

STARKEY SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT

(Special to The Observer)
STARKEY, Jan. 31.—On January 20 there was an entertainment at the school house. All attending it enjoyed it. The school children and the teacher, Miss Johnson, put on a play "The Ruggles Family." Miss Johnson received much praise for the manner in which she handled the play. It took much hard work and patience to train the children, for some were quite young, but they all acted their parts well. After the play a young man from La Grande who is visiting at the home of Jesse Plunkett played several pieces on the violin. Everyone enjoyed the evening. Although it was a real cold night, almost everyone in Starkey was present.

The eighth grade pupils all passed the recent examinations. In geography and physiology the grades were from 85 to 97. The pupils were Elms Hagey, Freddy Hagey, Evelyn Tidwell, Carl Clark and Fred Briggs. All did remarkably well, considering that they were a little behind when school began last fall.

Alvin Thorstare had the misfortune to lose a favorite mare. It was a yearling and she showed herself to death. She was tied with a rope and got her foot over the rope, falling in such a manner that she couldn't get up.

Sol Tidwell and wife gave a dance January 21, this being their 15th wedding anniversary. Starkey people, with the exception of several families, were present and enjoyed a fine time, supper being served in the evening. They presented Mr. and Mrs. Tidwell with a crystal sugar and creamer in honor of the occasion.

J. S. Rose returned from Gibbon Sunday. He attended the Hilgard dance on his way home. Everybody here enjoys the dances given by the people of Hilgard and some Starkey people are planning on going to the dance there next Saturday night, sleighing being fine.

Henry A. Benfer is staying at the ranch of W. A. Smith, caring for the stock and poultry which Mr. Smith is down in La Grande to see his wife and daughter, June Marie, who is receiving medical attention.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Noyes went to La Grande Friday.

Miss Margaret Johnson spent the night with the A. E. Burnett family Wednesday, and with the J. S. Rose family Thursday.

Edam Briggs went to La Grande this week with a load of hogs.

Alvin Thorstare is tending to the horse for Mr. Briggs while he is away.

Mrs. Ray Noyes received a letter from an old neighbor, Fred Arnett, who lives in La Grande. He states his wife has undergone a serious operation, having been in ill health for several years.

Much snow is falling. There is now about a foot on the level but at the rate it is falling it will soon be much deeper.

SURPRISED BY SUNDAY TRAIN

(Special to The Observer)
ELGIN, Jan. 31.—The Joseph basketball team was subjected to a surprising defeat in their game here Thursday night. The score stood 45 to 24 in favor of Elgin's boys. The local team expects to play a return game at Joseph Friday, February 10, and also a game at Enterprise the following evening.

Elgin people were shocked Saturday to hear of the death of Mrs. Wm. Plosser of Minam. Her death was totally unexpected, coming as the result of taking chloroform, possibly by mistake. Mrs. Plosser was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cortez Goff of Minam and has many relatives in Elgin, among them the Phillips family, Mrs. Dave Zwiel, Mrs. Sam Thompson and Mrs. John Dean Green.

A surprise on Elgin people on Monday morning (was caused by the coming of the passenger train. We were informed that the Sunday train would be off, including the one that was certainly said to be out on it. It will be a source of great inconvenience if it is taken off and we hope that it won't be necessary to reduce expenses in that manner so very low.

One of the merriest parties of the season was given at the home of Meade Elliot about four miles east of town, on Friday evening. It was in the nature of a surprise for Ernest Elliot and was attended by at least three four-horse sled loads of young people from town. Such a delightful entertainment of games and music was given that it was almost past those when some hours when the merry-makers returned.

Quite the most important social event staged so far by the Ad club was the banquet given Wednesday evening at the Sommer hotel. Toasts were given by a large number of prominent people and music was rendered by the guests, the orchestra and a vocal duet by Mrs. Lee Tuttle and Miss Gusterson of the high school faculty. A dance followed the program and everyone enjoyed the evening one of great enjoyment.

The girls of the high school formed an art and sewing classes have formed themselves into a club and their last meeting was held at the home of Miss Valjean Tuttle at Minam. The girls and the two

teachers, Miss Heider and Ganterson made the trip by train, going on Friday evening and returning Saturday. There is not the slightest doubt that it was one of the most delightful meetings of the club held to date.

The Women's Improvement club held its social meeting last Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. K. Vahne. The attendance was rather small owing to the unusually bad weather—both a snow storm and a strong wind that caused drifts to form over the streets making traveling particularly by foot, extremely difficult.

The school board will Saturday was not as well patronized as heretofore, the proceeds being but \$11.50.

The football game scheduled to play with Union Saturday was cancelled.

The senior class of the high school put on a harlequin dance at its last assembly night.

RARE PLANTS IN FORESTS

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 31.—That the Sitkion National Forest in Southern Oregon, is the habitat of rare plants and grasses heretofore unclassified is shown in a report on certain plants collected in that region by forest officers last summer.

The information is contained in the report on the identification of a collection of grasses and plants just received here from the U. S. National Museum of Washington, D. C. The forest rangers collect rare plants and fungi specimens each summer and those which they are unable to identify are forwarded to Washington for labeling. Grading Examiner D. C. Ingram, of the Grading Office of the Forest Service, collected some 270 plant specimens on the Sitkion National Forest last summer, plants more or less common in the region west of Grants Pass. A recent report on these from Washington shows that the collection sent in by Ingram contained three plant genera new to the Forest Service records and furnished 20 new named species to the collection. The most interest from a botanical standpoint is Vigorous cyperus (Cyperus vegetus), belonging to the sedge or water grass type, to which the nut-grass and the papyrus of Egypt belong. This specimen is considered a botanical find since it is an old-world plant not listed in any manual of American plants and apparently a first record for the United States.

Among other botanical finds, most of which plants would seem to be recent, along with the redwood, of a past biotic age, are Marshall's gooseberry, found only in the Sitkion mountains, Red dewberry first identified by the scientist David Douglas (the discoverer of Douglas fir), western skunk cabbage, the only western American member of the arum family, quinine-bush, found only in Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California, a new lupine, and a plant said to belong to the poppy family which the botanists in the U. S. National Museum were unable to identify.

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, Jan. 31.—Another buoyant advance in British exchange rates to highest levels since August, 1919, was Monday's feature in the financial markets.

Demand bills on London rose to \$4.28, a gain over last week of 3 1/4 cents, but reacted from the maximum quotation before the close of the market.

All allied exchanges, especially French and Italian bills, registered concurrent gains of 10 to 12 points, while Dutch, Scandinavian, Spanish and Swiss rates rose 10 to 25 points.

GRANGE HOLDS ITS MEETING

(Special to The Observer)
ORANGE, Jan. 31.—Mr. Frankie Grange held their regular meeting on January 31 with about forty members and visitors in attendance. Worthy Overseer Mrs. Gen. Baker had charge of the meeting. E. T. Rowell was installed and Miss Violet Bloom was initiated. At noon all partook of a beautiful dinner. Mrs. B. J. Baker had charge of the following program: Song by grand old maid, "Jokes" from the Jokers; reading, Georgia Gasset; vocal solo, Georgianna Chawchick; reading, Mrs. Chawchick vocal solo, Violet Bloom; debate, "Resolved that the proposed 1925 fair would not benefit the farmers," the negative side composed of Gladys and Ethel Daron and Violet Bloom, while Walter Daron, Nellie Barker and Mabel Miller took the affirmative side. J. K. Lantz, Marvin Daron and Mrs. L. J. Chawchick, the judges, deciding in favor of the negative side. Discussion on various questions ended a successful meeting. A "white elephant" social will be held at the hall on Friday evening, February 3rd.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Miller and Mr. and Mrs. John Miller were guests at the L. J. Chawchick home on Sunday.

Mrs. E. T. Rowell is visiting in town this week.

Five people have been putting up a thermometer registered thermometer—zero one night last week.

Mrs. J. W. teacher of Prossy school, expects to teach last week on account of illness.

Two Johnson motored over from La Grande on Tuesday.

LAXITY SCORED BY ATTORNEYS

Convention of District Attorneys Throes Out the Matter of Prosecuting on Bad Checks.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Jan. 31.—The sheriff and district attorneys of the state are to be instructed in taking fingerprints as the result of action taken by the district attorneys' convention yesterday, following a demonstration by J. M. Hunter, Portland expert. The officers decided that they would take steps to introduce the system into all counties.

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Jan. 31.—The problem of inducing women to serve on juries under the Oregon statutes was discussed at length recently at the annual session of the District Attorneys of Oregon association, and because of the attitude of women against jury duty has caused considerable difficulty throughout district courts of the state, recommendations will probably be made at the session today for a change of statute.

Hotels and merchants were scolded during the afternoon because of their laxness in accepting checks from unreliable people and then insisting that the district attorneys prosecute the people. Yesterday morning at the opening meeting the question of the laxity of defense was discussed by attorneys and medical authorities.

W. S. Lewis, district attorney from Baker, Ore., outlined the bad-check situation and eliminated all classes of worthless paper except that passed with the intention to defraud. According to his experience the greatest difficulty came because merchants were too anxious to sell goods and were often willing to take chances on checks, accepting without identification if the address of the payee were added.

"Then," said Mr. Lewis, "when they find the check is no good, they rush to their favorite collection agency, the district attorney, for revenge and to get restitution. It is necessary to educate the business man with bitter experience that he must not accept checks unless he is sure of them. The county is put to enormous expense in catching and prosecuting forgers, and in justice to the citizens, this expense must be cut down as much as possible.

"Not a few of the bad checks which come to my attention are passed on automobile dealers. They often coax upon whom they know to be incompetent buyers to purchase cars on trial and contract, trusting to their power of dogging to get their money for a cheap second-hand car. Then when they get a bad check they ask the county to go to the expense of apprehending and prosecuting the purchaser of the car. There have been cases like this when the dealer knew absolutely that the buyer had no money in the bank, and yet he accepted his check and asked the county to collect the money. They say to themselves, 'The law protects me; I'll take a chance,' and rather often the chance is a fizzle."

Stanley Meyers, district attorney for Multnomah county, said that the forgery trouble here consisted of two classes, one from professional forgers, for whom no quarter should be shown, and boys who spent more money than they made and when pressed for funds passed a check and then tried to make it good. Judge Morrow, in commenting on the problem, said that stores should not be helped when they did not take adequate steps to protect themselves.

ITALIANS ARE SAVING MONEY

(By Associated Press)
ROME, Jan. 31.—The Italians are saving in their money notwithstanding the economic crisis in this country. Deposits in Italy's savings banks were increased by about 500,000,000 lire in the first seven months of the past year. At this rate this would be equivalent to nearly \$192,000,000.

RUSSIANS TO SEND MONEY

(By Associated Press)
MOSCOW, Jan. 31.—Director Katschenchubov, of the new State Bank, who was a banker under the old regime, has announced that the bank has now entered into agreements with banks in New York, London, Warsaw, Rome, Lima and Berlin for the transfer of remittances to and from Russia by both post and telegraph. He said the bank is averaging 100 money transfers daily.

Remittances of foreign money from abroad are paid in Russian money at par rate established by the government, which M. Katschenchubov said are fair, although below the speculative rate which can be obtained in the open market.

While the government endeavored lately to maintain a rate of 85,000 rubles to the dollar, the amount paid for actual dollars in the world market was as high as 100,000 and seldom below 200,000.

Unraveling of the Morelock Tangle Started in Court

(By Associated Press)
ENTERPRISE, Jan. 31.—Affairs of T. H. Morelock were set on by the circuit court when the mortgages of the Western Feed & Milling company were foreclosed and the property involved was ordered sold. This includes sheep and land. The company held notes amounting to \$24,100 signed by Morelock and secured by real and personal property.

In his deems Judge J. W. Knowles also determined the interest on the Columbia Basin wool. Morelock is a party in the Morelock property, a party of 25 one-year-old sheep, 200 two-year-olds, 100 three-year-olds, 200 four-year-olds and a flock of 1000 of all wool ewes.

SERVICE LOANS TO BE MANY

(By Associated Press)
SALEM, Jan. 31.—Approximately 18,000 service loans are being applied for under the so-called cash loans and loan act have been applications with the world war veterans' state aid commission.

Of the applications received, 10,000 sought the cash bonus, while 8000 have expressed a preference for the loan. It was said at commission headquarters that money probably will be available early in March to take care of many applications for cash loans and advance a number of loans.

TAKING MOVIES OF THE MINAM

(Special to The Observer)
ELGIN, Jan. 31.—Glen Barnes is a business visitor in Portland this week. He went down Sunday evening. Eugene Hug was in Elgin a few days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. William Moss of La Grande passed through Elgin on their way to Enterprise, where they are expected to spend some time visiting with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Roy are spending several days in La Grande on business this week.

Guy Patten was a business visitor to La Grande this week, going up Thursday and returning the following day.

Frank Eppenz of La Grande is in town on business connected with his firm there.

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Steep, who were residents of Elgin for a number of years before removing to La Grande, came back for a few days on last Friday's train.

John Striker, deputy sheriff, was in Elgin on official business Friday.

Clifford Carter, an O. W. brake-man of La Grande, and an enthusiastic photographer of motion pictures, passed through Elgin to Minam Friday. He is going there to try to get some motion pictures in that district.

Mr. Carter was in Elgin last summer at the Fourth of July celebration, when he took pictures of the airplane in flight.

Robert and Lloyd Chandler came in Friday from La Grande on business. Lloyd returned on the train the same evening, but Robert remained until Saturday evening.

The waiters of the Sommer hotel gave a small dance there Friday night.

Wm. Wade of Tulsa came in to Elgin on business the day this week.

The ladies of the Christian church have held their regular fund sale at Hill's Hardware store Saturday.

A number of residents of Cricket Flat have been in town this week. The only means of transportation in use now is sled. Among these people doing business here Saturday were: James and Walter Gosholt, Janice Wickens and Owen Thompson.

James Masterson is improving from his accident slowly but surely.

Mrs. Willis, the librarian for the Elgin district, has been ill for a few days, is again back at her desk in the library rooms.

The Barlow greenhouse, which makes a specialty of high standard tomatoes during the early summer had the worst frost in its history during the last cold spell. An extra hot fire was maintained and some boxes containing the seedlings were burned. Although it is not yet too late to plant, it will delay the early crop two or three weeks.

Mrs. J. F. Bates has been notified of her death by the post (no words) but her condition is hopeless at present.

SLASHES IN RATES ASKED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31.—Sweeping reductions in freight rates on lumber from Pacific northwest states westward were asked today by lumbermen appearing before the interstate commerce commission hearing on the transportation situation.

Members intended to show that while freight rates on lumber were in excess of what they were on Jan. 1, 1920, the price of lumber in the northwest was 10 to 15 percent higher than the price of lumber in the east at that time, were offered by A. C. Dixon, representing two Oregon lumbermen's associations and the National Transportation Association.

"The burden of high freight rates is reaching the lumber industry of the northwest," said Joseph N. Todd of Portland, Ore., counsel for northwest lumbermen.

LONDON CLUBS IN STRAIGHTS

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, Jan. 28.—London club life has for a long time been in a bad way financially, and something like a crisis seems to have set in at the end of the year. It is said that resignations from prominent clubs have been pouring in by the hundreds and that club secretaries are at their wits' end how to carry on.

One club has already sent out an R. O. R. to its members, begging them to pay their dues for 1922 during the current month, falling which there will be a foreclosure on the club premises.

Few men nowadays belong to more than one club, instead of half a dozen, as was the rule in more prosperous times, and commercially valuable members, meaning those who go to their club daily and spend money there on food, wine and cigars, are somewhat scarce.

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