

La Grande Evening Observer

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DOMESTIC BUSINESS SUCCESSFUL

Yearly Statement of the Department of Commerce Received.

OPTIMISM RAMPANT FOR COMING YEAR

"There are No Serious Obstacles in Sight which should hinder further advances," report says.

(By The Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The stock taking of the nation's domestic business for the past year gives a "feeling of satisfaction" over the progress, the department of commerce declared today in the end of the yearly statement. Addition to the statement said "there are no serious obstacles in sight which should hinder further advances" in the early new year.

That optimism was born of accomplishments of the past few months which many officials viewed as strengthening of economic fabric, in evident throughout the statistics.

Production Greater. The production of manufactured commodities averaged fifty per cent larger than in 1921. Farmers received approximately seventeen per cent more for their produce than in 1921; and the total volume of agricultural products was worth a much greater sum than last year.

BAND CONCERT IS OF MERIT

New Year's Concert Will Be one of Fine Quality; many Numbers and Specialties Prepared.

Final rehearsal for the band concert to be given at the Methodist church Sunday, December 31st at 4 p. m., has been held and bandmaster L. E. Reynolds reports the band eager for the concert. An exceptional program has been arranged which includes several specialties. Mrs. Aldrich will sing "Dear Ye Not O Israel," and one of La Grande's leading tenors, Stewart Bennett, will be heard in Bartlett's "A Dream." During the intermission the Mrs. G. L. Quigley will deliver a short address on "The Building of the City."

Another number of special merit will be the Sextette from "Lucia," especially arranged for these Sextette. This number will be directed by the assistant bandmaster, Elmer McManus.

This will be the first public concert of a series to be given by the band this winter and the general public is invited. Admission will be free.

Grande March, "Alma," Verdi; waltz, "Believe," from Metropolitan Opera House; "Toukani," "Dear Ye Not O Israel," W. Buck, by Mrs. L. Aldrich, accompanied at the piano organ by Miss Ruth Quigley.

Intermission.

"Building of the City," by Rev. G. H. Quigley.

Sextette from "Lucia," Donizetti, especially arranged for these Sextette, Messrs. E. L. Robinson, McManus, Mays, Wilde, P. Shostgrass and Loney, band directed by Assistant Bandmaster Elmer McManus. "A Dream," Bartlett, by Stewart Bennett, accompanied by the band; Overture, "Beautiful Galatea," Suppe.

J. E. Stearns Becomes Manager of City Today

ASTORIA, Dec. 28.—Reports, unofficial, but backed by the strongest circumstantial evidence, indicate that O. A. Kratz, city manager of La Grande, has been selected for a similar position in Astoria by the new city administration which takes office on January 1. It is known that the commission selected a manager some time ago, but the matter was kept strictly secret. Even yet members of the commission refuse to confirm Kratz's selection, but at the same time will not deny it. Kratz some days ago resigned his office in La Grande and his name has been linked with the office here, states a special dispatch.

J. E. Stearns, for four years affiliated with the city government of La Grande, lately as city recorder, becoming acting city manager this morning. His appointment, of a temporary nature, came following the resignation of O. A. Kratz's resignation, and was made Wednesday evening at a regular meeting of the city commission.

Mr. Stearns announced that he would not appoint a new city recorder as his appointment as

SOMMER HOTEL WILL NOT BE A ROOMING HOUSE

Ben Decious States that the Establishment will Become one of City's Fine Hotels.

(By The Associated Press) Although apparently the report was widespread that the Sommer Hotel would become a rooming or apartment house after 1 took it over, such is not the case, stated Ben Decious today. "The building will be completely renovated, remodeled, the rooms will be made larger, a new lobby will be installed and it will be utilized as a hotel."

Sample rooms will be installed in the hotel at the same time the remodeling is being done and the building will be remodeled to become one of La Grande's finest hotels.

Savoie to Be Family House.

The Savoie Hotel, which will be taken over by Mr. Decious on January 6, will be slightly remodeled according to present plans in whatever way is necessary. It will run under the same name and will be a family hotel.

MURDERER IS CRAZED WITH MOONSHINE

(By Associated Press) MARSHFIELD, Dec. 29.—L. W. Pearce, a rancher 57 years old, is in jail today charged with killing his wife and his neighbor, James Culver, yesterday while crazy drunk from moonshine. According to officers Pearce choked his wife to death at their home fourteen miles south of Myrtle Point, killed the dogs and cats on the place and then attacked Culver.

Sam Stevens, another neighbor overpowered Pearce, tied him and held him until officers arrived.

BULLETINS

WHEAT MARKET (By Associated Press) PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—Wheat was \$1.19 to \$1.48 today.

WILL ACT TUESDAY

(By The Associated Press.) BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—Governor Ritchie is expected to act Tuesday on the Louisiana request for extradition of former Mayor McKoin of Mer Rouge.

BORAH WITHDRAWS BILL

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Senator Borah today announced he would withdraw his naval bill amendment requesting the president to call an economic and disarmament conference. He said he had been advised by administration leaders that it would injure negotiations now being made to aid the European situation.

LIVESTOCK MARKET

(By Associated Press.) PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—Livestock was steady today, eggs were weak and butter was strong.

HUN FORESTS TO BE TAKEN BY FRANCE

Poincare Plans to take Action Apart From any Joint Settlement.

GERMANS ASK FOR TIME EXTENSION

Part of Contemplated Forests are in the Occupied Territory of Germany and in Bavaria.

(By The Associated Press) PARIS, Dec. 29.—The French government has practically completed its plan for the seizure of certain German state forests as a result of the formal action of the reparations commission last Tuesday in declaring Germany in voluntary default for her failure to deliver the specific amount of timber during the present year.

Some of these government-owned forests are in the occupied territory of Germany and others in Bavaria. It was authoritatively stated Thursday night that apart from any general settlement that may be reached at next week's conference here of allied premiers, M. Poincare has made up his mind to take these forests in economic reprisal for Germany's "willful default," even though the other allies refuse to participate in the operation.

The French premier will insist that his plan of seizure be the first item on the agenda of the premiers' meeting. He will ask the approval of the allied powers, but if this is not forthcoming, he is prepared to act alone.

Germany Asks Delay.

(By The Associated Press) BERLIN, Dec. 29.—Germany's delay in meeting the reparations demands for timber was due mainly to the late date on which the government received specific notification of the allied requirements, according to an explanation issued Thursday by the German war bureau's commission. The commission asks an extension of time to the first of April.

A state income tax, rural credits, changes in the present revenue law, tax reduction and removal of party circle in promoting agricultural measures, are among other issues which farmers and others are expected to take an active part. Statements from various members indicate that economy will be a dominant factor in legislation. Abolishment of many state boards, commissions and inspectorships, as well as democratic attack on the state's civil administrative code law with a view of its repeal, are advocated in several quarters. Governor-elect Chas. Bryan and his democratic legislators pledged repeal of the law, a republican measure, although the assembly will have a republican majority in both house and senate.

Other proposed legislation includes a law designed to equalize the burden of taxation, a proposal to tax intangible property on the same basis with real property, instead of at one-fourth value, and a law providing funds to partly maintain the state's program of road building by a tax on motor vehicles and reclamation of secondary road projects to the counties.

DIVINE SARAH IS RECOVERING

(By Associated Press) PARIS, Dec. 29.—Sarah Bernhardt is distinctly better today. She is able to leave bed and had luncheon with the members of the household.

THE WEATHER

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—Tonight rain in the west, fair in the east, Saturday rain in the west, probably snow in Eastern Oregon.

COUNTRY BOY OUT OF WORK KILLS SELF

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—The county coroner today decided Chauncey Morris, eighteen year old Klamath Falls boy, who was found shot to death in a cabin on the outskirts of this city yesterday, killed himself as result of despondency over unemployment. No inquest will be held.

FARM BLOC IS NOW LOOMING

Nebraska legislature is facing a Farm "bloc" in Coming Year's Session.

(By The Associated Press) LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 29.—Nebraska will have a farm bloc in its next legislature, convening January 2, to protect agricultural interests in legislative matters, if present plans of its sponsors are successful. The movement was started among agencies of organized agriculture and J. N. Norton, former head of the Farm Bureau Federation, clearly has come forward with its proposal.

Threatened reductions in state expenditures as the result of the political campaigns has caused the fear in some agricultural circles that the legislature may hesitate in appropriating funds which leading agriculturalists declare to be necessary for the protection of the industry.

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TWO MORE DIE IN KILKENNY

DUBLIN, Dec. 29.—Two men, named Murphy and Whelan, were executed at Kilkenny today.

GREEK ARMY IS MOVING TO THRACE

Entire Force is Sent to Thracian front Following Cabinet Meeting.

WAR CONSIDERED AS INEVITABLE

Reserves of 1920 and 1922 Classes have been Called to the Colors Says Special Dispatch.

(By The Associated Press) LONDON, Dec. 29.—A dispatch to the Daily Express from Athens says the entire Greek army is moving toward Thrace, war being considered inevitable.

The dispatch adds that former Premier Venizelos telegraphed the revolutionary government advising it to send reinforcements to the Thracian front and asking to be informed of the number of troops there. A meeting of the cabinet followed, and the army moved.

The reserves of the 1920 and 1922 classes, the dispatch continues, have been called to the colors. War Minister Pangalos has been appointed commander in chief in Thrace, and has left with his secretary for Saloniki.

INTERESTING RADIO CONCERT

"Dolph" Thomas Will Give a Concert on New Year's Night; Well Known in La Grande.

G. D. "Dolph" Thomas, special insurance agent with headquarters in Portland, will give an entertainment to be broadcast on New Year's night, January 1, by the Oregonian radio broadcasting, according to a special dispatch received today. The program will last from eight until nine o'clock in the evening and Mr. Thomas will be assisted by a violin, a tenor and a pianist.

Mr. Thomas is a former member of the O. A. C. club and appeared before the Union County Ad club some time ago at which time he sang several very pleasing solos. He is well known in this city and has many friends here who signify their intentions of listening in on his concert New Year's night. Several radio receiving stations installed in La Grande will receive his concert.

BASKETBALL DOUBLEHEADER BEING PLAYED

The high school basketball team is meeting the strong Alton quintette this afternoon in the high school gymnasium and the second team is playing the Alton town team in practice games preliminary to the opening of the interscholastic season, which will be in La Grande on January 2, when the Maroon and White teams from Union will invade the local basketball arena.

The high school five, with a week more of practice, expects to show a much stronger game against the old grads than in the first game, when the Alton triumphed by a score of 40 to 12. Teamwork has been developed to a greater extent and the line-up has been shifted in a few respects that will tend to increase the strength of the quintette.

The bunch from Alton are the same team that won from the Y. M. C. A. team here a short time ago 25 to 20 and are reputed to be a tough mouthful for anyone to chew, but, nevertheless, the second team anticipation putting up a vicious battle and indications are that the outcome will be rather close.

SLASH MADE IN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

(By Associated Press) PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—A reduction of \$175,000 annually in state highway commission expenses was announced at a meeting today as a result of the reduction of operating forces due to the completion of several projects. A further reduction of \$40,000 monthly in salaries was proposed by Engineer Nunn. The Astoria road plan was tabled as the legislative committee made no recommendation to the commission.

BIG RAILROAD MERGER MADE

Five Roads Combine Under Name of "New York, Chicago and St. Louis," Covers 1695 Miles.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 29.—Consolidation of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis (Nickel Plate), the Chicago & State Line, the Lake Erie & Western, Fort Wayne, Cincinnati & Louisville, and the Toledo, St. Louis & Western (Cleveland Lead), was approved here Thursday by the board of directors of the five railroads, representing an authorized capitalization of \$105,500,000 and operating 1695 miles of road, W. A. Colston, vice president and general counsel of the Nickel Plate, announced.

The directors of the roads in the consolidation, sometimes referred to as the "Van Swearingen lines," approved and executed an agreement for the unification of the five roads into a single corporation to be known as "The New York, Chicago & St. Louis railroad company" and directed submission of the agreement and articles of consolidation to meetings of stockholders of the several companies.

Aids Economy and Service. The consolidation "will make possible economies in operation and general administration and will enable the roads to compete more effectively with larger systems serving the same territory and give improved service to the public," Mr. Colston said. The terms of capitalization provided that the consolidated company will be authorized initially to issue \$105,500,000 of capital stock, which amount corresponds to the sum of the new authorized capital stock of the constituent companies. Of the total to be authorized, it is proposed to immediately issue \$78,267,000, corresponding to the sum of stock now issued by the constituent companies. Of the initial capital stock, \$45,880,000 will be cumulative preferred and \$32,387,000 will be common stock.

FAILURE OF CONFERENCE MAY OCCUR

Stands on Verge of Breaking Up Today for Several Causes.

OWNERSHIP OF OIL FIELDS CONTESTED

Question of Capitalists Another Question that may Lead to a Dissolution of the Conference.

(By Associated Press) LAUSANNE, Dec. 29.—Temet Pasha sent a letter to the British Foreign Minister Curzon today reaffirming his demands that the Mosul oil district be turned over to Turkey.

The note denied the British contention that the Kurds, who inhabit the district, are unfriendly to the Turks and want Mosul to remain under the Arab government.

Curzon plans to leave Sunday for Paris where he will confer with Prime Minister Bonar Law over the near eastern situation.

(By Associated Press) LAUSANNE, Dec. 29.—The Near East Peace conference stood today on the verge of failure, the danger of breaking up facing it from several causes, chiefly a contest over the ownership of the Mosul Oil Fields and the question of capitalists.

CARR FIRE INSURANCE ADJUSTED

Quick Work When Adjustor Harold, of Seattle Arrives In the City.

"I have never found a more up-to-date set of books nor a set of books that were in better shape in all of my long experience as a fire insurance adjuster," said Curtis B. Harold, fire insurance adjuster, who arrived in the city yesterday and went through the books of the Carr Furniture company for the purpose of adjusting the fire loss which that company had in the fire which destroyed its entire furniture and householding stock a few weeks ago.

Mr. Harold found, after figuring out all discounts and deductions, that the Carr Furniture company had a stock on hand at the time of the fire amounting to \$45,872.00. The company carried \$28,000 fire insurance, all on the stock except \$600 which was on the office equipment and fixtures. The equipment and fixtures at a resale price amounted to \$4,050 deducting the \$600 insurance left a loss to the company on its office and fixtures of \$35150.

The complete loss caused payment in full of all insurance to the Carr company. The loss sustained by the company is the difference between the amount of the insurance and the conservative value placed on the stock by Mr. Harold, along with the further loss of being put out of business in the midst of the holiday season.

The loss on the building occupied by the company, which was owned by Mrs. J. C. Henry, has not yet been adjusted.

ARRESTS SOON TO BE MADE

(By Associated Press) MONROE, La., Dec. 29.—Sheriff Carpenter of Morehouse Parish, asserted today there would be arrests made in the Moxichero kidnapping case upon return of Federal investigators from New Orleans where they have been conferring with state officials.

William J. Lemp, Noted Brewer, Takes Own Life

(By Associated Press) ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—William J. Lemp, aged 54, one of the noted brewers of the nation before the days of prohibition, shot himself to death in his office today as the result of despondency over depression of his brewery, due probably to the prohibition law.

His father killed himself about 13 years ago and a sister took her own life about three years ago.

