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EBERHARD PROPOSES NEW BILL

NUMBER OF CIRCUIT JUDGES IN OREGON WOULD BE INCREASED FROM 26 TO 44.

JUDGE KNOWLES IS IN FAVOR OF BILL

Eberhard Bill Would Make Each County a Separate District, Each to Have a Circuit Judge, Except That Marion and Multnomah Counties Would Be Given More Than One

SALEM, Jan. 27.—The number of circuit judges in Oregon would be increased from 26 to 44, and the number of circuit judicial districts would be increased from 26 to 35, by the passage of a bill introduced by Senator Colon Eberhard, of Union, Multnomah and Morrow counties, today.

The Eberhard bill would make each county a separate district, each to have a circuit judge, except that Marion county would be allowed two judges and Multnomah county eight judges.

Much Interest Locally.

There is much interest locally in this bill of Senator Eberhard, inasmuch as it would mean a change in the local judgeship districts. At the present time, Judge J. W. Knowles acts as judge for both Union and Wallowa counties. Judge Knowles appeared before the ways and means committee the first of the week at Salem, being introduced by Senator Eberhard, and at that time, gave a full explanation of his desire to have Union and Wallowa counties have separate judgeship districts.

According to the Judge, there should be a divorce in the tenth judicial district, between Union and Wallowa counties.

Work in the district as now constituted is too heavy for one judge, Knowles declares. More litigation is now handled in the district than is handled in both Lake and Klamath counties, which constitute separate districts.

Wallowa county alone has more litigation than have Lake and Union counties, and its litigation far exceeds that of Baker county, which is a district in itself, he states. Judge Knowles favors the proposal to add a second judge to the district, declaring that such a move would greatly expedite the handling of litigation in both counties.

TO SELL FLAX PLANT

House Passes Bill to Sell Plant Despite Lee Protest.

STATE HOUSE, Salem, Jan. 27.—Despite the opposition of Representative J. D. Lee, of Multnomah county, the house by 49 votes has authorized the governor to sell the machinery and equipment of the flax plant at the state penitentiary at such time as he believes private enterprise will establish plants sufficient to handle the flax product in Oregon.

Lee maintained that the state plant, which was established when he was superintendent of the penitentiary in 1915, should be kept in operation to assure permanence to the industry, which, he declared, had demonstrated that the Willamette valley produces the best flax in the world.

TURNTABLE INSTALLED

NEW TABLE CAN BE OPERATED BY ONE MAN.

Four or Five Men Have Been Putting Finishing Touches on It for Past Two Weeks.

The new turn table has been installed at the local shops and a force of men have been putting the finishing touches on it for the past two weeks. The old turn table was found to be exceedingly faulty for the new flax engines.

The new turn table is easily operated by one man and was made out of the turn table pit and when it was moved into the pit, it was found to be wonderfully well. Peole and Dean were the contractors. They are said to be experts along this line. They are from Portland and built a greater share of the turn tables on the O. & N. road, section three, d. N. road, section three, d.

FIVE BANDITS BLOW LOCK OFF VAULT DOOR

FIGHTED AWAY BEFORE INNER DOOR WAS OPENED.

Before Making Attack on Bank, Bandits Broke Into Jail and Locked Man Up.

WASHINGTON, Va., Jan. 27.—Five bandits early today blew the time dial off the door of the vault of the Clarke County Bank here but were frightened and fled before the inner door could be forced. As they fled, they fired seventeen shots at Leonard and Lloyd Greenman, who pursued in order to prevent the theft of a delivery truck of the Greenman store which the robbers had attempted to use in their flight. The officers reported that before the robbers attacked the bank, they broke open the jail, intending to lock up anyone opposing them, and seized a man they picked up on the street, locking him in the cell. Sheriff Thompson and a posse are on their trail. It is believed that the robbers fled in the direction of Canas.

LOWER RATES ARE ORDERED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The Interstate Commerce Commission has ruled that the rates on coal from the Emery mine in Oregon, to Portland, were unduly prejudicial to the mines, in competition and ordered that lower rates be put into effect.

J. K. WRIGHT APPOINTED

CHARLES LAUGHLIN DEMANDS AN EXPLANATION.

City Water Superintendent Asks the Commission for Explanation of Why He Was Let Out.

The commission affirmed the appointment of J. K. Wright last night as a member of the Library Board. Mr. Wright's term will be for four years. The ordinance of the city council authorizing the paving done in the alley between Washington and Adams, and Elm and Elm, was read for the third time and passed by the three affirmative votes of the entire commission. The salary list was read for the third time, and was passed by Commissioners Grady and Stoddard voting for it and Commissioner McKinnon voting against it.

Rules were suspended in regard to the ordinance providing that all rooming houses and hotels which rented out more than four rooms to have a license, and an order was made and seconded to have the three readings, and the ordinance passed by three affirmative votes. This is an amendment to the ordinance providing for rooming house licenses.

Charles Laughlin, the superintendent of water and streets, appeared before the City Commissioners last night and requested that City Manager Garrett tell the commission why he had given Laughlin notice that his services were not required after January 31. After considerable bantering on both sides, Garrett said he had threshed it out with Laughlin and that it was not necessary to go into detail. Laughlin has served as water superintendent since C. J. Black's resignation, about six months ago.

KILLS COYOTE, USES AN AX

ENTERPRISE, Jan. 27.—Tom Jacobs, driver of the Enterprise-Chien stage, killed a full grown coyote with an ax. He brought the carcass to town and collected a bounty, which he said was easy money.

Mr. Jacobs believes that the animal was a full grown coyote. It came from the bush and made a dash for him. He had an ax, but his ax was under the seat of his sleigh. By the time the coyote was within reach of his ax, he was prepared to give him a well-deserved blow on the head. Two years ago Mr. Jacobs killed a large coyote near his home at Chico.

LOUIS BEAN INTRODUCES MEMORIAL

SPEAKER OF HOUSE DECLARES BIG TIMBER COMPANIES DRIVING OUT SMALLER MILLS.

HOUSE IMMEDIATELY ADOPTS THE MEMORIAL

Eugene Man Says Big Timber Companies Were Reaching Out to Exchange Poor Timber Lands for Some of the Finest Timber Land in Oregon and California.

SALEM, Jan. 27.—Speaker Louis E. Bean charged in the House late yesterday that big timber companies were reaching out to exchange poor timber lands for some of the finest timber land in Oregon and California, the land grant under the act of Congress permitting the re-vesting of titles and ruling of the secretary of the interior. He offered a joint memorial to Congress protesting, and the House adopted it immediately. Speaker Bean said that the big timber companies were trying to squeeze out the small sawmill operators.

The House passed four bills today, including one providing that all butter should bear a wrapper showing which dairy or creamery cut or wrapped the butter.

Senator Hare is to introduce a bill empowering cities to build community houses for service men. A new state military code has also been introduced.

HOMESEEKERS RATES TO THE COAST RESTORED

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Re-establishment of the pre-war homeseekers rates between Chicago and the Pacific coast was announced this week by the Great Northern Railway company. The special rates, which will be in effect from April to October, will establish an approximate fare of 2 cents per mile. The return limit will be 21 days.

PORTLAND MARKETS.—PORTLAND, Jan. 27.—The price of livestock remained steady today, that of butter and eggs was weak.

DR. STRICKER IS SECRETARY

Following a heated contest today, the state board of health elected Dr. F. D. Stricker of Grants Pass, secretary. Dr. Stricker's opponents were Dr. A. M. Moody of Chicago and Dr. J. G. Geiger of San Francisco. The name of Dr. Moody was finally withdrawn. Dr. Stricker was a captain in the medical corps during the late war.

BRITAIN WILL MAKE REQUEST

WANTS WAR DEBT PAYMENT POSTPONED.

Lord Chalmers Will be Entrusted With Mission to the United States.

PARIS, Jan. 27.—Great Britain will ask the United States for a postponement of the payment of the British war debt until 1935 and 1947, says the Echo de Paris. Lord Chalmers is to be entrusted with the mission.

GIRLS WILL PLAY HERE SATURDAY

PENDLETON QUINTET COMING FOR SCRAPPY GAME.

Local Team is Working Hard in Anticipation of Real Hard Fight.

The boys of the high school are not attracting all of the attention this year, for it is known that the local L. H. S. is rather proud of their girls' basketball team which will meet the Pendleton girls' quintet here Friday evening. Tickets are now being sold and the game will start at 8:30 o'clock.

The Pendleton quintet, under the coaching of Miss Eva Hansen, University of Oregon physical training major, is said to be very strong, and much hard work has been done by the local girls in anticipation of a hard fight in order to win the game. The Pendleton team is expected to arrive in the city tomorrow evening.

Miss Faye Armstrong, local coach reports that her team is in the best of shape for the game, and, after their two victories games with Enterprise, they are determined to make the score in their favor again Saturday evening. A much better and closer game is expected than was the game last Friday evening between Enterprise and La Grande, as both of the teams which play this week end are very closely matched.

DEMPESEY MAY DEFEND TITLE IN PORTLAND

NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY BY MANAGER KEARNS AND PORTLAND COMMISSION.

LARGE CROWD CHEERS DEMPESEY LAST NIGHT

Ten-Round Match Either in Portland or Milwaukee Will Take Place Some Time in April. According to Negotiations Between Dempsey's Manager and Boxing Commissions.

PORTLAND, Jan. 27.—A large crowd cheered Jack Dempsey's six-round boxing exhibition with Terry Keller last night. Keller made a game fight, but the champion far outclassed him. Frank Farmer, of Tacoma, won the ten-round decision over Bob Devere, of Chicago.

The Portland boxing and the Milwaukee commission are negotiating with Jack Kearns, manager of Jack Dempsey, for the latter to defend his title here or in Milwaukee.

The match will be ten rounds to a decision, to be staged some time in April. Dempsey's opponent will be the best heavyweight Matchmaker Evans can obtain.

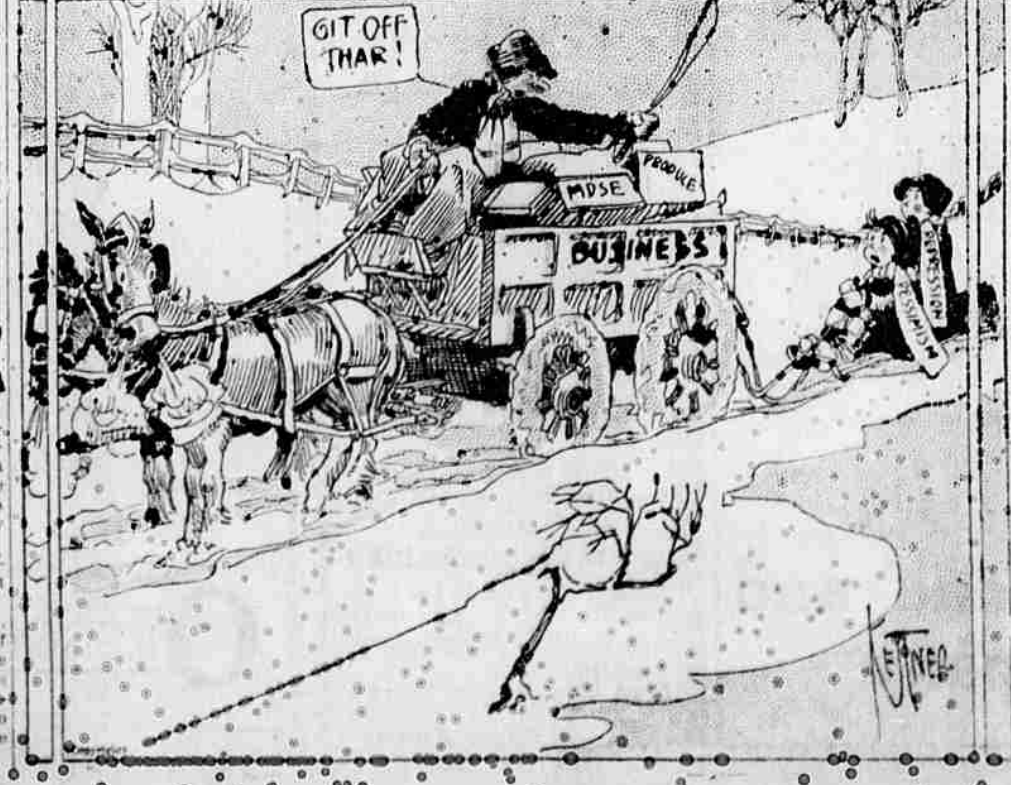
NEW BRIDGE TO BE OPENED IN APRIL, REPORT

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Jan. 26.—The bridge over the Snake river between Walla Walla and Franklin counties will be ready for travel about the first of April, according to J. W. Hamilton, district engineer of state highways.

Special Matinee For The Starving Children

A special feature benefit matinee will be given Saturday morning at the Arcade and Sherry theatres at 10 o'clock, for the European Relief fund, the managers of these two theatres have announced. The entire receipts are to be donated to the fund and the regular admission price will be charged. Special programs have been arranged at each playhouse, and it is expected that many people will attend the matinee, in order that they indirectly may help the good work across the waters.

Hitching



WOMAN IS LURED AWAY FROM HOME

MRS. GLADYS WITHERELL IS HELD FOR RANSOM.

A Strang Man Said Ransom One Hour in Automobile Accident Was Calling for Her.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27.—Mrs. Gladys Witherell, wife of O. S. Witherell, president of a loan investment company, has been kidnapped and is being held for ransom. She was lured from her home on Tuesday night, by the call saying that some one was hurt in an automobile accident, and was calling for her. She went with the man and has not been seen since. An appeal for help was received from her. The kidnappers sent a threat against her life if demands were made public.

DIRECTORS ARE ELECTED

WALLAWA MARBLE AND GRANITE COMPANY ELECTS.

J. O. Kiddle is Chosen President for the Coming Year—Quarry Not Working Now.

WALLAWA, Jan. 27.—(Special).—The stockholders of the Wallawa Marble and Granite Co., held their second annual election meeting Monday night, January 24th. The board of directors for the year 1920 were J. O. Kiddle, Bruce Cox and C. A. McClaran. J. O. Kiddle was chosen as President and E. A. Tulley as Secretary.

The quarry is located six miles south of Lostine. Work on the quarry has been discontinued now on account of the poor roads but will be resumed again early this spring.

FURTHER CUTS ON O. W. MADE

MEN LAID OFF BECAUSE OF INEFFICIENCY.

Rumor That Railroad Employees Were Discharged Because Of Illegal Acts Denied.

Twice within the past two months the railroad boards have been cut, and 35 brakemen have been laid off because they were not able to hold up their end of the contract which men who work for the O. W. R. & N. are required to make. On December 11, 25 men were laid off, and on January 21, another 10 were laid off. The old conductors have been reduced to brakemen, and as the trains are still able to run and have plenty of men to run them.

The contract a brakeman and a conductor has requires them to run 3,000 miles a month and if this is not possible, they are subject to the next cut in the board.

According to Charles Roberts, assistant superintendent of this division, the report that several men had been discharged from the railroad service because they were carrying on illegal business, is false. This story has been discussed in La Grande for many weeks.

APPRAISERS REPORT ON OREGON TRAIL

BAKER, Jan. 27.—The jury recently drawn by the county court to inspect and appraise the land which will be purchased by the county for the Nelson-Huntington section of the Old Oregon Trail has completed its work and has made out a report of its findings.

According to the report the land over which the highway will be constructed will cost the county approximately \$5,400. This includes the cost of the land traversed and the fencing. Cattle passes were recommended for those desiring them.

DeVALERA IS REPORTED AS 'SOMEWHERE'

PARIS, Jan. 27.—De Valera is reported as located "somewhere" in France.

Tonight and Friday, Jan. 28, the west, rain and snow in the eastern portion of the state.

COUNTY FAIR IS PROBLEM FOR FUTURE

BY STATE LAW, COUNTY BOARD HAS BEEN NAMED FOR UNION COUNTY.

COMMITTEE WILL HOLD MEETING VERY SOON

It is probably that Grange Fair Committee and the Union County Fair Board which was this week empowered by Court in Act, May cooperate in big undertaking.

After a lapse of several years, it appears very probable that a county fair will be an annual event in Union county hereafter. A County Fair board has been appointed by the county in full compliance with the law in the matter. The court has named J. E. Reynolds, W. H. Vogel, of La Grande and M. S. Levy of Union while the law automatically places County School Superintendent Mrs. A. E. Ivahoe on the board. These four are to hold an organization meeting and take up the question in full detail.

Grange Fair Not Overlooked. The need and expediency of fostering the Grange fair which has been growing larger every year, was recognized by the Ad Club at its meeting Tuesday. The club voted to not advocate or support a county fair in competition to the grange until the new county board and the granges had met and discussed the situation. If the county fair plans meet with favor among the farmers, then, the Ad club's support and of course the support of all La Grande merchants will be thrown to it. Should the County Fair board decide not to put on a fair this year, then the Ad club through a committee named yesterday, will invite the Grangers to use the fair grounds in La Grande which is now owned jointly by the city and county, and assure the Grangers that under the Grangers management and direction they will do everything in their power to make the fair a splendid success.

At all times, however, the Club members and is cognizant of the fact that the Grange fair is a Grange fair and not a La Grande fair—likewise that if the county board proceeds this year, it will be a county project and not a La Grande undertaking.

Horse Racing Problem. If a county fair is held, and if this fair is to be in the racing circuit, then representation must be had at a Northwest Race Meet association meeting in Chehalis February first. The problem immediately before the people of Union county necessarily is to decide if horse racing is to be revived with county fairs in the future.

Hence the matter of county fairs in Union county for this year, at least, becomes a problem for immediate solution. There are funds to be had from the state for premium purposes, it is believed, and immediate action is necessary if such money is made available, it is contended. The county court holds at the present time that there are no county funds available to help the fair this year. Likewise the need of repainting the newly-acquired fair grounds and putting it into useable shape is paramount and as the city has offered to go fifty-fifty with the court in this regard, it is presumed that them will be cured for in due time and a splendid plant be made available for fairs—both grange and county.

DINING ROOM TO BE OPENED

DIRECTORS AND WIVES WILL BE GIVEN HONOR.

Opening of the Country Club Dining Room Will Take Place This Evening Monday.

The board of directors of the Country Club met last night for their regular weekly meeting. No particularly interesting business was brought up except the fact that the board of directors and their wives will have dinner at the Club house dining room next Sunday. Covers will be laid for twenty people. This will be the opening of the dining room.

It has been suggested that after the dining room has been properly opened people will be forced to make engagements at the Club House for dinner.