

Blackmailing Scheme Is Tried Here

\$61,000 UNDER ESTIMATE FOR GRADING CONTRACT

ESTIMATES SUBMITTED TO HIGHWAY COMMISSION MUCH LOWER THAN THE ESTIMATES MADE BY HIGHWAY ENGINEERS.

CONTRACTS OF \$716,033 AWARDED FOR ROAD WORK

New Companies Get Contracts For Work In Union County On Wallowa-La Grande Road, and Also On Road Between Here and Kamela.

Evidently the high cost of road work is hitting the bumps along with wheat and other things, according to members of the Union county court who have returned from the Portland meeting of Highway Commissioners, where contracts were let for grading the state highway from Kamela to La Grande.

A saving of \$61,000 under the estimates of the engineers was effected when the contracts were let yesterday, and 16 contractors vied with each other for the work.

PORTLAND, Apr. 7.—The highway commission at a meeting ended last night established the policy of allowing each county \$150,000 for the next two years from the \$5,000,000 fund available to the commission for the biennium. They fixed the northern part of The Dalles-California highway from The Dalles via Dufur, Tigh valley, Maupin, Critteron to Madras. The yalso laid out the road from Critteron via Shaniko and More to connect with the Columbia highway at Biggs.

Donings of Highway Commission. Locates The Dalles-California highway from The Dalles to Madras.

Gives Sherman county road from Columbia highway to Wasco line.

Agrees to co-operation for road to Oregon marble caves.

Decided Gold Springs road shall start from landing instead of Pendleton.

Wants to start big road project in Lake county this year.

Will advertise from Allen ranch to Klamath line in Deschutes in May.

State will co-operate from Pilot Rock to Butter creek on Oregon-Washington highway.

Agrees to co-operate completing grade between Newport and Benton county line.

Awarded 43.21 miles of road of which 9.8 miles are paving; segregate bids awarded, \$716,033.

Local Contracts Given. Road contracts awarded which are of interest in Union county:

Wallowa county, La Grande-Joseph road, 8.28 miles grading, March & Bowers, \$55,522.

Wallowa county, Loutine section of La Grande-Joseph road, 12 miles grading and gravel, Porter & Connolly, \$180,329.50.

Union county, Kamela-Hilgard section of Old Oregon Trail, 12.75 miles grading, Elliott & Scroggin, \$172,978.

Union county, Hilgard-La Grande section of Old Oregon Trail, 6.3 miles grading, Rejot, Winters company, \$79,999.

Road To Elgin May Be Located On East Side

That the logical route for the Elgin survey has been completed. The canyon is four miles from Elgin and is three miles long. On the east side a water level grade can be secured and danger of snow drifts from the mountains is practically eliminated. The east side of the river is well settled and one of the prosperous farming districts near Elgin, while the west side has practically no farms and the danger from snow drifts can not be eliminated.

Those in the party inspecting the route on both sides of the river and estimates of the cost have been made by the state, unless the cost of the road is prohibitive the east side will probably be recommended by the engineers. The final report on the matter will be made by S. B. Jackson, division engineer, after the matter is decided.

MAIL ROBBERY OCCURS TODAY AT CHICAGO

POLICE BELIEVE \$750,000 WAS TAKEN FROM TRAIN.

Four Men Were Playing Ball In Lot When Suddenly Left and Overpowered Mail Carriers.

CHICAGO, Apr. 7.—Between \$500,000 and \$750,000 were stolen in a mail robbery at Dearborn street railroad station today. The police found the money wrappers in a discarded mail pouch, indicating that that amount was taken. One story was that the four robbers were playing ball in a lot nearby, when they suddenly rushed to the station, held up the mail truck employees, demanded a particular mail pouch, and escaped in an automobile, all in a minute and a half. One robber fired a shot, supposedly at one of his fellows, mistaken in the excitement.

Union Leaders Refuse To Order Pumpmen To Work

LONDON, Apr. 7.—The national union of railwaymen today unanimously decided to support the miners' strike.

Breakup Is Complete.

LONDON, Apr. 7.—The complete breakup of the conferences for the settlement of the coal strike has been announced by the premier. The union leaders had refused to order the pump men in the mines to resume work, pending negotiations.

WANTS BOARDS CONSOLIDATED

WASHINGTON, Apr. 7.—Chairman Daves of the soldier relief investigating commission, has recommended to the president the organization of a veteran's service administration, consolidating the existing bureaus caring for the disabled service men.

Cove People Come In Body To Ask For Road

Headed by Mayor Trippier, of Cove, a delegation from that town and vicinity numbering about seventy-five claimed La Grande's undivided attention today.

They came to ask for the road from La Grande to Cove and they are deeply in earnest. Determined to have action this year on the proposed highway, every man and woman was ready to go to the front in the request.

The delegation formed at 2:30 o'clock this morning a Cove and resembled a veteran's service administration, consolidating the existing bureaus caring for the disabled service men.

Union also added a number of visitors today, who came on other business but joined with the Cove people in requesting road work be begun on the Cove road at the earliest possible moment.

Among those who came from Union were, L. A. Wright, Judge Frank Wilson and M. E. Davis.

A. A. Antles was the first of the speakers from Cove to be called by Chairman Short at the Ad-club luncheon in honor of the Cove road boosters. Mr. Antles pointed out the good roads had played in the civilization of the world and called attention to the urgent need of the road to Cove.

Rev. D. L. Lee was also called on to speak in behalf of the Cove people. Mr. Lee told of his experiences in attempting to get out of Cove occasionally during the winter months. Once he had to walk 24 miles home, he said, he was nearly frozen and he pointed out that the train succeeded in getting out of the Cove only once in a while.

Mr. Lee also pointed out that the merchants of La Grande would benefit greatly. As it is now the case, he said, the merchants of La Grande would benefit greatly.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY SHOOTING

HIDDEN GUN EXPLODES THIS MORNING NORTH SIDE REPAIR SHOP.

LEONARD GOODRICH, AGED MAN, KILLED INSTANTLY

Man In Whose Hands Gun Was at Time of Discharge Did Not Know of Contents of Package Containing Death Weapon—Held Not Responsible for Accident By Authorities.

Leonard Goodrich, aged about 65, was accidentally shot and killed in the Ford repair shop at the corner of S and Monroe streets about 10:30 this morning, when a gun in a package in the hands of Gordon Branscom was accidentally discharged. Branscom had saved a hole in the floor of the place and found a bottle, which he threw out, and a package. As he picked up the package, the gun went off, striking Goodrich behind the ear, killing him instantly.

Branscom did not know what the package contained and the shooting is declared to have been entirely accidental. C. A. Robinson and R. P. McCall were eye-witnesses to the accident and Tom Reed was also in the shop but did not see the shooting. Jack Rush is owner of the shop.

The dead man was a semi-paralytic and has been a public charge for some time. At the time of the killing he was working in the shop to repay money given him to get something to eat.

He has been in this county for a long time and was a well-known figure about the streets. Last summer, from April to June, he worked on the streets for the city.

He is survived by a brother, whose address is believed to be 605 W. Birch street, Walla Walla, Wash.

The gun is believed to have been stolen and hidden under the floor of the shop.

Coroner Hild Bohrenkamp announced this afternoon that his investigation reveals that no blame whatever can be attached to Branscom for the shooting. No inquest will be held, it is believed.

"Mr. Shadow" Seems To Be Working His Pranks Now On Prominent La Grande People

Fight Continues On Pooling Plan For Grain Men

CHICAGO, Apr. 7.—The fight over the compulsory pooling of farmers' grain, which began yesterday over the committee of seventeen report on the national co-operative marketing system, continued today on the reconvening of the farmers' ratification conference. The Kansas organization insisted that at least one-third of the pooling be compulsory. The committee of seventeen stood 12 for optional pooling, four for compulsory, and one, a government employee, not voting.

ANTIKS SHOW IS FRIDAY

GIRLS OF HIGH SCHOOL PUTTING ON SHOW.

Stunts By Classes Will Be a Feature of the April Evening Performance.

The final touches are being added to the April Antiks Vaudeville to be given by the Associated Girl Students at the high school auditorium Friday, at 8:15. This is the biggest event and the first public entertainment given by the A. G. S. and promises to be a lively, laughable high class show, which is being put on entirely by the girls, assisted by the high school orchestra. The program consists of thirteen large numbers featuring every class, as well as the home economics club. There will be aesthetic dancing, songs, both quartet and solo numbers, readings, and the class stunts.

The proceeds realized from the show will go toward furnishing the girls' rest room. Admission prices are fixed at 15 and 30 cents, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

PACKED HOUSE AT CONCERT

MRS. MOORE AND MR. BOONE PLEASE LARGE AUDIENCE.

Music Lovers of La Grande Hear Noted Musicians in Methodist Church Tuesday Evening.

The Methodist church was packed Tuesday evening when Mrs. Alice Price Moore, mezzo-contralto, and William Robinson Boone, pipe organist, gave a concert of vocal and organ numbers which was declared to have been one of the best musical treats of the season.

Mrs. Moore has a very pleasing voice and her selection of songs included a wide range of both classical and popular pieces. The classical numbers included "L'Aprile," by Toselli, and an aria selected from Mendelssohn's "St. Paul," as well as an aria from Verdi's "Don Carlos."

Mr. Boone's "Christus Resurrexit," by Ravanello, and his "Meditation," by Bubeck, were among those of the classical pieces that gave him an opportunity to display his ability as an organist.

WAGE REDUCTION REFUSED ROAD

CHICAGO, Apr. 7.—The railroad board has refused the New York Central permission to make a provisional reduction in the wages of unskilled labor.

WIFE, AGED 97, DIES; GRIEF KILLS HUSBAND

DENVER, Apr. 7.—Grief over the loss of his 97-year-old wife caused the death Monday of Camillo Tate, 103, Denver's oldest resident. Tate's wife died Thursday. They were married 67 years.

WHEN THE LETTERS WERE FIRST RECEIVED, NO ONE THOUGHT SERIOUSLY OF THE MATTER, BUT OFFICERS THOUGHT BEST TO INVESTIGATE.

Organization Was Formed and Directions of the Blackmailer Carried Out Last Night, But No Sign of "Shadow" Was Discovered.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 7.—The winter wheat crop, the fourth largest in the history of the country, has been forecast by the department of agriculture, with a total production of 621,000,000 bushels. This is 44,000,000 more than was harvested last year.

LOTS OF DRUNKS LAST MONTH

NEARLY HALF OF ARRESTS ON LIQUOR CHARGES.

Police Chief Submits Report Showing That Practically 100 Per Cent Convictions Obtained.

Nearly half the arrests made by the police department during the month of March were for drunkenness, according to the report submitted to the city commission last night by Chief of Police Roy Flexer. A total of 35 arrests was reported and of these 15 were drunks. The other arrests were distributed as follows, according to the report: 8 state and outside arrests, 3 disorderly conduct, 8 traffic violations, 1 juvenile delinquent, who was sent to state training school, 1 violation of the chicken ordinance, 1 riding horse over a schoolhouse lawn.

In the matter of convictions the record is nearly 100 per cent. Thirty-four convictions were secured and 1 case is still pending. Six prisoners were paroled and 23 remained in jail. During the month 63 meals were served to prisoners. Six sleepers were lodged in the jail, and 32 quarantines were established while 65 were released.

Fines and forfeits to the amount of \$275 were contributed to the city treasury and the pound brought an additional \$3, five head of stock having been impounded during the month.

SALEM WOMAN SEEKS DIVORCE

SALEM, Apr. 7.—Charging cruel and inhuman treatment, Grace L. Otjen, wife of B. E. Otjen, former, who attempted to commit suicide March 30 by shooting himself with a .22 caliber revolver, filed her complaint for divorce with the county clerk.

According to the complaint the couple were married in Marion county in 1910, and it alleges that shortly after their marriage Otjen began to subject his wife to personal indignities which rendered her weak and nervous.

Mrs. Otjen claims that her husband also used abusive language to her and that he was continually, during the last part of their married life, making false accusations against her which involved George Shank, the hired man.

ALLEN RETURNS TO WORK EUGENE, Apr. 7.—Eric W. Allen, dean of journalism at the University of Oregon, arrived in Eugene the past week from St. Augustine, Fla., where he attended the meeting of the National Editorial association.

First Car Makes Way Over Blue Mountains

The first car over the mountains came yesterday, when a party of Pendleton auto men, headed by Ed. Schiffer and Bob Sinclair, reached Hilgard late Tuesday evening, having left Pendleton in the early morning.

The trip was made in an attempt to get through the snow-covered pass between here and Pendleton where five tourist parties are reported stalled.

Mr. Schiffer, of the Dodge Bros. agency in Pendleton, upon his arrival here yesterday morning, declared that there were five feet of snow in many places in the pass, and although they were able to make the trip on their own power, he advised all tourists to not attempt the trip for at least three weeks or a month. The party spent all day Tuesday in ploughing their way through, spending the night at Hilgard, where they arrived late Tuesday evening.

After spending a short time in the city yesterday morning, they went on to Baker, in order to get a comprehensive view of the road situation from Pendleton to Baker at the present time.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Tonight, fair; Friday, fair and warmer. Heavy frost in the morning.