

Local News In Brief

Morning Paper New Year Day—The La Grande Evening Observer will issue an early morning edition on January 1, New Year's Day.

At Hot Lake—Turner Oliver is at the Hot Lake Sanatorium taking treatments. Judge Crawford is also among the La Granders at Hot Lake.

Undergoes Operation—Mrs. Nip Conley underwent a major operation at the Grande Ronde hospital Thursday and according to today's report is recovering nicely.

Return from California—Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Russell of La Grande, who have been spending the past month in California, are on their way home. Word was received that they are now in Portland.

Knowles in Portland—J. W. Knowles of La Grande, circuit judge, who recently announced himself as a candidate for the republican nomination for the supreme court, arrived in Portland yesterday to visit relatives during the holidays. Judge Knowles drove to the city and says he encountered a foot of snow on top of the Blue mountains, but this did not interfere with traffic—Portland, Oregonian.

Spent Christmas Here—Miss Gertrude Eakin and Miss Alice Judd returned to Channah, Oregon, last evening after spending Christmas in this city as guests at the Robert Eakin home. Miss Eakin, sister of Robert Eakin, has charge of the religious work at the Government Indian School at Channah.

Back in La Grande—Dr. F. L. Halston returned to La Grande Thursday after a four month absence during which time he has been taking a post-graduate course at New Orleans. On his return he visited in Chicago. Mrs. Halston returned last evening from Waino, Waite, where she has been visiting during Mr. Halston's absence.

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MOSSET IS THOUGHT TO BE ROBBER

(Continued from page 1)

of the corresponding period in 1922.

Production of railroad equipment also reached new high records as a result of extensive replacements made by all the leading railroad systems. It is estimated that the railroads of the United States spent approximately \$2,100,000,000 for equipment in 1922. Railroad buying thus far indicates another huge output next year.

Importation of large quantities of cheap copper from Africa and South America unstinted the domestic copper market, despite the fact that consumption was greater than ever before, and in excess of domestic production. The sharp decline in export demand, due to the unsettled economic conditions abroad, sent the price of the metal down to where few companies could operate at a satisfactory profit. One of the outstanding developments in the industry was the purchase of the Chile Copper Company and the American Brass Company by the Anaconda Copper company.

Four of a sugar shortage in midsummer, which led to a temporary era of heavy speculation in sugar futures, proved to be unfounded. Sugar producing countries succeeded in recouping some of the heavy post-war losses, dividends being retained in a few cases.

Cotton prices reached the highest levels in more than three years on a shortage in the crop, primarily due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Unreasonable weather and a heavy demand for the raw product were other contributing causes to the higher prices. Relatively low wheat prices, due to a reduction in export demand, competition by Canadian growers, led to suggestions of reduced freight rates on grain for export by President Coolidge.

Other farm products showed material increases in value, particularly corn.

Mail order houses and chain stores did a record breaking business. However, the leather, rubber, chemical, shipping and motion picture industries had periods of depression from which they had not fully recovered at the end of the year.

Increased in financial and business circles in the closing weeks of the year by Secretary Mellon's recommendations for a reduction in income taxes, which was endorsed by President Coolidge in his first message to Congress. The belief as widely held that the reductions proposed would do much to stimulate business activity in the coming year.

Church will cost millions (Continued from page 1)

breaking proportions, the weekly car loadings exceeding the million mark more than twenty times. The increased efficiency in loading and moving cars was shown by an increase of approximately 20 per cent in net ton miles over 1922. If the same were spent for new equipment, the purchase of which was financed largely by short term obligations known as equipment trusts, The Baltimore & Ohio railroad resumed dividends on its common stock during the year, the New York Central increased its annual dividend from 2 to 3 per cent, and the Gulf, Mobile & Northern declared an initial dividend of 1 per cent on its preferred stock. The Louisville & Nashville railroad declared a stock dividend of 62 1/2 per cent.

For the first time since 1917 the railroads showed an increase in the construction of main line mileage. Important construction developments under way include the linking up of the Southern Pacific with Mexico City, the double tracking of the Santa Fe, the cut-off operations of the New York Central at Albany and the Illinois Central on its main line.

12-Hour Day Ousted. Elimination of the 12 hour day at the suggestion of the late President Harding was one of the outstanding developments of the steel industry in 1922. E. H. Gray, chairman of the United States Steel Corporation, estimated, when the announcement was made, that the change in working hours would increase of the cost of production by 15 per cent. Record-breaking building construction, much of which was delayed by the war, and unusually large railroad orders, helped to offset the loss of export business through the economic disturbance of Europe. Material for reconstruction work in Japan was an important factor in the closing months of the year. The declaration of an extra dividend of 1-1/4 of 1 per cent by the U. S. Steel Corporation on Oct. 29 was generally considered an expression of confidence in the immediate business future.

Oil Over Produced. Heavy over-production of crude oil in California followed by the discovery of a big productive field in central Texas unstinted the market, forcing a decline in the price of the commodity. Despite the fact that consumption was greater than ever before, the increase in domestic production more than offset the loss in Mexico. Many wells ran into salt water earlier in the year, in order to conserve their supply of oil and gasoline in storage, several of the smaller companies were forced to suspend or reduce their dividends.

Big Year For Autos. The automobile industry had the best year in its history, nearly 4,000,000 cars and trucks being manufactured during the year. This brought the total cars in use in this country to approximately 14,000,000, or 99 per cent of the world's supply. Production, however, recently announced by the larger companies, indicate that the output in the first three months of 1924 will exceed that

SEX REVERSAL IS POSSIBLE

(Continued from page 1)

CINCINNATI, Ohio, (U. S. S.)—Science in the near future will be in a position not only to predict but to reverse or modify sex or other bodily or mental characteristics, Dr. Oscar Hiddle, of the research staff of the Carnegie station for experimental evolution at Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., told the American Society of Zoologists today.

Dr. Hiddle detailed the history of complete sex reversal observed in a female dove, which, because of a tuberculous infection, affecting the spleen and liver, became a male with all male characteristics.

"The scientific interest and importance of the demonstration can, however, scarcely be exaggerated," he continued. "Since the result clearly indicates that the hereditary basis of the bodily or mental characteristic may be considered as irreversibly fixed and contralateral."

None of these characteristics, known to be hereditary and also known to be controlled through the so-called chromosomes of the sperm cell, had been shown to be capable of reversal to the alternative form.

"It, therefore, becomes wholly probable that all hereditary characteristics of every human being and of every organism are capable of reversal and modification and that the accomplishment of such modification and control is a matter which awaits the definitely directed efforts of investigators in this branch of science."

He stated he was not at liberty to disclose his mind.

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AMNESTY IS GIVEN REBELS

(Continued from page 1)

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TRAINMEN HURT WHEN TRAIN HITS SWITCH

(Continued from page 1)

INDIAN FALLS, Wis. (AP)—Engineer Joe Burton and Fireman W. J. Reynolds, both of Pesaukee, and Mail Clerk E. E. Winterrowd of Salt Lake, were injured when Union Pacific passenger train No. 26, on route from Butte to Salt Lake, ran into an open switch at Cottonading, four miles south of here, late Thursday afternoon.

The engine plowed into a string of refrigerator cars on the sidetrack, demolishing half a dozen or them and then jumped into a ditch, coming to rest on its side. None of the passengers were injured.

Card of Thanks. We desire to bow our earnest thanks to the many friends of the late Mrs. Ann Henry. Her kind friends and loving smiles, as well as many of the older residents of La Grande were kind and thoughtful during her illness and death, and we deeply appreciate the many kindnesses shown. Mr. and Mrs. John Allen. 12-29-11p

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NO COMMENT BY OFFICIALS ON VOID TAX

(Continued on page 2)

and L. L. McKinnon, titled the letters for the school districts, townships and county at the courthouse yesterday, which was the last day for filing such taxes legally.

County Judge O. G. Conch today announced that he was ready to issue a statement yet and members of the tax commission, it is understood, take the same attitude.

Pierce Silent—Governor Whitler M. Pierce, at his home here for the holidays, was interviewed late yesterday afternoon but refused to make any statements.

The opinion of the supreme court, as handed down in Salem yesterday, in which all members participated with the exception of Justices Barnett and Harris, follows in full:

Leaves up to Courts—"In the first place, this matter has come up at a very late date and this is the last day on which an opinion can be rendered. The court is unanimously of the opinion that the act of 1923 is valid because of a defective title, there being nothing in the title of the act indicating that it extends to the whole state. This, of course, does not affect Multnomah county.

"Such being our conclusion, the county courts of the various counties are free to make levies in accordance with their own judgment, without reference to the recommendations of the tax conservation commission, but subject to the provisions and limitations of the constitution and the statutes.

Provision for Fund—"The levy having already been made by the court in Multnomah county, the defendant assessor is directed to extend the same upon the tax roll in accordance with the findings of the county court.

"In the case of Multnomah county, while briefs have been filed and a hearing held, no petition has been filed, but it is clearly the duty of that county and of all other counties to make provision by suitable levy to provide funds to carry out all contracts heretofore lawfully entered into.

"An opinion fully setting forth the views of the court will be hereafter handed down. The time being limited to this day preclude the handing down of an extended opinion at this time.

"An error will be in conformity with the prayer of the writ."

Eugene Is Selected—EUGENE (AP)—The San Francisco section of the American Mathematical society will meet in Eugene next winter, according to Professor E. E. Dyer, of the mathematics department of the University of Oregon, who at the 43rd regular meeting of the section at the University of Washington, at Seattle a few days ago extended an invitation to meet here next year. The invitation was unanimously accepted.

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For Sale

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L. S. Weeks
Realtor
New Foley Building.

STAR TODAY SUNDAY

WILLIAM FOX presents
A 1924 CINE-MELODRAMA
avalanche ever screened!

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WITH **CHARLES JONES**
MAURICE FLYNN—RUTH CLIFORD

Improve Your Evenings
Have on hand a little needlework, knitting, or a bead bag to help pass these long winter evenings. We have every thing needed in this line.
Hemstitching Stamping
Art & Baby Shop
Mrs. A. Newlin Mrs. J. McNamee

"SIX CYLINDER LOVE" IS BIGGEST COMEDY SUCCESS OF LATE YEARS