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O. A. KRATZ TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION

Commission Accepts; Will Take Effect on 28th of This Month

SEEKS BETTERMENT OF HIS INTERESTS

Resignation Comes at End of Body's Meeting; Future Plans Are Yet Unannounced.

O. A. Kratz, city manager of La Grande, tendered his resignation to the city commission last evening at the close of the regular business session. It was accepted and will take effect on December 28th.

His resignation came unexpectedly and was worded as follows: "I hereby hand you my resignation as city manager of the city of La Grande to become effective on December 28th. The reason for submitting my resignation at this time is that I feel that I can materially better my conditions. In resigning I wish to thank the city commission for their undivided support and for the courtesies that has been extended me, both by the commission and the citizens of La Grande."

Plans Unannounced.

"I have not announced my future plans as yet," Mr. Kratz stated this morning to the Observer, "but I will do so within the next two weeks."

Mr. Kratz came to La Grande as a successor to George Garrett, and took over the duties of his office on January 13, 1922. In accepting his resignation, the commissioners expressed regret and Mr. Kratz's supporters in La Grande likewise felt that they are losing an efficient official with his departure.

With his resignation coming so unexpectedly, the city officials are still considering the appointment of his successor with no positive announcement as to whom he will be as yet.

HARNESS PROBE GETS EVIDENCE

Scandal About Harness Sale to Government During the War to Be Probed.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—All of criminal suits, one or both, against the United States Harness company of Raleigh, N. C., will be ready for institution by the government within 20 days, Col. Henry T. Anderson of Richmond, Va., special assistant to the attorney general, testified before the house judiciary committee today.

MILTON MAN IS SUICIDE

Bill Prentice Shoots Himself Yesterday Afternoon; Despondency Thought to Be Motive.

MILTON, Ore., Dec. 21.—Bill Prentice, aged 30, a laborer and a resident of Milton for the past 30 years, committed suicide yesterday afternoon about two o'clock by shooting himself to death with a revolver, states a special dispatch to the Observer.

The shooting occurred in Prentice's bunk house, and authorities attribute the suicide to despondency over ill health. He is survived by a brother who makes his home in Walla Walla.

Prentice shot himself just above the right eye and death was instantaneous.

Portland Turkeys Flop Three Cents Wholesale

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—Turkey prices broke fully three cents wholesale here today, buyers paying 23 and 24 cents for the birds, compared with 27 cents for best birds yesterday.

AMERICA WILL NOT GIVE HUNS DESIRED LOAN

Thomas W. Lamont, in Address in New York, Discussed Prospects of Loan to Germany.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—An address by Thomas W. Lamont of J. P. Morgan and Co. before the council of foreign relations Tuesday night, in which he discussed prospects of a loan to Germany, was regarded Wednesday as one of the most significant statements yet made on the question.

"The American people have no intention of making a loan to Germany," he said, "because she is not in any position at the present time to insure our people with confidence to buy its bonds."

Mr. Lamont stated conditions under which he believed a German loan might be floated in this country at some future time; not a large loan, but enough to enable Germany to "get over the hill."

"These conditions," he said, "are the settlement of the reparations problem and the fixing of a definite sum, so that Germany would be aware of her obligations. Following the fixing of this sum," he continued, "Germany must set out on a period of deflation. There may possibly come with that a scheme of the allies for the supervision of such deflation, including the administration of Germany's customs."

"Even if a loan is advanced," he added, "I doubt if Germany will be lent a sum sufficient to discharge her reparations debt."

Mr. Lamont denied that the state department had sent the German ambassador to confer with Mr. Morgan here recently. He further expressed his opinion that the people of this country have the utmost sympathy for France, and that they would be glad to lend money to her "on a large scale."

HEAVY WINDS BLOW WALL IN

Last evening, during the fierce winds that raged over La Grande, the brick wall on the east side of the Star Theater, groaned, murmured, groaned again, shifted a little bit and then, giving way to the onslaught of the wind, crumpled and fell into the roof of the building.

Altogether about thirty or forty square feet of the surface of the wall tumbled over, smashing through the roof just behind the stage and damaging the roof and the rear of the stage to some extent. The remainder of the roof held the brick.

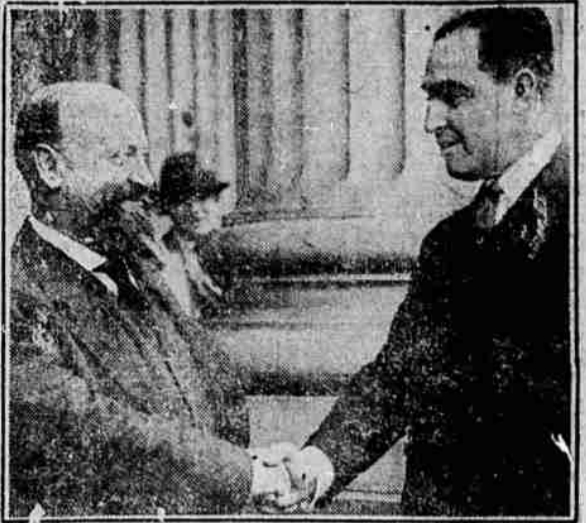
The building is owned by Mrs. Grace Shannon and the wall in question had been overheated during the recent burning of Carr's Furniture company, and when the wind rose to a certain velocity, the wall, already tremendously weakened, gave way.

WINDS DESCEND UPON LA GRANDE

Chicago is termed by scribes the nation over as the "windy city." Hot Lake is called by westerners as the place where "the wind comes from" and other places likewise have their designations regarding climatic and wind conditions, and La Grande last night likewise stepped into the "windy" hall of fame. Whether Hot Lake was responsible for sending the winds or not, they came and left their traces.

A metal chimney fell from the roof above the Odd Fellows' building and a filling brick, keeping pace with the chimney, struck a show window and broke the plate glass. Plate glass windows in the buildings opposite the scene of the Carr's fire, were blown out, although there had already been cracked. Several stories came in from the residential districts relative to freaks that the wind had played. All together, the evidences are ample proof that there was a windy condition in the city last night.

"Barleycorn Twins" of Congress



Two of the wettest wets in Congress are shown here congratulating each other on their proposed changes in the eighteenth amendment which would virtually wipe it out. They are, left to right, Congressman George H. Tinkham of Massachusetts and John Phillip Hill of Maryland.

SEARCHERS FAIL TO FIND BODIES BAND PREPARES A FINE CONCERT

Second Detachment of Soldiers Put on Louisiana Case That Attracts Attention.

MERROUGE, La., Dec. 21.—The detachment of National Guards that late yesterday dragged a part of Lake LaFourche in an effort to locate bodies of two men reported murdered by a hooded band last August after kidnaping five prominent Merrouge citizens, were unsuccessful and a second detachment was dispatched to the lake.

The soldiers were ordered to prevent attempts of outsiders to interfere with diving operations. Reports were circulated that enemies of the movement would interfere. A chart prepared by special investigation shows where the bodies, presumably weighted down with wagon wheels, were thrown.

ALICEL WHIPS LOCAL HOOPERS

A basketball team, hailing from Alicel instead of Imbler as was at first reported, decisively defeated a local team last evening in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium the score of 36 to 20, the Alicel boys winning by a display of superior teamwork.

The first half was hard fought and ended 10 to 14 looking as if it might be anybody's game, but in the final half the Alicel men spurred and scored 22 points to La Grande's 10. Wells, of Alicel, was the outstanding star with Murry Kingwell, of La Grande, being high point man for his team. Wells shot eight baskets for a total of 16 points.

The lineups were: Alicel, Wells and Backman forwards; Stuart, center; Taylor and Wallinger, guards. La Grande, Kingwell, Keeney and Black forwards; Scroggins and Chandler, guards, and Leo McCorkle, center.

LESS ACREAGE SHOWN BY THE LATE SURVEY

Satisfactory Seeding Impossible Because of the Dry Season

OREGON'S WHEAT SECTION DECLINES

Argentina and Australia Have Much Larger Crop This Year Than Last—Russia Has Forty Per Cent Increase.

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—A condition below the ten year average over an acreage somewhat less than last year is the Oregon winter wheat situation as outlined in the latest report of F. L. Kent, statistician, U. S. department of agriculture.

Throughout the principal winter wheat growing counties the fall season was too dry for satisfactory seeding in some of the counties about the usual winter acreage has been seeded, but in others seeding has been much below the average. A report from Union county says in part, "Very dry weather has interfered with fall seeding, prevented fall plowing and damaged wheat that was sown. Fall wheat average 90 per cent of last year."

The total Oregon acreage seeded this fall is estimated at 852,000 acres, which compares with an estimate of 861,000 acres seeded a year ago. Condition reports indicated 91 per cent of normal on December 1, which compares with 92 per cent last year, 97 per cent in 1920, and 92 per cent for the ten year average.

The total U. S. acreage seeded this fall is estimated at 46,000,000 which is 3.2 per cent less than the revised estimate of 47,611,000 acres seeded last fall. Condition of the U. S. crop is reported as 79.5 per cent. December 1 condition last fall was 76.9 per cent; 1920 was 87.9 per cent and the 10 year average 87.9 per cent.

Acreage and December 1 condition in some of the leading winter wheat states are reported as follows: Kansas 12,284,000, and 73 per cent; (Continued on Page Two)

CITY ACCEPTS PROPOSAL OF COUNTY COURT

Proposal Relative to the Payment of Road Taxes Due the City by the County is Discussed at Length.

At the close of a lengthy debate pro and con concerning the acceptance of the county's offer in regard to the method of paying the portion of the road tax due the city, amounting to \$20,500, not including the present year, the city commission last evening went on record as accepting the county's proposal which is to the effect that \$7,000 will be paid to the city in the coming year in addition to the present apportionment for this year, and that the remainder of the sum will be paid within two years in two equal installments.

The acceptance of the county's proposal was made with the feeling, held by Commissioners C. J. Black and Dr. H. S. Brown, that the county should pay interest to the city on the funds that had not been turned over, from the date when they were due the city, but that, inasmuch as similar funds had not been turned over to other cities in Union county, a concession should be made so that the county would not be pressed with an exorbitant debt that would be difficult to meet on short notice.

Following the arguments on the matter the city manager recommended that the commission grant authority to purchase and install a "fire pump" which would materially increase the efficiency in fighting fire and would tend to reduce the insurance rates in the city as well. "Such a pump, combined with a chemical apparatus and hose equipment, would have made it possible for the fire department to completely flood Carr's basement in the late fire and have saved the building," Mr. Kratz stated. With the pump in action every bit of water that could have been drawn through the ten inch main could have been directed upon the blaze. The matter was laid on the table for consideration.

Water System Discussed.

Again the much talked of water system of La Grande became the center of discussion. According to the city manager, reports had been circulated that the pressure was low on the morning of Carr's fire and reports had also been about the streets that the reservoir had been drained shortly after the fire started. He stated that these reports were fictitious and that the reason for the "low pressure" was due to mishandling of the hydrants by amateurs who combined with the fire department in fighting the blaze and also refuted the statement that the water in the reservoir had been drained. He likewise asserted that statements that dead fish polluted the city's drinking water and stories concerning the "terrible" condition of the system in general were without foundation.

Ordinances Passed.

Two ordinances were passed last evening, one relating to the fixing of license fees for pool halls and soft drink establishments and relative to the prohibition of the possession of intoxicating liquor, mentioning places that were considered nuisances, and giving the municipal judge authority to issue search warrants in their connection.

Several other minor matters, relative to a petition for an arc light on Washington and 13th streets, the restraining of the proposed erection of a billboard on Madison near First street, the matter of the improvement bond sinking funds and concerning the application for a lease on the septic tank property by Wong John were discussed and passed on for consideration. The city manager was requested to make an examination into the matters and was given authority to act finally in regards to the septic tank property lease. Routine business, reports, and other minor matters were likewise handled at this time.

LOIS WALTER PASSED ON IN WASHINGTON

Friends of Mrs. John Walter, of Starbuck, Washington, were shocked to hear of the death of her daughter, Lois, fourteen years of age, who passed recently. The funeral will be held this afternoon in Walla Walla, Washington.

Mrs. Walter formerly lived in La Grande and was formerly Miss Jessie Alexander. Her many friends in this vicinity sympathize with her in her bereavement.

CLASH TODAY BETWEEN TWO BIG LEADERS

Venzelos, of Greece, and Riza Nur Bey, of Turkey, Have Hot Argument

ADJOURNMENT TAKEN TO END HEATED CLASH

Venzelos Attacked Angora Government and Riza Nur Charged Ex-Premier With Causing the Turkish-Greek War.

(By The Associated Press.)

LAUSANNE, Dec. 21.—A words altercation between Ex-Premier Venzelos of Greece and Riza Nur Bey, Turkish National delegate, caused Signor Montanari, president of the Near East conference commission, to adjourn to abruptly end this morning's session of the commission.

The dispute was over the question of liberty of immigration. Venzelos bitterly attacked the Angora government protesting against the alleged deportation of Greeks by thousands from Anatolia.

Riza Nur replied in the same vein charging Venzelos with being responsible for the Turkish-Greek war. The voices of the two delegates rose to a high pitch.

PIONEER DIES THIS MORNING

William S. Hamilton Passes On At the Home of His Son at End of Long Illness.

William S. Hamilton died at the home of his son this morning at 2:25 o'clock at the age of 67 years and 23 days at the termination of an extended illness. He was formerly of Wallawa where he was employed as an engineer by the Nibley-Minnaugh Lumber company for a period of ten years.

Interment will be made in the Summerville cemetery on Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock under the auspices of the I. O. O. F. of which the deceased was a member. Smedgers and Zimmerman undertaking parlors have charge of the body.

William S. Hamilton was born November 22, 1855, in Friendship, Scioto county, Ohio, and went to Missouri when a small boy then crossing the plains in 1874, arriving in the Grande Ronde valley on July 7th. He settled on the Sand Ridge and was united in marriage to Olive C. Hulse September 28, 1882. To this union was born five children, three sons and two daughters, William H. Arthur, Charles S. Mrs. Ethel Newbill and Mrs. Edith Brown, all of whom survive him with the exception of Arthur who died when a small boy. Additional survivors are his wife, one brother, C. W. Hamilton of Alicel; Mrs. O. A. Rhinehart of Husum, Washington, and Mrs. Richard Myers of Caldwell, Idaho, besides a number of more distant relatives.

ARMY CONCERT WAS PLEASING

The benefit concert given in the high school auditorium last evening by the Salvation Army proved to be well up to the expectations of the music loving public. A fine program carried out in a manner that was near professional perfection, delighted the audience who were loud in their praise of the concert. The concert was well attended and the Salvation Army will use the proceeds to serve a Christmas dinner for those in La Grande who otherwise would do without the usual Yuletide feast.

Waitress Charges Man Of River with Murder

(By The Associated Press.)

PORTLAND, Dec. 21.—Police announced early today after a long questioning of Miss Helen Leary, waitress, aged twenty, and Cash Weir, a riverman aged sixty-three, that they were unable to decide as to the accuracy of the story told by the woman when she stated she had witnessed through the knothole of a houseboat the killing of an unidentified girl aged fifteen by Weir on

the 23rd day of last September.

Both the waitress and the riverman are being held pending investigation. Police are endeavoring to locate Earl Weir, son of the riverman, to obtain his version of the alleged affair.

The woman claims the man entered the houseboat just after the girl had been killed and aided his father in disposing of the body. The older Weir accused the story declaring it entirely manufactured.

A GOOD WAY TO GET RID OF UNDESIRABLE OBJECTS

