

## COMMISSION ANXIOUS TO GET ACTION

WILL MEET AD CLUB COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION TONIGHT

## UNABLE LAST NIGHT TO ACCOMPLISH MUCH

First Brief Tests With Water Meter Newly Installed at City Reservoir Indicate That Pipe Line is Delivering Capacity Load There—The Grande Ronde River Very Low

Discussion at a two and a half hour session of the board of city commissioners last night centered mainly around the subject of the water supply, with the matter of street improvement a rather neglected secondary issue. When the city manager stated in his report that the use of water from the Grande Ronde river as a supplementary supply had not been required except at a few times during the past week, Commissioner Grandy stated that he thought the city should in those circumstances be able to loosen up the water restrictions a little and let the citizens refresh their lawns and their gardens a little more often than four hours out of every ninety-six. That was the start of a discussion that really did not arrive at any definite conclusion—a discussion that covered every angle of the water situation—but for lack of definite arrangements in regard to pumping from the river to keep the city reservoir filled, the board was unable to say that restrictions should be removed.

## Blocked by Prior Rights

With the water being used for irrigating in the city in only one fourth the amount it was before, it has not taken much pumping from the river to keep the city reservoir filled, but on account of the scarcity of water in the river just now and the need of farmers on the irrigation ditches, whose rights are prior to the rights of the city, it was pointed out that it was difficult to get enough from the river to keep the supply up should the restrictions be removed. Several times when pumping lately, it was said, the pumps at the Palmer Mill had lowered the river below the level of the intake of the pumps. With this shortage at the river and the chances of the city for getting a greater supply from the pumps depending upon the adjudication of the rights of prior claimants in circuit court next month it was suggested that there was little use of the city installing its own plant. The commissioners decided, however, that they would meet the members of the Ad Club committee appointed to aid them in the solution of the problem, and accordingly this meeting will be held at the city hall tonight.

## Pipe Line Delivers Capacity

Managery Collier stated during the discussion that he had visited city reservoir where a water meter had been installed during the day for the purpose of ascertaining amount of water coming down through the pipes. While the time of testing was necessarily short and his findings might therefore be somewhat inaccurate, he said that working on measurements made on five and ten minute tests it was found that the pipe line seemed to be delivering capacity load at reservoir. In a day or two, he said, they would be able to tell accurately how much water has been delivered to the reservoir and how much the requirements of the city were.

## The water superintendent, C. J. ...

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## The city manager stated that a temporary dam is being built at the intake on Beaver Creek to discover just what improvement in the water supply may be counted on from the new concrete dam that the city plans to build there. The new dam will likely not be commenced until Engineer ...

## Paving is Considered

Remains street improvements ...

## MODIFIED PEACE PLAN IS SOUGHT

TAFT AN ADVOCATE OF RESERVATIONS IN THE WAY OF COMPROMISE

## EX-PRESIDENT WRITES TO DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

Republicans Working on Program of Reservations With Increased Activity, While President's Supporters Unchanged and Favor Unreserved Ratification

WASHINGTON, July 24.—William Howard Taft, who has written several Republican senators and leaders suggesting reservations to the peace treaty which might be acceptable to both sides, has opened correspondence on the subject with Democratic leaders. Senator Hitchcock received a letter from Taft today. Encouraged by Taft's efforts Republicans are working on a plan of reservations with increased activity. Although Senator McNary, of Oregon, and others conditionally favoring the league believe that in the end most of the Democrats and many Republicans will unite on a middle ground, Democratic leaders remain unchanged, favoring unreserved ratification.

## CHECK FORGER IS ARRESTED

CHARLEY LACEY CAUGHT NEAR PAYETTE, IDAHO

Lacey is Also the Thief of the A. R. Hunter Car, As Was Suspected

Charles Lacey, the man who on Saturday night last exchanged a worthless check, with the signature of the Palmer Lumber Company forged to it, and was suspected by the police with the theft of the A. R. Hunter automobile from in front of the Zuber Hall the same night, was arrested today near Payette, Idaho. Lacey had made good progress toward escape until the Hunter machine developed tire trouble a few miles this side of Payette. He then visited a nearby farmer's garage and stole another car, took the good tires off the Hunter machine, and set of again. The theft of the second car was noticed however, and when the officers started in pursuit of Lacey they soon caught him where he had got stuck in the mud. When arrested Lacey was wearing the suit of clothes which he secured at The Toggery here and for which he tendered the bad check. Sheriff Warneck will leave tonight accompanied by E. T. Andrews, of The Toggery, to bring Lacey back to La Grande. A. R. Hunter, Jr., will also go along to bring home his machine.

## RADIO PLANT RECOMMENDED

HIGH POWER STATION FOR MOUTH OF COLUMBIA

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Favors Expenditure to Relieve Trans-Pacific Cables.

PORTLAND, July 24.—Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt has formed the chair of commerce of Portland that he is recommending to congress the establishing of a three million dollar high power naval radio station for the mouth of the Columbia river to relieve the trans-Pacific cable congestion.

## Lodge Would Have the Treaty to Aid France Presented to Senate

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Chairman Lodge, of the senate foreign relations committee, offered a resolution in the senate today requesting the President to submit to the senate the treaty by which the United States would promise aid to France in the event of an unprovoked attack by Germany. Unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the resolution was refused.

Lodge offered the measure after a sharp debate in which the Republicans declared the terms of the treaty required it to be submitted to the senate for ratification at the same time as the treaty with Germany.

## GREAT LINERS WILL BE BUILT

DESIGNED TO CROSS ATLANTIC IN FOUR DAYS

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Two gigantic ocean liners, larger than any ships now afloat and designed to cross the Atlantic in four days, will be built by the shipping board. The vessels will be a thousand feet in length and are to have a speed of thirty knots an hour. They will be equipped as commerce destroyers in case of war.

## TAFT SAYS THAT WILSON MADE SERIOUS MISTAKE OF POLICY

## WORK ON BIG DITCH

Miles Bros., contractors, who have the contract for building the big \$10,000 Catherine creek ditch, have established camp No. 1 with about 40 men and will establish other camps as soon as men can be obtained, hoping to complete their contract by November 15. This ditch will be about five miles in length, three feet deep and seven feet wide and will conduct water from Catherine creek into Big creek affording an ample supply of water for all the farm land between Medical Springs and Powder river, bringing under cultivation several thousand acres of very rich farm land which this water alone makes available.—Baker Herald.

## INDIAN DIVORCE CASE

PENDLETON, July 24.—Aaron Minthorn, wealthy Indian, is defendant in a suit for divorce begun in this city by Mrs. Anna Minthorn, his Indian wife. She accuses him of being a spendthrift and declares in her complaint that in the past year he has squandered between \$20,000 and \$25,000, while he has given her but \$200 in the same time. Two hundred and forty acres of land has been sold by him and the proceeds recklessly spent, she alleges.

# Palmer Lumber Company Will Pump Water For City

## REQUEST THAT ALAND ISLANDS BE MADE NEUTRAL TERRITORY

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

PARIS, July 24.—The Baltic commission of the peace conference has presented a report recommending that the Aland Islands, between Sweden and Finland at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia, be neutralized under the guarantee of the league of nations.

## ARMY PLANE ON A LONG CRUISE

WILL SKIRT THE RIM OF THE UNITED STATES

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

WASHINGTON, July 24.—An army bombing plane with a crew of five left ground this morning on the first leg of a flight of 8000 miles around the rim of the country. The first stop is scheduled for Augusta, Maine, which is 560 miles from Washington. In all the plane will go through thirty-one states on the Atlantic, Pacific and Gulf coasts and the Canadian border. Lieutenant Colonel R. S. Hartz is in command.

## TROOPS PROTECT ENGLISH MINES

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

LONDON, July 24.—Soldiers are keeping the coal mines pumped during the strike in the Yorkshire district. Troops are protecting the mines. The government has stopped the exportation of Cardiff coal.

## WILL DISARM BULGARIANS

MOVEMENT RESULT OF ATTACK ON FRENCH SOLDIERS

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

GENEVA, July 24.—As a result of an attack on French soldiers by Bulgarians, a French regiment has arrived at Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, to disarm the local garrison. Dispatches stated that a French regiment was attacked by the Bulgarians as the regiment was landing at Lom Palanka a few days ago. A lively fusillade ensued, lasting three hours, in which three French were killed.

## MEDFORD MILL IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

MEDFORD, July 24.—The Gagnon lumber mill, on the outskirts of Medford, was burned today. The loss is \$25,000. The proprietor, J. T. Gagnon, thinks the fire was incendiary. The mill will be rebuilt immediately.

## SAYS IT'S UNJUST TO SUSPECT JAPAN

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Declaring that the treaty provision giving Japan control in the Shantung "has been repeatedly misinterpreted and generally misunderstood," Senator Robinson, Democrat, of Arkansas, told the senate that it was unjust to suspect Japan's motives or question her declaration that the territory will eventually be restored to China.

## F. S. BRAMWELL APPOINTED

F. S. Bramwell, a former La Grande resident and now at Grants Pass, has been appointed by the state chamber of commerce to investigate and study the irrigation needs of the state. Mr. Bramwell is a member of the board of directors of the state organization and is also familiar with the subject over which he has been assigned jurisdiction. In following the plans of his work, Mr. Bramwell will make a general tour of the state and a visit to his old home here is expected in the near future.

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"This company will use its every energy to supply La Grande with water during this crisis. Our pumps, our engines, our man power is at the disposal of this city in order that humanity may not suffer and in order that the laws and vegetation in La Grande may be preserved. This company views the present emergency as very critical and we wish it plainly understood that the industrial life is secondary to the welfare of humanity, and we therefore will drain every drop of water from our mills and ponds to relieve the condition if such need be." George Palmer of the Palmer Lumber Co.

The above statement was made yesterday by Mr. Palmer, head of the George Palmer Lumber company, to Commissioner Grandy and Fred J. Holmes who called on Mr. Palmer to discuss the water situation in La Grande.

It has been understood that the pumping of water for the city was such a burden to the company that it was desirous of being relieved of that duty. And it might be mentioned that the company is not anxious to do the pumping as a regular proposition, but under existing conditions no thought has been entertained other than to keep the city in water. In fact, each day Palmer people take a reading of the pressure at the city hall and when they find the pressure is lowering they immediately start their pumps and keep them running until safety has been reached and there is sufficient water in the reservoir to protect La Grande people and La Grande property.

With this clearing of the atmosphere relative to pumping it would be useless for the city to install another pumping plant, for the plant at the mills not only is capable of furnishing capacity for the pipe line but it is doing it.

Mr. Palmer is of the belief that

the citizens may be permitted to irrigate their lawns and shrubbery every other day instead of every fourth day and he believes that the pumps will keep sufficient water in storage for this purpose. This is not an order and must not be construed as such until the city commission acts on the matter, but it is Mr. Palmer's belief that this may be done.

It would seem that a great deal of the tumult which the city has just gone through has been due to a misunderstanding, for the Palmer pumps are running and will run indefinitely until the present crisis has been averted. There is a desire on the part of the Palmer people, as well as very other citizen, that something be done to insure La Grande water in the future and that the vacillating methods employed in the past relative to securing a permanent water supply shall cease and some constructive, sensible plans be adopted for the increasing of the system's capacity for next season.

The chlorination plants are working now and the pumps are running, which means that La Grande's water supply is safe and that the quality of the water is also safe—just as safe as the United States supplied water for the troops—for that water was chlorinated. Chlorine purifies water, so don't get excited or be misguided by claims to the contrary. It is, however, essential that the chlorination plants be in constant operation, and this duty falls squarely upon the city.

## Water Flow Measured

Fred Speth returned last evening from the reservoir, where he had measured the water flow, and gave out the information that pipe line was delivering more than a million and a half gallons of water every twenty-four hours.

The capacity of the line is only a million, six hundred thousand gallons daily and Mr. Speth asserts that it is doing even a little better than the stipulated capacity.

All of which means that La Grande has outgrown her water system and there is nothing to do but build another just as soon as possible.

## HEAVY LOSS OF GRAIN BY FIRE

FIELD OF WHEAT BURNED NEAR PENDLETON

Numerous Small Fires Reported in Southern Part of State But There are No Dangerous Forest Fires

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

PORTLAND, July 24.—Grain fires destroyed over \$30,000 worth of standing wheat near Pendleton last night. The loss is fully covered by insurance. There are scores of small fires in the vicinity of Roseburg and Grants Pass, but there are no dangerous forest fires in the state now.

## WEATHER FORECAST

PORTLAND, July 24.—For Oregon—Fair, cooler in the eastern portion tonight; Friday, fair gentle westerly winds.

## A. C. BARBER IS LOST IN HILLS

STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER IS MISSING

Has Not Been Heard From Since Tuesday and Searching Parties are Called from Salem

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

SALEM, July 24.—A. C. Barber, the recently appointed state insurance commissioner, is lost in the mountains near the Breitenbush hot springs, according to word received by Oregon Wells in a telegram from Detroit in the eastern part of Marion county. He must have been in for something parties to be sent from Salem. Barber has been missing since Tuesday, first word came that he was on a vacation at his home in Salem. He was on a vacation at his home in Salem.

## HARVESTING IS UNDER WAY

FALL GRAIN YIELDING UP TO EXPECTATIONS

Abnormally High Temperature Shows Its Effects and Nearly All Sections Are Affected

(By Associated Press to The Observer)

PORTLAND, July 24.—A warning that the long drought is creating a serious fire hazard in many parts of the state and that extreme care should be taken to prevent fires in grain fields and stock yards and forests, was issued by the local weather bureau in its summary of weather and crop conditions in Oregon for the past week.

Abnormally high temperature opened and closed the week, said the report. The mean temperature was considerably above normal. There was no rainfall and drying northerly winds were a feature in many sections. Streams are reported low and some springs are failing. Water for irrigation is scarce in places.

Harvest of winter wheat is continuing, approaching completion in some localities. Some spring wheat has been harvested in Josephine and Malheur counties. The weather has been favorable for harvest and threshing. Winter wheat is yielding as well as had been expected. Late spring wheat is deteriorating steadily, under the influence of the hot, dry weather and a considerable acreage will not be harvested. Harvest of winter oats is progressing with yields generally fair to good. Harvest of barley is completed in many places. Corn has made good growth but where not irrigated needs rain, especially on high ground.

## BIDS FOR HIGHWAYS

SALEM, July 24.—Bids on highway improvements aggregating between \$1,000,000 and \$2,000,000 will be opened by the state highway commission at its meeting in Portland August 1, according to notices being sent out to contractors.

### The End of a Perfect Day

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