

La Grande Evening Observer

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MEMBER OF ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 143

OLD BUSINESS INSTITUTION HOST TO MANY

La Grande National Bank Celebrates Thirty-Six Years' Service.

NEARLY 2 HUNDRED GUESTS AT BANQUET

Speeches Tell of Bank's Career and Eulogies are Paid to J. M. Church and Fred J. Holmes, Former Financiers of La Grande.

In the language of Assistant Cashier H. E. Coolidge when he told the gathering last evening at the Foley hotel grill, when nearly two hundred guests were seated and beautifully entertained by the La Grande National Bank, "this is very much like a daddy's birthday when the children come home to celebrate the occasion." He likened the old financial institution to the "daddy" and the stockholders and employees of the bank to the children.

Guests gathered at 8 o'clock in the new Foley hotel and the lobby was gay with well dressed ladies and gentlemen enjoying themselves in social conversation. At 8:30 o'clock Olson's orchestra opened the evening's musical program with a lively selection following which the guests entered the banquet room where two hundred plates were laid. On every hand beautiful flowers added cheer to the occasion and the tables were exquisitely decorated with La Grande flowers tastefully arranged in center baskets and table bouquets. Each lady guest was given a corsage bouquet as she entered the banquet hall on the arm of her escort.

Before guests seated Toastmaster C. C. Pennington, president of the La Grande National Bank, led in singing "America" and all joined him. The banquet menu was exquisite and was daintily served in courses. Before the final course Governor Pierce, who was guest of honor, was compelled to leave in order to catch a train for the state capital, and prior to saying goodbye to his friends he delivered a short talk on how it seems to be jerked from a Grande Ronde valley farm and made head of the great commonwealth of Oregon. Governor Pierce was deeply touched by facing his friends and neighbors and frankly stated that when his term of office was finished he would be back among La Grande people never more to wander or to roam.

Mr. Hill Extends Welcome. A. T. Hill, vice president of the bank, extended the welcome and in his address spoke of the bank's attitude toward its patrons, told the stockholders that every one of them regardless of the amount of stock owned was a decided part of the institution, and urged all to have a good time on the birthday occasion.

Cashier F. L. Meyers gave a history of the bank, as mentioned in detail the personnel of the institution from the time it was organized in 1887 until the present, giving many details on early day banking and how it has grown. Mr. Meyers paid a high tribute to J. M. Church, who for many years was a commanding figure in the banking and business world of Union county. He also spoke in great praise of the late president, Fred J. Holmes, who was one of the strong characters of this valley. With considerable justifiable pride the speaker gave a comparable statement of the bank in its early days and at the present time.

Coolidge Praises Competitors. In his talk H. E. Coolidge, assistant cashier, spoke in highest terms of the banks of Union county stating that nothing but the cleanest kind of competition, which is always welcomed, exists.

He dwelt on the position of a stockholder to the bank depicting the impossibility of any bank regardless of how well managed, to get its

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Oregon Newspapermen In Eugene Caucus Today

(By Associated Press) EUGENE, Mar. 23.—The fifth annual Oregon newspaper conference, which opened today at the University of Oregon, is signified by the formal dedication of the new three-story journalist building at the university, built at a cost of approximately \$100,000 to replace the building destroyed by fire last year.

A meeting of Oregon members of The Associated Press, presided over by Supr. Paul Cowley, of San Francisco, is a feature of Friday's program. Speakers on today's morning program at the general session include: L. B. Traska, of Astoria, president of the conference; George Putnam, of Salem, president of the Oregon Publishers' Association; Arthur H. Day,

Evacuation of Ruhr Only End in Sight

Man, Aged 77, To Face Trial; Is Charged With First Degree Murder

NAMPA, Mar. 23.—Kenneth McLennan, 77 years of age, whom the state has charged with first degree murder in connection with the slaying here on the night of March 14 of S. B. Shellabarger, crossing watchman for the Oregon Short Line, was bound over for trial in the district court, at his preliminary hearing Thursday. The hearing was held before Justice of the Peace T. B. Jones. Logan Hyslop, prosecuting attorney of Canyon county, appearing for the state, and Clarence S. Hill, former Canyon county prosecutor, representing the defendant.

SAYS CHINESE PARDONS ARE NOT LEGAL

Jno. S. Hodgkin, La Grande Attorney, Raps the Law Making Senate President the Governor.

Giving his reasons for believing that the Chinese pardons issued by Governor Olcott and Governor Ritter are illegal, Jno. S. Hodgkin, former district attorney of Union county, has addressed the following letter to the Evening Observer in which he raps the present law that makes a senate president governor in case of vacancy in the chief executive's office:

Editor Evening Observer: Some weeks ago I was requested, along with others, to express a view as to the constitutionality of the pardon of prisoners from the penitentiary by Roy Ritter, last December, which has aroused universal condemnation throughout the state. I had before written an article relative to the pardon of the Chinese murderers in which the people of this county had a local interest, and myself as a citizen.

In Saturday's Observer appears an article over the signature of Mr. Ritter, defending his action, accusing the press of one-sidedness in not laying the blame on the judges, district attorneys and jurymen who tried the cases, and recommended the pardons; and further stated that his late grant of freedom were those without means, influence, ex-service men, etc., and that the writer was only fifty per cent right in his article in that Governor Olcott himself pardoned one of the Chinese murderers before he left on the request of Dr. Steiner at Salem, for whom the Chinaman cooked; and that the pardon board, in order to be just to all, recommended the pardon of Chin Borkey, and Ritter did the job; that the Portland press gave him the credit of both pardons, and I went off half cocked and fifty per cent right.

Wants An Investigation. This statement plainly shows that there should be an investigation into the pardon business and conduct of the penitentiary, by the grand jury of Marion county. Section 1721 of Oregon laws reads as follows: "At least twenty days before the application for a pardon or remis-

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AUXILIARY TO KLAN FORMED

(By Associated Press) ATLANTA, Ga., Mar. 23.—Under the name of Kamella, a secret order for women was ready to function today, "alongside the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan," and William J. Simmons, former Imperial Wizard of the Klan, is the El Magus, or president, of the women's organization, according to a proclamation issued last night.

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Evacuation of Ruhr Only End in Sight

(By Associated Press) MUNICH, Mar. 23.—Unconditional evacuation of the Ruhr Valley is designated by Chancellor Cuno as the fundamental premise from which any discussion aiming to end the present conflict must proceed.

He said that the German people would stoutly oppose the suggestion of a buffer state fronting the Rhine and declared that the world at this time probably had awakened to the realization it is a disarmed and impotent Germany which requires security rather than France, which now commands the world's greatest land forces and most powerful air fleet.

Non-Stop Dance Record Is Extended to 25 Hours; Dancer Used 2 Partners

(By Associated Press) LONDON, Mar. 23.—The non-stop dance record was extended to 25 hours at Ashington, Northumberland, Thursday, by Victor Hindmarch, with Miss Della Dunn as his partner for the greater part of that period. Miss Dunn retired after dancing 22 hours 21 minutes. Hindmarch continued with a woman spectator, not stopping until he had bettered by nearly an hour the record of 24 hours 4 minutes, recently established at Marseilles.

CITY CHARTER IS ADEQUATE SAY LAWYERS

Expressing faith in the city charter amendments as they now stand in reference to the opinion furnished by attorneys for the Western Bond and Mortgage company and its associates, who contracted recently to bid over par on the improvement bond issues for this year, that the city charter does not allow the city to furnish the bonds in payment of the contract price of local improvements, R. J. Green and Henry Hess, city attorneys, today submitted the following communication to the Observer, signed by them:

"We would like to make a few remarks in reference to the proposed bond issue for public improvements. A few days ago the Observer carried an article to the effect that the Western Bond and Mortgage company and its associates had agreed to bid a little over par for the bonds. 'It now develops that their agreement was to furnish a bid for 'general obligation' improvement bonds. This came back and say that under the charter the city cannot furnish 'general obligation' bonds in payment of the contract price of local improvements.

"Bear in mind they do not say the bonds are defective or void, but simply that the city cannot issue 'general obligation' bonds in payment of the work for local improvement.

"Now, what is a 'general obligation' bond? It is one which the city, as a whole, stands obligated to pay. 'The chapter amendment was originally drafted by Mr. J. D. Slater, an old and experienced attorney. This amendment was submitted to the people about two years ago and rejected. Last fall, while we were city attorneys, the commission and city manager ordered it resubmitted, which we did. Before resubmitting it we went over the amendment thoroughly and approved it. We fully believe the amendment to be valid and that under it a good and sufficient bond could be issued. It might not be good business judgment to amend the charter in a few other respects. It is probable that if the charter could be amended so as to issue the bonds immediately upon the signing of the contract, that there would be of considerable financial benefit to the city. But we do believe the charter amendment authorizes in the discretion of the commission, a general bond, and we do not stand alone in this opinion."

(Special to Observer)

COVE, Mar. 23.—The cherry ranch of 42 acres, belonging to George Thomas has been sold to Thos. C. Hefty, consideration \$17,000. Twenty-six acres of this land is planted to cherries, the varieties most in cultivation are Bing, Royal Anne and Black Republican. It is one of the oldest orchards in this part of the state and in point of production compares very favorably with other orchards. Last year the cherries grown in this orchard sold for \$7000.

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THE SPOIL-SPORT



WASHINGTON BISSEL IS DEAD TODAY

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Mar. 23.—Tentative plans for the remainder of President Harding's vacation trip as disclosed Thursday, contemplate a return to Washington between April 7 and 10. The vacation party Thursday cruised northward with the houseboat Pioneer making good progress. It was certain that St. Augustine, at the end of the cruise, would not be reached before tonight.

On arriving at St. Augustine, President and Mrs. Harding with the most of the other members of the party will leave the Pioneer and take quarters at the Hotel Ponce de Leon. The visit to St. Augustine is expected to extend over next week and probably until after Easter.

FEDERAL MEN WILL PROBE SUGAR TRADE

Charges of Conspiracy to Raise Price of Sugar Is Grave; Investigation Is On

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Mar. 23.—Charges of a conspiracy in the sugar trade to raise prices, was said at the department of justice today, to be of sufficient gravity to warrant a preliminary inquiry by the government legal officers.

A conference was arranged between Acting Attorney General Sewell and Secretary Herbert Hoover with the view of joint action.

High Price Not Justified. "As I have repeatedly stated, there is no economic justification for the high price of sugar, as there is no estimated world shortage," Mr. Hoover said Thursday. Under authority of congress to investigate combinations of foreign producers of important commodities, this department as soon as appropriate reports are available on March 4, instituted an investigation into the situation in Cuba. As the department has no jurisdiction in domestic questions of the kind, I informally suggested to the chairman of the federal trade commission that it should undertake this end of the matter."

TESTIMONY IS A CONFESSION PRESBYTERIAL CONFERENCE ON

Gathering from nearly every point in Eastern Oregon, members of the Presbyterian Association are here today in conference at the Presbyterian church. Composed of leaders of the church who are interested in missionary work and other branches of the church, the conference opens this morning, which was devoted to routine matters, and is also in session this afternoon.

The conference is one of the one-day type and will close this evening with a popular meeting to be held at the Presbyterian church at 7:30 o'clock to which the public is cordially invited.

BULLETINS

REPORT PIUTE KILLED. (By Associated Press) SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Mar. 23.—Word received here today that in a skirmish between renegade Piutes and the white posse, one Indian was killed and five bucks and four squaws captured.

AIRPLANES ON RETURN. (By Associated Press) SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Mar. 23.—Six United States army airplanes, which arrived here from San Antonio, Texas, Monday, took off on their return trip to the United States today.

WHEAT QUOTATIONS. (By The Associated Press) PORTLAND, Mar. 23.—Hard White \$1.25; Western Red, \$1.19.

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GOLDEN RULE IS IDEAL OF THE REALTORS

"Standards of the Real Estate Profession Being Raised," Statement

HERRIN SPEAKS AT REALTORS MEETING

Visiting Real Estate Officials Pay Glowing Tribute to Oregon's Realty Rollings.

"To constantly raise the standards of the real estate profession is the object and ideal of the National Real Estate Association, of which the Northwest and Oregon associations are in reality but a branch," said William E. Herrin, field secretary of the National Real Estate association, speaking before a large audience of La Grande real estate men, property holders and citizens, last evening in the city hall. "The real estate association represents the same to the real estate dealers that the Bar association represents to the attorneys of the nation, and both are constantly endeavoring to lift the ethics of their professions to the highest point."

Mr. Herrin explained that the national organization has as one of its cardinal principles the practice of the "Golden Rule," both in relations of the members with their clients and among themselves. Service to clients is placed above the commissions, and the successful realtor of the future must consider himself as engaged in a fundamental business of his community and conduct himself accordingly.

Taxes Hit Real Estate. "Real estate is the only unorganized board," Mr. Herrin continued. "Taxation burdens real estate today and of the total burden, 80 per cent of it is being paid from that source. That amount is absolutely out of proportion." He cited many instances among them, being that of the conditions in the state of Iowa. Before the war real estate was valued at approximately \$150 to \$200 per acre and in 1920 it jumped as high as \$700 per acre. But normally has again been restored and the real estate in that state is now at a level of about \$225 per acre. Many other instances of the workings of the association was pointed out.

Glowing Tribute Made. C. E. Johnson, deputy in charge of the state real estate department, paid a glowing tribute to the high real estate ethics in vogue today as compared with those of but a few years ago. "Before Oregon passed her present real estate laws," he stated, "which provides that no man can enter the real estate business until he has presented a petition signed by ten responsible men who can vouch for his business integrity and has furnished a bond of not less than \$1,000, and must in other ways make it fully known that he is competent and qualified to become a real estate dealer, Oregon is one of the thirteen states in the that has a law requiring dealers to be licensed. No person in the state can sell real estate as a broker without such license and the law also provides that no real estate dealer can collect any commission unless he has a signed option from the owner.

The result of this law is that litigation has been practically eliminated that was formerly prevalent, growing out of many misunderstandings that developed under the old system. As a result of this new ethical real estate agent will consider handling a proposition unless everything is absolutely aboveboard and according to the best ideals of the association."

Zimmerman Speaks. W. T. Zimmerman, secretary of the Northwest Realty Association, which composes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, British Columbia, and Alberta, announced that the annual convention of the association would

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Iowa Flood Conditions Threatening; One Dead

SIoux CITY, Iowa, Mar. 23.—The flood danger, caused by an ice gorge in the Missouri river is great today as a result of a fourteen inch rise in the waters since yesterday with no signs of the ice packing being broken. Now only the low lands of Sergeant Bluff is in danger but the lowlands of Sioux City may be inundated today. Plans are being made to send an airplane bomber to attack the ice gorge again today after an unsuccessful attempt yesterday.

SIoux CITY, Iowa.—One person is known to have drowned and according to unconfirmed reports several others are missing and hundreds of head of livestock of farmers have been swept away as the result of a flood in the Missouri river bottoms, south of here, caused by a five-mile ice gorge.

Unless the ice gorge is broken by morning, flood stages will be reached at Sioux City, where the Missouri river already runs 10 feet Thursday night. The reported person drowned is E. C. Johnson, a farmer, who lost his life when he returned to his home to save a team of horses.