

HALF OF TOWN WIPED OUT

ELECTION MAY BE CALLED ON CITY CHARTER

Citizen's Committee Will Investigate Sentiment On Matter During Week.

OVER \$100,000 IN PAVING IS ASKED

Technicality in Present Charter Provisions Keeps Bond Buyers Away From Local Improvement Offerings.

At a meeting of the city commission held last evening a large number of property owners interested in improvement districts that have been proposed during the past two months attended and a committee of citizens was organized to cooperate with the city commission in laying before the voters in general facts regarding the desirability of amending the city charter so as to make possible the sale of bonds for the more than \$100,000 in improvements that is asked by property owners this year. The committee is composed of A. W. Nelson, chairman, Robert Pratt, secretary, B. A. Jack, R. J. Kitchin, J. A. Gjermo, C. L. Lyman and A. Walker. This committee will meet at 6:30 this evening in the Ad club offices.

In explaining the necessity of having the charter amended in order to make improvement bonds desirable from the investor's point of view, W. D. Grandy, president of the commission, said: "We are now in exactly the same position as last year. Our improvements could not be made because the bonds would not attract buyers."

"On the Island avenue improvement we received one bid. This was from the Warren Construction company and they specified that the work would be done only for cash, so we could not accept the bid."

"The reason for this refusal to buy our bonds is that the bond holders take a direct lien against the property and the city does not stand behind the bonds as is the case in other places. It is therefore impossible to find buyers because, unless our bonds are sold at around 75 per cent of par, no one wants them as there are so many more attractive offerings on the market."

"The proposed change in the charter would make the improvement bonds a general obligation of the city just as other bonds are now a general obligation. The property owners benefitted would, however, pay for the work. In case a property owner became delinquent in his assessments instead of the bond holder foreclosing the lien against the property the city would do this. In no way would any but the property owners in the districts benefitted have to pay anything towards improvements."

Another advantage of the change would be that districts that are not worth as much as the improvements asked would not be improved as

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Clear Water Is Again Pouring Into Reservoir

Early this morning a party of eight men left here for the Beaver Creek dam for the purpose of making the repairs necessitated by the washing out of the spillway recently. City Manager Kratz accompanied the crew of men and will have supervision of the work.

A crew of men that has been at work for several days along the pipe line has repaired a number of serious leaks and is now repairing the telephone line, many windfalls being across the wires.

The road has been cleared of all windfalls and the materials that are being hauled up today for use in repairing the dam will not be delayed because of the condition of the road. All of the materials excepting a part of the flume that will be used to prevent the setting of the banks by the

Wars On Trust



George L. Record, a Roosevelt progressive, is running for the U. S. senatorship from New Jersey on a platform attacking the coal trust.

FARMER SLAIN BY RANCH HAND WHO SUICIDES

Youth Leaves Note Showing Premeditation of Crime Following Wage Dispute.

(By Associated Press) McMINNVILLE, June 1.—Gerald P. Israel, aged 18, shot and killed his employer, Fred Lebold, 60, and killed himself last night on the Lebold place at the head of Muddy Valley, eight miles west of McMinnville. A dispute over wages was the only trouble reported between them. The youth left a note addressed to a brother, which was found on the body. It read: "Lloyd, I am sorry I cannot stay here any longer. You need not look for my remains, for my career will be black from now on. So good-bye.—Gerald."

BOOSTERS ON VALLEY TOUR

UNION, Ore., June 1.—An aggregation of Stock Show "boosters" left Union this morning in cars bound for the northern part of the Grande Ronde valley. Enthusiasm is running rampant and they expect to stir up a considerable amount of like enthusiasm among the cities in that end of the valley.

M. B. Brown Passed Away This Morning

The death of M. B. Brown occurred this morning. Mr. Brown has lived in La Grande for many years and was 86 years of age. He was the father of the late Frank Brown.

Mr. Brown has been ailing for many years and during late years he has received kind and loving care from Mrs. May Deslet, who did all that a woman could do to brighten the days for a helpless invalid.

Funeral services will be held at the Bohnenkamp chapel tomorrow afternoon at 2:30.

FORD REJECTS OFFER OF THE COMMITTEE

Says Terms Eliminating the Steam Plant Not Interesting.

MAKES NEW OFFER ON MUSCLE SHOALS

Informing House Military Committee that They Will Have to Either Accept Offer or Flatly Reject It.

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, June 1.—Henry Ford's reply to the counter proposal drafted by the house military committee for the development of Muscle Shoals was presented today to the committee by J. W. Worthington, Ford's representative.

Ford's answer definitely rejects the provision in the committee plan, eliminating the steam plant at Gorgas, Alabama, declaring it necessary for the economical operation of the Muscle Shoals properties.

"If my revised offer for Gorgas is rejected, then I must understand the acceptance of my offer for Muscle Shoals and not in part is refused," said the letter.

STARTING WORK ON NEW HOME

Dr. H. M. Bovey has workmen breaking ground on his property on Fourth street preparatory to beginning the erection of a fine new modern home.

Dr. and Mrs. Bovey have had this under contemplation for some time and before they left for Europe last year they purchased one of the most desirable lots in the city from Mrs. Anson. The home when completed will be of La Grande's very best.

FAILED TO REAP BENEFIT

(By Associated Press) LOS ANGELES, June 1.—Richard R. Olsson, his wife and their child were killed in a grade crossing accident here 10 days ago. Wednesday relatives received two patents issued to Olsson. Both were for safety devices to prevent such accidents.

Not Sentenced



The French foreign office denies reports from Cairo that Charles R. Giano, former American minister to China, has been sentenced to prison for inciting revolt in the French mandate area in Syria.

TIMBER FIRES SUBSIDING IN COAST COUNTRY

(By Associated Press) PORTLAND, June 1.—Timber fires in Oregon and Washington were feared to be destructive proportions by a hot breeze yesterday but were reported less menacing today, owing to the subsidence of the wind. No further damage was reported this morning near Corbett where the school house and several homes were burned yesterday.

DIVORCE GRANTED IN THE SHANKS CASE

A divorce decree has been granted Richard A. Shanks from his wife Mary Shanks. The grounds for the divorce were cruel and inhuman treatment and personal indignities.

Violent Graham has filed a divorce complaint against H. B. Graham. She alleges cruel and inhuman treatment.

ANGRY, HE RESIGNS

MEDFORD, June 1.—Bert Anderson sent his resignation to Governor O'Leary as a member of the state game commission, declaring that the governor's action in dismissing Mayor C. E. Gates from the state fair board was an "insult to the people of Medford and Jackson county."

SILVER FOXES BEING RAISED IN LA GRANDE

Owner of Fox Farm Tells of Some of Their Habits; Will Allow Visitors to See the Young Foxes.

Beginning about June 18th La Grande people will have an opportunity to visit the silver fox farm of H. W. Smith at 1501 W. avenue and see the baby foxes and their mothers at play in their pens. Owing to the shyness of the animals Mr. Smith has forbidden visitors until the young ones are separated from their mothers, which will probably be tomorrow and by the middle of the month he expects to allow visitors to see the animals.

Mr. Smith has been in the fox raising business for less than a year and has met with the best of success. One litter of three pups was born on April 7th and on the next day a litter of six was born. Mr. Smith, who is a railroad man, is enthusiastic about his experiment in raising silver foxes in La Grande. In discussing his fox raising experiments he said:

"Following the birth of the two litters we examined one of the kennels every three or four days but because of the extreme shyness of the other one. Neither of the mothers brought her puppies out until they were just one month old. Their little eyes opened for the first time on the 18th day of their life.

"We started in by buying two females and one male. This has resulted in a 300 per cent increase in less than a year which is unusual as 100 per cent increase is considered a good average. My old ones were two years old when I bought them. As I didn't expect so many and have not the room to build all the pens I need I will probably have to part with one pair this fall.

"While fox farming has been going on for the past 30 years, it never got well under way until the last six or ten years. The industry is rather new as yet and one in the business will find it very hard to find literature on the raising and caring for the foxes. We have found that if one tries to follow the instructions in the fur magazines it is very likely that one gets onto the wrong track. It is necessary to know one's animals.

"I think the trouble with some of the fox farmers and writers is that they are inclined to be money-grasping and thereby they mislead some of the beginners. Anyone contemplating going into the fox business should be careful as a good many so-called fur

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High Wind Fans Fire At Prineville; Four Volunteers Injured

Pitcher Injured



Wilbur Hubbell, Philadelphia National League pitcher whose skull was fractured by a batted ball at Philadelphia.

German Reply Is Approved

Reparations Commission Grants Germany Time to Make Payments.

(By Associated Press) PARIS, June 1.—The reparations commission Wednesday night fully approved the German reply to its ultimatum, and definitely decided to grant Germany a provisional moratorium for the year 1922. The text of the commission's letter to Chancellor Wirth and also its decision was issued about midnight. The decision was unanimous.

WATER RISING RAPIDLY TODAY

Reports were received in La Grande this morning to the effect that Catherine Creek is steadily rising again and that the lowlands are in danger of being flooded if the water continues. Yesterday the creek raised nearly a foot and it is still higher this morning.

As yet the height of the water is not sufficient to flood the lowland unless a levee breaks out, which is quite possible. All possible precautions are being taken to avert such an accident.

DIVORCE LEGAL. CARSON, Nevada, June 1.—The divorce of Mary Pickford from Owen Moore was upheld yesterday by the supreme court.

Farmers Refuse To Give Rights To Fishermen

Unless several owners of property in the Summerville district remove their objections to fishing along the banks of the streams passing through their property, it is possible that action will be taken against them under the section of the fish and game code of the state covering this particular detail.

John Walden, county fish and game warden, declared today that the streams in this section have been stocked annually for about 15 years and that the state laws give anglers certain rights on such streams.

He called attention to section 56 of the game laws, which reads as follows: "Navigable rivers, sloughs, or streams between the lines of ordinary high water thereof, of the state of Oregon, and all rivers, sloughs and streams flowing through any public

Telephone Operator Sticks to Job in Burning Building Until Communication is Cut Off; Loss Estimated at Nearly Half Million Dollars.

(By Associated Press) BEND, June 1.—Half of Prineville's business section was destroyed by fire which started at midnight, causing damage of \$400,000. The fire was checked by dynamiting early today. The volunteer fire department was powerless to control the flames in the face of the high wind that was blowing.

The fire started in an old school house. Authorities expressed the opinion that the fire was of incendiary origin. "When the fire was finally checked most of Prineville's largest buildings were smoking ruins.

Four volunteer fire fighters, George McFall, Jack Haines, William Wesley and John Watchler, were injured. Watchler was crushed by a falling roof and is unconscious today.

Grace Wilson, telephone operator, stayed at her post calling help from outside towns until the exchange was burning and the wires cut off.

All that was saved from the post-office was the registered mail and a bunch of keys. The Prineville Hotel loss is \$100,000, the postoffice, \$25,000; H. R. Lakin Hardware store, \$50,000; Corbett and Company, general merchandise store, \$50,000; Cyrus Jewelry store, \$10,000; J. A. Klein clothing store, \$15,000; Deschutes Power company, \$25,000; telephone company, \$15,000; Prineville Bakery, \$15,000; City Meat Market, \$15,000. Other losses range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

PIERCE LEAVES THIS EVENING

Walter Pierce, candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket, arrived in La Grande last evening after spending a couple of days at his ranch. Mr. Pierce appears in the pink of condition and is beginning a ten days' itinerary this evening, when he leaves for Pilot Rock, where he will speak at the Pilot Rock-South Umatilla picnic tomorrow on "Government and How We Enjoy It."

Saturday will find Mr. Pierce in Monmouth, where he has been invited to deliver an address and on Sunday he will visit Mrs. Pierce, who is still convalescent from a recent operation, in Portland. On Monday he will go to Corvallis and on Friday will speak at the Pioneers' Association at Weston, Oregon.

"And then," continues Mr. Pierce, "I am coming back to spend a few more days with my calves."

LIBERTIES HIGH

(By Associated Press) NEW YORK, June 1.—For the first time since the date of issue, all Liberty bonds Wednesday sold at par or better. Heavy trading in Liberty bonds at highest prices and transactions embracing several lots of \$1,000,000 were the outstanding feature of the bond market.



Weather

Tonight and Friday fair and cooler in the east portion of the state Friday.