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BIG SAVINGS ARE MADE IN SUPPLY BILL

Over Three Millions of Dollars Less than Bill for Fiscal Year 1922

HALF MILLION NAMED FOR POWDER PROJECT

Total Amount of Bill as Reported to House Today is \$294,215,300; Three Oregon Projects Included.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The annual supply bill for various branches of the government under the interior department, carrying \$294,215,300, was reported to the house today. The total was almost three million less than last year. The amounts recommended for reclamation projects included Baker River, Oregon, \$500,000; Umatilla, \$900,000 and Klamath, Oregon-California, \$700,000.

WHO WILL BE THE CITY'S MANAGER

Conjecture Brings in Many Names, But City Fathers Sit Tight and Say Nothing.

The question of who will be La Grande's next city manager is one that is absorbing a lot of interest along Main street and in business and social circles.

Every possible candidate has been mentioned and each one analyzed, his record held up to the light of day, his qualifications discussed at length with the final determination that the matter rests with the city commission and that body will very likely appoint whom they believe to be the man for the job.

It is known that Commissioner Black is firmly in favor of a La Grande citizen for the job. He contends that engineering ability can be purchased when needed and that the city manager needs therefore not to be an engineer. In fact, he rather favors a manager for the city who is not an engineer. Who he has in mind for the place has not as yet been disclosed.

Commissioners Brown and Williams felt very much regret over the resignation of Mr. Kratz. Commissioner Brown has expressed his belief that the present manager should have continued in office for another year at least.

It was rumored on the streets that Judge Phyl might become the next city manager last evening, but the judge stated today that under no consideration would he accept the place if tendered.

"I do not know a thing about the wishes of the commission and have no thought that they are entertaining me as a probable successor to the manager, but I want to make it clear that I am in no sense a candidate for the position and could not accept it if it were offered me," said the judge.

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYS ALUMNI

As the Observer goes to press a scene of conflict is raging in the high school gymnasium. The haughty and competent Alumni basketball team is getting into action against the first team of the high school last night at 8 o'clock. The Alumni team is a first class squad who are likewise playing their first game together this season.

Dope favors the Alumni to win by a margin of at least fifteen points over the high school boys but although lacking in practice, the younger hoopers are there with the fight and despite the fact that the Alumni is conceded as nearly sure winners, the Blue and White may hand them a surprise.

Fire Destroys Chicago Depot, 800 Homeless

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Fire Thursday afternoon destroyed the Dearborn street railroad station, formerly known as the Polk street depot, and left eight railroads homeless in Chicago.

The building was valued at \$300,000 but its replacement would cost more than \$1,000,000.

Within a little more than an hour after a traffic policeman saw smoke issuing from the roof, the flames swept through the 32-year-old brick and wood structure, once the pride

WOMEN OPPOSE THE COME-BACK OF ARBUCKLE

Mayor Cryer of Los Angeles Telegraphs to Will Hays Asking Him to Reconsider

(By Associated Press)
LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22.—Mayor Cryer today telegraphed Will Hays, motion picture chief, urging him to reconsider the decision permitting Roscoe Arbuckle to return to the films. He declared public sentiment was strongly opposed to the action.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 22.—Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle, comedian, Thursday was making ready for his re-entry into motion pictures after January 1, while members of the Los Angeles District Federation of Women's clubs announced they could "not" receive from their opposition to his plans.

After Will H. Hays, titular head of the motion picture industry, announced here Tuesday that Arbuckle might have another "chance to make good," the Los Angeles district adopted a resolution affirming a previous one opposing his reappearance in pictures.

Mrs. J. C. Uruhart, president of the district, stated that, although Arbuckle, at his third trial in San Francisco, had been acquitted of causing the death of Virginia Rappe, screen actress, the testimony "was of such character as to bar him forever from appearing before a decent, self-respecting public."

Clubwomen Oppose.

"I can truthfully say," she declared, "that the clubwomen of this country will not commend any Arbuckle films, and I do not think any film will succeed without our commendation."

Arbuckle, who was barred from the screen last April by Mr. Hays, will be re-employed by Joseph M. Schneck, producer, it was announced. The comedian said: "I am very grateful to all those who are helping me, and I will prove myself worthy of it."

WALLA WALLA OBJECTS

WALLA WALLA, Wash., Dec. 22.—Pictures showing Roscoe Arbuckle will continue to be barred here, according to Mayor Ben F. Hill. "The sentiment against Arbuckle has not changed here, and I see no reason for allowing his pictures to be exhibited," the mayor declared.

SPEERS NAMED AS CHAIRMAN

The election, just announced from New York, of James M. Speers, president of James McCutcheon & Co., linen merchants of that city, to the chairman of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A., is of special interest to members and friends of the local association because that committee is the general agent of all the 2,000 associations in North America.

This committee is composed of approximately 200 business and professional men of the United States and Canada who, with their employed staffs, direct the services abroad and certain features of the home work of the American associations. Through it these associations carry on work in Europe, Russia, Siberia, Asia, the Near East, Africa and Latin America.

Mr. Speers succeeds Alfred E. Marling, former president of the New York State Chamber of Commerce, who served as chairman since 1910.

KNOTHOLE CASE STILL MYSTERY

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—The police are unable to obtain a satisfactory solution of the houseboat knothole mystery from Earl Wair, arrested late last night at Rainier, Oregon. Helen Leary will stick to the story she saw through the knothole that Weir attacked a girl in a houseboat resulting in the girl's death.

The district attorney is to take the case up before the grand jury.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—Tonight and Saturday will find rain in Western Oregon and snow in the east.

REPARATIONS PLAN BEFORE FRANCE NOW

England and Germany Are Willing to Accept the American Proposal

PREMIER POINCARÉ TO MAKE DECISION

Reparations Plan to Determine Amount to Be Paid Allies Rests Upon Action Taken By France.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—A plan under which an American commission would determine how much Germany should be required to pay the allies in reparations has emerged from the effort to find a way for extending American troubles of Europe.

Although discussions of the proposal thus far have been kept outside the formal channels of diplomacy, the exchange of views has developed a thorough understanding in authoritative circles that the United States, Great Britain and Germany are willing to assent to the creation of such a commission.

The plan now is before Premier Poincaré of France, and he is expected to make a decision after conferences with industrial leaders of his own country and of Germany. It is assumed that it will be communicated later to all the nations interested in reparations payments.

Officials of the Washington government Thursday refused to discuss the plan for an American commission. Secretary Hughes, however, issued a statement saying that the "government" had presented no "proposal" on the subject.

The procedure by which all of those directly interested are sounded out before any definite "proposal" is submitted with government authority behind it is the usual method employed in negotiations of great delicacy. The secretary's statement recalled an assertion made a few days ago by a White House spokesman, who said, in discussing the American attitude toward Europe that it would not be proper to display on the stage all that was taking place behind the scenes.

BANDITS TRAIL AGAIN IS LOST

(By Associated Press)
DENVER, Dec. 22.—Officers today lost the trail of four men suspected of being mint holdups seen yesterday near Greeley.

IF WE COULD ONLY GET EVERYTHING WE WANTED



EXECUTION OF MOTHER IS UPHOLD

Mother and Unborn Babe Must Hang; Lord Chief Justice Dismisses Appeals

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Mrs. Edith Thompson must hang for the murder of her husband, Percy Thompson, of which she was found jointly guilty with Frederick Bywaters, her lover, states the Oregon Journal.

The lord chief justice today dismissed appeals by Mrs. Thompson and Bywaters. They had previously been found guilty of murder and sentenced to death.

Thompson was stabbed to death October 4. Appeal of the condemned woman, who admitted frequent attempts to poison her husband, probably will be carried to the home secretary, her last hope of life.

William C. Bridgeman, whose life, by a coincidence, was recently attempted through poison sent him in the mails, must now decide whether a woman about to become a mother can be hanged.

The trial of Mrs. Thompson and Bywaters was one of the most sensational in English criminal history. Mrs. Thompson, a girlish figure, who will be 29 years old on Christmas day, maintained her composure in court as witnesses accused her of administering poison to her husband. She admitted giving the man deadly poisons, but said she did so only to "weaken him" so he would succumb to heart attacks.

From June 1, 1921, until October 4, 1922, she gave her husband occasional doses of poison, while continuing to smile upon him and hold secret rendezvous with her lover, Fred Bywaters, on October 4, she prevailed on Bywaters to stab Thompson and so put an end to him.

Loved Naval Officer.

After her conviction, considerable sentiment was stirred up to her favor because she was to become a mother. It was held that the state had a right to execute an unborn babe by sending its mother to the scaffold. This will undoubtedly be brought strongly before the home secretary when he considers whether she shall die.

DR. DARBY PASSED ON IN PORT ANGELES

Dr. J. J. Darby, former physician and surgeon of this place, but who moved to Port Angeles, Wash., died at that place on December 8, and was interred at Pomeroy, Washington. Many friends of the deceased in this city mourn his demise.

ALIMONY GRANTED

Last Thursday, before Judge J. W. Knowles, the court ordered E. F. Buck to pay his wife, Mrs. Margaret Buck, monthly, a limony amounting to \$40 for her support and benefit.

FIRES SWEEP FINE CHURCH TO OBLIVION

Church of Notre Dame at Quebec Burned to the Ground Early Today

THOUGHT TO BE ACT OF AN INCENDIARY

Building Was Valued at One Million Dollars; Is Ninth Catholic Edifice Burned This Year.

(By The Associated Press)
QUEBEC, Dec. 22.—Fires which early today destroyed the historic million dollar Notre Dame church here are believed to have been caused by an incendiary, according to Daniel Lorrain, chief of the province police, who said that he had received a letter informing him that the edifice would be burned on December 22.

Notre Dame is the ninth Catholic edifice in Canada visited by a serious fire this year, and is the second in this section.

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La Grande's Lea

HALF MILLION CUT IS MADE IN STATE TAX

Tax Levy for 1923 is \$540,933.72 Less Than on Previous Year; Levy Promulgated Today.

SALEM, Dec. 22.—A total of \$8,330,295.39 must be raised by the taxpayers of Oregon for state purposes under the levy for 1923, according to the tax levy promulgated today by Acting Governor Ritter, Secretary of State Koser and Tax Commissioner Dorell of the state tax commission, says a special dispatch. This is \$540,933.72 less than the amount raised for state purposes this year which totalled \$9,376,289.11. Both levies include the special millage levies for educational, bonus, road and elementary school purposes. Deducting the elementary school tax, which is levied by the state but retained in the various counties for the support of grade schools, the net state tax for 1923 will be \$6,816,297.07, as compared to \$7,394,680.72 in 1922.

The 1923 levy, in addition to covering the estimated needs of all state institutions and departments for the coming year, also covers all deficiency appropriations for the biennium 1921-1922, aggregating \$210,000, all appropriations made by the legislature at the special session in December, 1921, aggregating \$212,000; interest amounting to \$10,196.45 paid during the past year on warrants indorsed by the state treasurer "not paid for want of funds," and \$400,000 estimated as necessary to cover the cost of new buildings and repairs on existing buildings at the various state institutions during 1923.

The estimate of needs for the maintenance of state departments and institutions for 1923, including new buildings and repairs, and to cover deficiencies, interest and other obligations incurred during the past biennium, aggregate \$1,048,593.63. Receipts from interest on state funds and fees collected by the various departments during 1923 are estimated at \$1,598,263.82, leaving a total of \$3,550,329.81 to be raised by taxation. The remainder of the \$8,330,295.39 is represented by special tax levies authorized by the voters and includes the following items:

Agricultural college, additional maintenance, \$692,227.39.

University of Oregon, additional maintenance, \$519,171.

State Normal school, additional maintenance, \$60,669.95.

Soldiers' educational act, \$175,000.

Elementary school tax, 2 mills, \$2,018,998.32.

Market roads, 1 mill, \$1,009,499.16.

Soldiers' bonus, 1 mill, \$1,009,499.16.

State Levy Lower.

The rate of levy for the state tax for 1923 will be 8.75 mills as against 9.15 mills for 1922. This, too, in the face of a material reduction of the state's assessed valuation this year as compared to last.

The reduction in the state tax this year, Commissioner Lovell explains, is accounted for by the fact that only such needs as are provided for by law are taken into consideration in computing the level on off years. The receipts of the various state departments also show a material increase, decreasing the need from taxes.

ASSASSINATED FROM AMBUSH

Emile Arnsten, Formerly of Louisiana, Was Shot and Killed Near Tampico Today.

(By The Associated Press)
TAMPAICO, Mex., Dec. 22.—Emile Arnsten, formerly of Shreveport, La., assistant pipe line superintendent of the Mexican Gulf Oil company, was shot and killed from ambush late yesterday.

EGGS DROP TWO CENTS

(By Associated Press)
PORTLAND, Dec. 22.—Livestock is steady, eggs weak and two cents lower, buying price 35 and 42 cents, selling at 44 and 48 cents. Butter is steady.

Mrs. Jennie Decious Is Called By Death Today

Mrs. Jennie Decious, wife of Frank Decious, died at her home at 1509 X avenue this morning at seven o'clock, at the termination of a serious illness of long standing. Her death came as a severe shock to her many friends and with her passing on La Grande loses one of the finest ladies of the community.

The deceased was born in Cochocton, Ohio, on August 3, 1860, and was 62 years, three months and 19 days old when her death came. She was married to Frank Decious in 1879 and to this union eight children were born. She is survived by seven children, Howard of Portland, Mrs. Hattie Sargent of Sanger, California, Mrs. Clara Carbiener of Lucas, Mrs. Minnie Crossman of La Grande, Mrs. Harry of Portland, and Ben and Clyde of La Grande. She also leaves her aged mother, 89 years of age and a sister, now living in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Decious was a member of the Rebekah lodge which will have charge of the funeral, and was a member of the Baptist church.

The funeral will be held Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and the body is in charge of the W. H. Bohannon company.

MYSTERY IN LOUISIANA IS DEEPENING

Bodies of Supposedly Missing Victims Found in Lake La Fourche

LAKE MYSTERIOUSLY DYNAMITED IN NIGHT

Limbs of Two Men Were Tied With Wire and the Bodies Were Badly Decomposed; Rose to Surface Following Explosion.

(By The Associated Press)
SHREVEPORT, La., Dec. 22.—The bodies of two men, badly decomposed, who are believed to be Watt Daniel and Thomas Fritchard, the missing victims of the Morehouse mob action that occurred last August, were found this morning in Lake La Fourche, according to a special correspondent of the Shreveport Journal.

The limbs of the men were tied together with wire and the bodies came to the surface during the night due to a mysterious explosion of a large charge of dynamite, set off by unidentified persons. The bodies were found this morning floating on the surface of the lake.

DYER SEES FILIPINO FREEDOM

(By Associated Press)
MANILA, Dec. 22.—Representative Dyer, after studying the far eastern trade conditions, predicted that the next house of representatives at Washington would favor Philippine independence and that the next congress would very likely take the same attitude.

O. A. C. DANCE NEXT TUESDAY

Event Will Be a "Get Acquainted" Ball for All High School Pupils as Well as Alumni.

A social event that will sparkle with the young blood of Eastern Oregon is the dance to be given on Tuesday evening at Rex hall by the O. A. C. students. It will be wholly informal and all students and former students of the college will be present along with the La Grande high school members and students from the various surrounding high schools, for all have been invited to attend.

This is to be one of the outstanding holiday occasions and the young people who are home on vacations as well as alumni members and members of the high schools will join in a great "get acquainted" evening.

Patrons and patronesses have been chosen as follows: Governor and Mrs. Walter M. Pierce, Dr. and Mrs. Vern Johnson, Representative and Mrs. Albert Hunter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Playle and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McCall.

BULLETINS

MC CALL ACQUITTED.

H. P. McCall, who was arrested in Pendleton some time ago on a charge of non-support entered against him in La Grande, appeared before the justice of peace recently and was discharged from the criminal action.