

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

The Weather
PORTLAND (AP)—Rain in the west, rain or snow in the eastern portion of Oregon tonight and Friday with southerly winds.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON,

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E. Y. CLARKE
HITS KLAN;
SEES WAVERClaims That Organization
Now Diverted from
Original IdealsADMITS HE WAS
A GREAT HELPClarke Says He Was "In-
strumental in Building
of the Klan." Sends
Letter to Coolidge.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—E. Y. Clarke, formerly high in Ku Klux Klan circles, wrote President Calvin Coolidge today offering to cooperate with the executive in ending the activities of the element which is alleged to be converting the Klan into an organization vastly different from that planned by the founders.

Clarke said he would issue a proclamation urging the "better element" to "remedy the evils" or to disband the organization. The president was told by Clarke that there had been a "steady withdrawal" from the Klan and of from participation in its active operations, and that he had "voluntarily severed his active official connection" with the organization more than a year ago.

Clarke Disappointed
Various charges were made in the letter against the activities of the organization, in disregard to "high ideals" principles and purposes for which it was formed, and these activities Clarke characterized as a "keen disappointment to me."

The letter also said that "I am perfectly willing to assume the moral responsibility which is rightly mine as having been chiefly instrumental in building up the Klan. In justice to myself and hundreds of thousands of high grade men who have been drawn into the Klan because of its declaration of ideals and principles, I cannot and will not rest passive and silent and sit idly by in the face of such conditions."

LIVING COSTS
ARE ANALYZEDShow a Drop from 1920,
But Still Far Above
Mark of 1923.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The cost of living was one-fifth less in September this year than it was in June, 1920, when the highest point in living costs since 1913 was reached. A decrease of 20.5 per cent in the total cost of living in the United States, as determined by a consolidation of the figures for 22 specified cities, is shown in an announcement issued Wednesday by the bureau of labor statistics.

The cost of living, however, was almost three-quarters more than the 1912 average, September costs showing a 22.4 per cent increase over the pre-war average. In September a year ago costs were 46.2 per cent above the 1912 average, and at their lowest point since December, 1917, but December last year showed an increase. There was a slight decrease according to March, 1923, figures, but since that time living costs have been rising slightly.

Range in Specified Cities.
In the specified cities for which statistics are gathered by the bureau, the percentage of decrease in the total cost of living from

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Reading Directory Of
Solons Now PopularBy George R. Holmes,
International News Service Staff
Correspondent.
WASHINGTON—Washington's annual Winter novel just off the presses is being devoured with great avidity in the lobbies and drawing rooms of the national capital these days. It is the Congressional Directory, containing the biographies of some 400 members of Congress and other figures in political and official life who can be chosen under general heading of "prominent."

Interest in this annual publication is heightened this year because there are several hundred new members of the Senate and

French Will
Search For
Big AirshipDirigible, Carrying 50
Persons, Vanishes into
Desert.

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—No word yet has been received from the missing dirigible Dismude, which may still be in the air after many days, or may have effected a landing in some out-of-the-way place in the French protectorate of Tunisia in northern Africa, or in the Sahara desert. For several days the airship's wireless has been silent and the great craft herself has been the subject of much speculation. The minister of marine received messages Wednesday from the port admiral at Bizerta, declaring that the Dismude was not seen over Tunis on December 23 or 24, and that she at no time had asked for help. It is established that the last communication received from the airship was on December 21 at 3 a. m., when she acknowledged receipt of a telegram from Sidi Abdallah, Sahara. The intensity of the message at that time justified the inference that she then was not more than 200 miles from Bizerta.

Gasoline Exhausted.
It is calculated that the Dismude's store of gasoline might have been exhausted by Sunday, only being left to do is to explore the regions where the airship might have come down, either voluntarily or by force of circumstances.

All reports that the dirigible had been observed over Tunisia recently having proved erroneous, the ministry considers that there is nothing to justify the belief that she was carried to sea. An exhaustive search made on Sunday and Monday in the zone comprised between the eastern coast of Tunisia and the line of Malta-Tripoli with help from the British and Italian allies, yielded no result. The opinion therefore prevails that search for the dirigible should be concentrated in southern Algeria, cavalry patrols were dispatched on Sunday to explore the territory and as soon as the weather permitted, airplanes from Algerian and Tunisian bases began methodical exploration of the region where it was thought possible the dirigible might be.

Although there appears slight probability that the Dismude has fallen into the sea, all light units available of the Mediterranean squadron, as well as the provinces of Algeria and Tunis, flotilla,

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1923 PRODUCTION
OF MEAT RECORD
IN TRADE HISTORY

WASHINGTON (AP)—Production of meat this year was the greatest in history, exceeding last year's figures by one and a half billion pounds, according to estimates by the institute of American Meat Packers. A big jump in pork production was largely responsible for the increase, 10 million more hogs being brought by the packers than in 1922.

Charles E. Herick, president of the institute, said virtually all of the increased production has moved into consumption either here or abroad. Despite the uncertain situation, he added, the meat export trade during the year was satisfactory in volume, 50 per cent more of the commodity being shipped than in 1922, although because of lower prices, the value was only 29 per cent greater.

Livestock producers, Mr. Herick said, received more for their cattle, sheep and lambs than they did 10 years ago but in keeping with the prices of pork products, prices for hogs were lower.

IRA WHITE GETS
\$5 AND TEN DAYS

Ira White, arrested by the police and charged with drunkenness, appeared in the municipal court this morning and pleaded guilty to the charges placed against him. He was fined \$5 and sentenced to ten days in jail. Judge R. J. Kitchen presided.

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FIFTEEN IN
ASYLUM DIE
IN BIG FIREThree Others May Have
Perished in Hospital
ConflagrationTHREE WARDS IN
HOME DESTROYEDDunning, Illinois Institu-
tion Razed; Overheated
Boiler Is Believed to
Be Cause.

CHICAGO (By the Associated Press)—Four investigations, by the state, the city and the county officials, were started today in probe the cause of the fire that caused 17 deaths last night at the state hospital for the insane at Dunning.

CHICAGO (AP)—Fifteen patients of the Chicago state hospital for the insane at Dunning are known to have been burned to death or suffocated in a fire which destroyed a frame structure used as a dormitory for tubercular patients Wednesday night. At least three others are believed to have perished.

One of the bodies removed from the ruins of the building was that of a woman. It was at first thought that all of the patients had been removed. About 600 patients were in the building when the fire started. About 50 of the patients left the hospital grounds during the conflagration. Many of them were returned and others were picked up by passing motorists and returned to the asylum which consisted of seven buildings housing 3500 patients.

The woman who perished is believed to have been an attendant who went into the building to rescue.

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GOVERNOR IS
IN LA GRANDEArrives This Morning
From Salem; to Spend
Tomorrow in Baker.

Governor Walter M. Pierce arrived in La Grande this morning on No. 24 from Salem, Oregon. He expects to spend the next few days in La Grande visiting his son and friends.

Governor Pierce will probably spend tomorrow in Baker.

Summary In
Cove Road
Case GivenGist of Legal Action Re-
lating to Mandamus
Procedure Is Prepared

Editor's note.—The following summary of the legal action that has taken place relative to the Island City-Cove road was prepared from court records and is printed in order to give the reader a complete gist of the court procedure in the matter.

Joe Tripper, Karl Stackland, A. E. Hartley and John Dean, as taxpayers and residents of the City of Cove filed their petition in the Circuit Court for Union county asking that a writ of mandamus be issued directed to U. G. Couch, County Judge, J. F. Hutchinson and John Wells, County Commissioners of Union county, commanding them to immediately construct a permanent road between Island City and Cove and pave the same with "concrete, asphalt, bitulifite or some other similar hard surface pavement" and to expend thereon the sum of \$275,000.00. An alternative writ was issued and commanded the defendants to so construct such road or show cause on or before the 26th day of March, 1923, why they had not done so.

The defendants filed their answer in which they set forth that there had been some unavoidable delay in the construction of this road, but that plans and specifications for two types of road had been prepared. One of these types was an eighteen foot crushed rock macadam road, the other a nine foot shoulder of macadam. That the defendants, acting as the County Court of Union county, had regularly advertised for bids for the construction of each type of road according to the plans and specifications thereof, such bids to be opened on the 30th day of March, 1923, with the right to reject any and all bids. The defendants further stated in their answer that if a fair bid was received for the construction of the road that it was the intention of the County Court to proceed with the construction work with due diligence. The defendants also stated in their answer that as to what type of road would be finally selected and constructed, would be determined by their judgment and discretion, taking into consid-

(Continued on page 2)

HOLD TRIAL OF
NICHOLSONS IN
COURT TONIGHT

Trial of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nicholson, proprietors of the rooming house at 2155 Fir street, who were arrested and charged with possession of liquor on their premises, will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock in the police court. Their rooming house license was revoked by the city commissioners in regular session last night, taking effect immediately.

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BUT WHAT IF IT'S A HURDLE RACE?

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She Has Bobbed Hair!



The only woman ambassador in the world is Mrs. Kolontay (above). She's the Bolshevik envoy to Norway. She's a real diplomat, they say.

Middle West
Gets SnowOne-Half to Four Inches
of Snow in Dakotas
and Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, MINN. (By the Associated Press)—The northwest experienced its first real snow of the season today when cities of North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota reported snow ranging from one half to four inches in depth.

PORTLAND (By the Associated Press)—The weather forecast for tomorrow is rain in western Oregon and rain or snow in Eastern Oregon, with increasing southerly winds.

Back Wages to Be Paid.
EUGENE, OR.—Mill workers and loggers formerly employed by the Western Lumber & Export company of Cottage Grove, which recently was placed in the hands of receivers, are to receive Christmas gifts in the form of wages. Judge shipworth of the circuit court made an order directing the receiver to pay \$15,000 labor claims and it was expected the men would receive their money before night. The money was obtained by the receiver through sale of lumber in the yards of the mill at Cottage Grove.

An ordinance, carrying an emergency clause making it immediately effective, was also passed prohibiting gambling and gambling and providing for appropriate penalties.

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WHEAT QUOTED
BELOW DOLLAR

PORTLAND (By the Associated Press)—Wheat quotations here at two close of yesterday's market were: Hard white B. S. Hart, December, 95c; January, 98c; soft white, December, 97c; January 97c; hard winter, December, 94c; January, 94c; northern spring, January 94c; western red, December, 94c; January, 94c.

Gals.—No quotations.
Corn—No. 2 E. Y. shipment, December, 33c; January, 33c; No. 3 E. Y. shipment, 32.5c; January, 32.5c.Negro Kills Athlete.
MIAMI, Ariz. (AP)—Ted Groth, University of Arizona athlete was shot to death and his companion, Miss Maxine McNulty of Globe, Arizona, is in a Globe hospital in a serious condition as the result of the attack by a negro here early Wednesday. According to a statement by Miss McNulty to Dr. Edward Kennedy of Globe who attended her, the negro first shot Groth, pulled her from an automobile, assaulted her and then shot her, leaving her for dead.St. Louis Bank Robbed.
ST. LOUIS (AP)—The Park Building Trust company in the southwestern part of the city was robbed for the second time in less than two months Wednesday when bandits stole \$600. On November 6, \$2000 was taken.Colorado Editor Dies.
DENVER (AP)—Samuel J. Lewis, state printing commissioner and widely known newspaperman of the state died here Wednesday.

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Ban Placed
On Trailing;
May 'Coast'Sixth and Main Street
Hills Fenced Off for
Youngsters' Use.

"Not because we wish to spoil the fun, but simply because trailing is really too dangerous in the city limits to be tolerated, was the statement that came from Chief of Police Clint Haynes today in regard to an announcement that there will be no more trailing within the city limits of La Grande.

"Other cities where trailing is fairly heavy do not permit trailing for the simple reason that it is a dangerous risk to those who participate in the sport and as was the case last year, we cannot permit trailing to continue," he concluded.

So, from today on, trailing is banned in La Grande.

Hills Fenced Off.
However, realizing that some measures must be taken to insure the boys and girls of this city a place where they may use their Christmas sleds to good advantage, the police have fenced off Sixth and Main street hills for the sole use of the youngsters of La Grande—where they may coast as long as snow is on the ground, unmolested by vehicles of other sort. No cars or wagons will make use of the fenced in districts.BULLETINS
Teachers Meet.
PORTLAND (AP)—A representative council of the Oregon Teachers' Association is today considering the committee's recommendations in convention here. An election will be held late today. The general program of the convention starts tomorrow.Hogs Higher Today.
PORTLAND (AP)—Cattle are steady \$7 to \$8.25. Hogs are a quarter higher, medium to choice (140 to 200 pounds) \$7.50 to \$8. Sheep steady. Eggs weak and irregular. Butter firm.CONNECTICUT TO
THE COAST WITH
2 OXEN, HORSE

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Berrang, from West Chester, Connecticut, arrived in La Grande today. Arrived here behind a team of oxen—and a horse—on their way to Medford, Oregon.

They left home December 1, 1920, and in that time they have progressed to La Grande, Oregon. "We're going to God's country," stated Mrs. Berrang, "even though it is taking us a long time."

The vehicle and its mixed team brings reminiscent memories of pioneer days and of the Old Oregon Trail Pageant. They started with three oxen and one died—therefore the horse.

Today the vehicle and team is parked by the postoffice building on Fourth street.

Medford Mail Sets Record.
MEDFORD, OR.—The Christmas rush of parcel post and other mail matter, which kept the local post-office staff working from 15 to 20 hours a day since the middle of last week, ended with delivery of all Christmas parcels, letters and cards. Incoming parcels and other Christmas mail set a new record.

Arrest John Mooney and Craighead; Confiscate About Nine Gallons of Whisky.

John Mooney and a man by the name of Craighead, both of North Powder, are in the county jail in La Grande today awaiting arrangements for a preliminary hearing. They are charged with violating the prohibition law.

Hearing will probably be held late today or tomorrow.

The two men were arrested by the sheriff's officers last evening at North Powder and a large quantity of moonshine whisky, about eight or nine gallons, was confiscated.

According to the officers, the two men, Mooney and Craighead, went to a liquor cache and were then arrested, after they had the liquor in their possession.

LATE NEWS FLASHES

SINCLAIR OIL PROBE PROGRESSING.
WASHINGTON (AP)—The senate public lands committee today overrode the protest of Harry F. Sinclair, lessee of the Wyoming oil reserves, and voted to require him to give the details of all stock transactions of companies formed in connection with the lease and operations of the syndicates organized to market such stock. Former Secretary of the Interior Fall today filed a statement of real estate and cattle investments, declaring that loans were advanced by E. B. McLean, Washington publisher, to enable him to purchase additional ranch holdings in New Mexico.PEACE MOVE IS RUMORED.
MEXICO CITY (AP)—Upon the eve of two federal offensives against the rebels, reports were circulated today of a peace move by General Flores, governor of Sinaloa, a presidential candidate, who is reported to be arranging a conference with rebel leaders.WHOLESALE ROBBERIES COMMITTED.
SPOKANE (AP)—Two postoffices, three stores, two residences and the office of a pole company in Yardley and Park Water, railroad shop towns near here, were robbed last night, the sheriff's office was informed today. Several hundred dollars in money, stamps and merchandise were taken. Residents of the towns declared that they reported the first two robberies and asked that the officers be sent, but that no response was made until today.