doubled the last year's sales.

"We are glad of an opportunity to help you in this work. It teaches the children such good lessons, both in state current events and greatest of all, to help others," writes Miss Lulu O. Clark, a teacher of Seio.

Never before has the Oregon seal sale gone so splendidly. For the first time there is prospects of the state sale exceeding that of Portland. The fraternal and labor organizations are giving hearty support and there is every prospect that the "five cent stamps" are being given by many "per capita" sale will be exceeded.

children. Seal Sale balls have been given in many cities and others are planning benefits of various natures, from basketball games to a bazaar.

H. S. Girls Will
Have Rest Room

The high school girls club, with a membership including every girl in the local high school is raising funds for a rest room to be installed in the building at once. Miss Emma Ueland of the Domestic Science and arts departments, who realizes the needs of such a room for the girls has advanced the required sum, the girls to pay her back as they raise the money. A start was made last Friday night at the junior class play, a committee of the girls selling home made candy. Twenty dollars were raised in this way. The rest room will be on the first floor in the room adjacent to the domestic art room. It is large and roomy, and will be made attractive with heavy cretonne curtains, a couch and several large chairs. A complete medicine chest is also to be installed. This room will be for the exclusive use of the girls as the teachers already have a rest room. It will fill an important need at the high school and no time will be lost in completing the furnishing. The girls are planning on window sales and other means in which to raise money to pay their debt. Each girl has also been assessed a small sum.

Meetings of Project
Leaders Announced

County Agent H. E. Haslett reports that the reorganization work of the County Farm Bureau is progressing rapidly. Meetings are scheduled for Elton on December 21, Yoncalla on December 22 and Drain on December 23. These will all be day meetings commencing at 10 o'clock. On December 28 will be held the first of the project leaders conferences. These conferences will be held in the mornings and afternoons on the days announced. On December 23, the community leaders in the livestock projects will meet in the office of the county agent. On the 29th, the leaders of the poultry projects will meet and on the 30th, the leaders of farm crops and rodent control movements will discuss their problems.

High School Will
Present Operetta

"Miss Cherry Blossom" has been selected as the operetta to be given by the high school this year, and is to be presented early in March. Miss Helen I. Moore, musical supervisor, is in charge. The setting of the operetta is in Japanese, and the music and the members of the cast have not yet been assigned their parts although the members of the chorus have been practicing their songs for some time. There is a large number in the cast, including the majority of the boys and girls glee clubs.

CORONER'S JURY
RETURNS VERDICTAccidental Falling or Suicide
Is Reason for Death of
Portland Man.

NO FUNDS ARE FOUND

Financial Matters Believed to Be the
Contributory Cause to Death of
W. Robert Schultz, Who
Suicided Last Saturday.

That W. Robert Schultz, of Portland, who leaped from the fourth story window of the Umpqua hotel Saturday, chose death rather than disgrace, was the opinion of the members of the coroner's jury, which at the inquest held Saturday afternoon heard the testimony of a number of witnesses of the occurrence. Because of the lack of definite information and the slight shade of doubt which always surrounds such an event, the jury found its verdict as follows: "That W. Robert Schultz came to his death by falling from the fourth story of the Umpqua hotel at Roseburg, Oregon; and we further find that he came to his death by accidentally falling or with intent of self-destruction." The members of the jury were B. S. Nichols, foreman; L. E. McClintock, Percy A. Webb, F. O. Brownson, S. J. Black and Joseph A. Denn.

The inquest was held at 4 o'clock Saturday afternoon and was conducted by Coroner M. E. Ritter and District Attorney George Neuner. Practically no new testimony was brought out and nothing which would throw any light on the case.

Witnesses related dealings with Schultz and the passing of the checks which later proved to be worthless. The partner of the dead man, R. E. Kirman, testified as to the age of the deceased, which was placed at 23 years, and also related some of the matters relative to their coming to Roseburg. He was unable to give any information regarding Schultz's financial condition and could make no statements regarding his former life. Kirman had been acquainted with Schultz for about two years and had come to Roseburg with the expectation of going to work at the Liberty theater here.

Other witnesses called testified with regard to the fatal leap, and the condition of the body, etc., there being no new developments. Inquiries into the man's financial condition revealed no trace of funds and it is believed that being in financial straits he resorted to worthless checks and being unable to make good chose death rather than the disgrace of a crime.

Coroner Ritter has communicated with relatives in Portland and the body was shipped to that place today. Schultz was formerly the owner of the Dream theater in Portland but recently disposed of that playhouse.

Bridge Collapses
Over Pass Creek

DRAIN, Ore., Dec. 19.—An accident with peculiarly fortunate results happened here this morning about 8:30 o'clock, when the wagon and team of Roy J. Spaulding, together with the owner and two other persons, Ivan Barker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barker, and David Combs, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Combs, the boys being aged 17 and 13 years, respectively, were all precipitated into Pass Creek, through the giving way of a section of the floor of the bridge that spans that stream at the foot of First street, by the side of the railroad bridge.

The accident was caused by the rotten condition of the needle beams of that portion of the bridge, the collapsed section being about 15 feet long, the first at the north end of the bridge.

The only personal injury was to Ivan Barker, who received a painful, but not serious cut across the forehead. The others escaped unhurt, as did the team. Some damage resulted to the wagon. Mr. Spaulding was conveying an outfit south of town for a turkey shoot, and it consisted of some three barrels of blue rock pigeons, some ammunition and several live turkeys. The wagon was overturned into the edge of the creek and the turkeys were drowned but the rest of the outfit was salvaged.

This is the second accident of identical nature that has occurred here in the past year, the first being early last spring, at which time the bridge near the depot, here in town, went down with himself, wagon and team, and one other occupant. The worst damage at that time was some severe bruises sustained by Mr. Spaulding the loss of some household goods belonging to C. B. McClure and some damage to the wagon and harness.

Miss Clara Smith left this morning for her home in Dillard after spending the week and here with friends.