

## U.S. TO COMBAT COAL STRIKE

### 1,000 Are Homeless In Colorado

#### WILL PROTECT PUBLIC FROM LACK OF FUEL

Governors Are Asked to Help Formulate a Distributing Plan.

#### ANTHRACITE STRIKE SEEMS INEVITABLE

Lewis Predicts a "Trouncing" for Mine Operators; Expects Mine Stoppage September 1.

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Perfection of a system of distribution designed to insure an adequate supply of substitute fuel will be the first object of the government in the case of stoppage of production in the anthracite coal fields.

The initial step to this end was taken Wednesday when F. R. Wadleigh, the federal fuel distributor, invited governors of anthracite-consuming states to send representatives to a meeting at New York August 28, to assist in formulating an emergency distributing system.

The telegram which went to the executives of the 11 states forming the New England and middle Atlantic tier, to and including Maryland, was (Continued on page 5)

#### Prune Crop Is Promising In Union County

Fruit men of the Grande Ronde valley are looking forward to one of the largest prune seasons that ever been known in this part of the state. Most fruit dealers of this valley are at the present time busy making up boxes to take care of the large prune crop that is anticipated, while some of the firms are handling a great amount of the berries grown here.

Cove and Union are not only known for the fine specimens of Italian prunes and cherries that they have sent out in past years, but are well known for the berries that are grown in those sections. Many varieties of berries have been shipped from these points and several hundred crates more are expected to be shipped before the berry season closes.

All in all the year is proving a prosperous one for the orchardists in Union county.

#### EUGENICS PROGRAM IS OFFERED FOR FUTURE

CHICAGO, (A. P.)—A program for the "practical application of eugenic principles" to the improvement of the people of America, made public today by the Eugenics Committee of the United States, suggests segregation of defective types, sterilization, laws encouraging parenthood by those endowed with good hereditary traits, and enactments rationalizing marriage and divorce regulations, as among the more important aims in the field of legislation.

#### Weather Forecast

Portland, (AP)—Fair tonight and Friday.

#### APPRECIATION FUND FOR BAND REACHES \$176.50 AT 1:00 P.M.

Exactly \$176.50 had been pledged to the "appreciation fund" for the La Grande Municipal band, inaugurated by the Evening Observer yesterday, at 1 o'clock today. Several donations arrived after that hour but came in too late to print in the newspaper today, but will be published tomorrow. Six hundred dollars is the amount needed by the band to insure completion of their contract to play for the Oregon state fair in September in Salem, and with the "appreciation fund" only one day old, this amount should be reached shortly.

La Grande business concerns and the citizens in general are answering the plea for free will donations to the appreciation fund of the band in promising spirit. The donations began flocking into the Observer office, certain amounts, early this morning and have been continuing throughout the day.

At one o'clock this afternoon, at which time the list of donors to be published had to be prepared for today's edition of the Evening Observer, of the \$600 that should be raised, only \$423.50 yet remained to be raised. As the Observer comes off the press this afternoon the fund has been materially added to.

Personal donations made before one o'clock today are as follows: Miss Newlin \$1.00; E. Mark \$3.00. Donations made by business concerns before one o'clock today are as follows: La Grande Evening Observer \$10; Art's Plumbing Shop \$1; W. H. Bohnenkamp company \$10; Dr. H. S. Brownson \$5; Southard & Shinn \$10; Cherry's Florists \$10; Anthony's Restaurant \$2; Curry Press \$2.50; Newlin Drug store \$2; Eastern Oregon Music company \$5; Glass Drugs \$10; Grande Ronde Meat company \$10; E. O. L. & P. company \$10; Holm's Grocery \$3; H. & S. Electric company \$5; Hill's Department store \$10; La Grande Electric company \$5; Putman's Ready to Wear \$5; Rod Gross drug store \$5; La Grande Grocery company \$10; Macpherson Bakery \$10; Oregon Hardware and Implement company \$10; La Grande National Bank \$10; United States National Bank \$10.

#### WHEAT PRICE IS DISCUSSED

State Market Agent C. E. Spence Compares Demand and Supply; Quotes Prices in Oregon.

"The wheat growers of Union county are getting about 30 cents per bushel, after the freight is paid to Portland, which is less than 1-2 cents per pound, while flour sells for about four cents per pound, bread from seven to nine cents and middlings at 10 cents per bushel, costs the farmer who grows the wheat as much as he gets for his whole wheat," so states State Market Agent Spence.

"On the other hand a binder that cost the wheat grower \$175 in 1914 now costs him \$250; a sulky plow that was \$25 before the war is now \$54; wagon, as retailed for \$30 now cost \$125 and labor that 10 years ago cost the farmer \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day now cost just about double.

If demand and supply functioned naturally," says Mr. Spence, "the farmer would be satisfied with the present price of wheat and other products, because his wheat dollars would have a proportionate purchasing power for his necessities, but instead of prices seeking a natural level, the farmer finds himself in the (Continued on page six.)

#### Indict Five On Charge Of Army Frauds

Colonel Purcell, Retired, John C. Skinner, Bertrand Weis, Herman Canter and Harry Miller Face Charge.

NEW YORK, (AP)—Colonel Lancelot M. Purcell, U. S. A., retired, of Seattle, former chief of the surplus property division; John C. Skinner, chief of the sales division of the quartermaster corps; Bertrand Weis, Herman Canter, and Harry Miller were indicted today charged with a conspiracy to defraud the government of nearly \$2,000,000, through sales of surplus army property.

#### MERCURY DROPS IN MIDDLEWEST

While the middlewestern states are undergoing a period of colder weather than is usual at this time of the year, Eastern Oregon continues to bask in sunshine. The mercury here is slightly lower than usual but only a few degrees and a few brisk winds serve only to make the weather more agreeable.

CHICAGO, (AP)—Although warmer weather is forecast for Eastern, Southern, and Middlewestern sections of the United States, they continued to shiver today as records for cool August weather here were broken and light frosts were reported from sections gripped by the cool wave.

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LOS ANGELES, (AP)—Standard Oil filling stations of Southern California reduced the price of gasoline 2 cents per gallon today. Throughout the remainder of California and Nevada, Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii a one cent reduction was announced.

#### Gas Price Is Cut One Cent In La Grande

Announcement was made this morning that gasoline began selling today at 24 cents per gallon retail and 21 cents per gallon wholesale in La Grande.

Both the Standard Oil Company of La Grande and the Grande Ronde Oil Company, located at Island City, announced the cut in prices with other concerns also making proportionate cuts, according to reports.

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#### MAIL SERVICE PLANE REACHES SAN FRANCISCO

First Test of Night Flying Proves Success; Mail Is Carried Across U. S. in 34 Hours and 23 Minutes.

Pilot Dan Smith, who is mentioned in the following news story, is a La Grande boy, having been born in this city and was a resident here for many years. At present he makes his home in Omaha, Nebraska, with his mother, Mrs. J. C. Smith. Prior to entering the government cross country air mail service, Mr. Smith flew a regular schedule between Omaha and Cheyenne. Each time he left Omaha on the outgoing trip, it was his custom to circle the city as a farewell to his parents. After leaving La Grande he entered the Culver Military school and served during the World war in the U. S. air service, proving himself an ace of high quality. His father passed on several years ago. Mr. Smith has many friends in La Grande who are watching the reports of his progress with special interest.

CHICAGO, (AP)—Both flying ahead of schedule, the east-bound and west-bound air mail planes in the second transcontinental flight early today appeared likely to set new records for the air journey from coast to coast. The pilots in the third flight started today from New York and San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco moved nearly four days' travel nearer to New York Wednesday through the success of the air mail service's first test of night flying, westbound. Pilot Clair K. Vance brought more than 400 pounds of mail from eastern points to Crissey field, here, Wednesday night at 6:24 o'clock, 34 hours and 23 minutes after the first installment of it had left Hempstead field, on Long Island, Tuesday morning.

This mail was delivered Wednesday night so that within an hour official messages from Mayor Hylan of New York to Mayor Rolph of San Francisco, or from eastern mail (Continued on page 2)

#### A BACK-BREAKING JOB

The city manager was authorized by the commission to notify the O. W. company that tractors were violating the city ordinance by obstructing traffic at the Fir street crossing of the railroad for longer periods than five minutes. Steps will be taken by the city to see that this matter is remedied immediately.

The city manager announced that he had written to secure a geologist to survey this district to ascertain the feasibility of drilling an artesian well to augment the water supply, but stated that he had received no answer. Another letter was dispatched today.

Several minor matters were attended to before adjournment.

#### PRIME MINISTER BALDWIN DECIDED TO SEE PAINCRE ON ISSUE REPARATION

LONDON, (AP)—Recognizing the futility of further exchange of lengthy notes on the reparation issue, Prime Minister Baldwin has decided to meet Premier Paincre when Baldwin returns from his vacation.

#### CONCERT PROGRAM IS WELL ARRANGED

The program arranged for the La Grande Chorus from "Tannhauser" Grande Municipal band concert, Friday evening at the pavilion at Third and Washington is considered by critics to be one of the best balanced and should be the most popular of the season. Director Andrew Loney, Jr., has selected the numbers with this view of pleasing both the lovers of classical music and of the lighter type and has in the program, given each type of music a prominent part.

The concert will begin at 8 o'clock Friday evening.

The program is as follows: 1. Coronation March (Meyerbeer); 2. (a)

As has been seen by perusing the above list of pieces, there are popular selections and a march complete the list. Equilibrium several numbers will be played during the evening.

#### Coolidge Is Favored For 1924 Choice

DENVER, (AP)—Secretary of the Interior Hubert Work, in a letter to a political friend here, advocates the nomination of Calvin Coolidge in 1924 and predicts the president's election. Work is the first cabinet member to announce that he favors the president as the republican standard-bearer.

CONCORD, N. H. (AP)—First Assistant Postmaster General Bartlett today announced himself a candidate for a delegate to the republican national convention, pledged to support Coolidge for president.

#### COMMISSION SESSION BUSY

Two Improvement Districts Created at Wednesday Night Meeting; Award bid for Reflooring Second Street Viaduct.

Two improvement districts were created by the city commission last evening in the regular weekly executive session in the city hall building. The districts created were number 129, 130. District No. 129 calls for the improvement of Jefferson avenue by installing water conduits and sidewalks and district No. 130 for the improvement by paving of O avenue from First to Cedar streets.

Bids will be received on District No. 129 created some time ago, on the evening of September 5 the commission meeting that night. Resolutions were passed last night adopting the plans and specifications of District No. 128 and naming September 19 for the hearing of remonstrances, claims of grievances and objections. District No. 128 calls for paving of Pennsylvania avenue, Second and Fifth streets. District No. 128 is for the improvement of Pennsylvania avenue, Second and Fifth streets.

Remonstrances will be heard on districts No. 129 and 130 September 19 at the commission meeting that night.

Bids were due last evening on the reflooring of the second street viaduct and one was received from the Warren Construction company and was approved and the award given them by the city, on the condition that the O. W. company find the bid satisfactory to them.

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#### Man Hurt In Blast On Way To Recovery

TRINLEE, Ore. (Special)—A very serious accident occurred Tuesday morning at the rock crusher plant at Trinleer, a station near here. The men employed at the plant were setting off a blast and the warning was given to get under cover but when the explosion came Roy L. Marquis was struck by a rock the size of a baseball, hitting him squarely on the forehead and sliding off the side, crushing his skull. Mr. Marquis had believed himself far enough from the blast to be out of danger.

Dr. Geer was summoned and gave him the best aid possible, and then he was taken to the Grande Ronde Hospital at La Grande. Early reports were that he had but little chance of recovery but reports from the hospital today state that he will undoubtedly recover.

#### FLOOD WATER DEVASTATES TWO VALLEYS

CLOUDBURST RESULTS IN THE BREAKING OF IRRIGATION DAM NEAR FOWLER.

LOSS ESTIMATED ABOUT \$1,000,000

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FOWLER, Colo. (AP)—Approximately 1,000 persons are homeless and damage estimated at \$1,000,000 has been done by the flood which rushed down the valleys of Apishaha and Arkansas rivers yesterday and today, following the breaking of the irrigation dam near here.

Many bodies of cattle and horses as well as huge trees are seen on the crest of the water. A cloudburst on the watershed caused the dam to burst.

PUEBLO.—A large irrigation reservoir on the Apishaha river, south of Fowler, Colo., has broken, according to information received here, and a great body of water is moving toward another reservoir at Rocky Ford. The water early Wednesday night was running four feet over the dam at Rocky Ford and city officials expressed the fear that when the water from the broken reservoir reached the Rocky Ford dam, the latter would break, causing a serious flood.

A 27-foot wall of water is reported to be headed toward Manzanola by telephone operators at that place, who said the water had 25 miles to go before reaching them. The river can stand only about a five foot raise, observers said Wednesday.

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