

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

The Weather

PORTLAND (By the Associated Press)—Cloudy and unsettled tonight and Friday.

VOLUME XXII.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1924.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 71

DUST BLAST TOLL FRIGHTFUL

J. D. SLATER NAMED NEW CITY JUDGE

R. J. Kitchen Tenders Resignation to Commissioners Last Eve

INTERFERED WITH PRIVATE PRACTICE

Mr. Slater Was Formerly City Attorney; Kitchen to Devote Time to Law Practice.

The resignation of R. J. Kitchen, as municipal judge of the city of La Grande, was tendered to the city commissioners in session last evening and was accepted by that body, who, in connection with the acceptance existing since the appointment of Mr. Kitchen's service in that capacity during the past four years that he has served as municipal judge.

At a later time during the evening the commission unanimously appointed J. D. Slater, formerly city attorney and a prominent lawyer, as municipal judge for the ensuing year. Mr. Slater this morning signified his intention of accepting the appointment.

The resignation of Mr. Kitchen read as follows:

To the City Commission of the City of La Grande, Gentlemen: I hereby tender my resignation as municipal judge of the City of La Grande to take effect at December 31, 1923, during said month, I had tried 30 cases, assessed about \$2,500 in fines besides jail sentences.

(Continued on page 5)

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE READY

Legionnaires Form 'Blue' and 'Red' Teams for Campaign; Installation Occurs.

Preparations for a membership drive were made last evening at the regular meeting of the La Grande American Legion post No. 42. The membership drive, as now planned, will be formed about two teams, one the "blues" and one the "reds."

The campaign will begin Friday and will end at six o'clock in the evening on January 18th. The leading side will prepare a program and take charge of a banquet to be given for the Legionnaires about a week after the close of the drive.

The members of the Red team are: Ray Williams, captain, Chester Thompson, Hugh Brady, Leo Leshetter, E. J. Buss, A. V. Lindgren, Oscar Johnson, Arthur Van Fleet, Dr. Ray Murphy, Roy Currey, Albert Currey and Lynn Bohrenkamp.

The members of the Blue team are: Ralph Huron, captain, Ollie Neal, Allen Wright, Harry Williams, Jesse Anderson, Harry Mason, Harley Richardson, Dr. J. E. Ingie, Fred Kiddie, Walter Bean.

(Continued on page 5)

La Grande High Sked Toughest In District

(By Scoop) La Grande high school's basketball team, to open their 1924 season Saturday evening at Union, is not the first quintette to get under way this year. Elgin, Muddy Creek, Union and others have already started the ball rolling and the hoop schedule, in general, is fairly complete now.

The "Stars" will play the Maroon White squad in the new gymnasium building at Union, where the District No. 1 championship tournament will be staged late in February. Incidentally, the Union floor is one of the few regulation floors east of the Cascades.

The Elgin schedule, with one

WHOOPEE!



Americans have opened the season at famous St. Moritz, Switzerland. The photo shows a student "doing his stuff" while spectators watch from below.

TAX BUDGET OF COUNTY UNCHANGED

Despite the filing of the Oregon supreme court making null and void the tax supervision and conservation legislation in this state, with the lone exception of Multnomah county, due to a defect in the title of the statute, the Union county court, meeting today decided to accept the county budget as it stood after being returned by the Union county tax supervising and conservation commission.

Which means that the cuts and other changes made in the county budget by the tax super-board, will be accepted by the county court regardless of the action of the supreme court or precedents followed by other counties.

TAX PAYMENTS ARE IMPROVED

Tax collection in Union county compared with the amount collected at this time last year, is considerably better, according to Dexter McIlroy, county tax collector.

Out of a total of \$299,826.22, which was the total levy, only \$41,881 are delinquent. This amount is less than 6 per cent of the whole and is a better average than for the year 1922.

New Year's Baby—Almost. MEMPHIS, Or.—William R. Calhoun of this city, 43, superintendent of fish screens for the state game commission, credits his good luck in the world to the fact that he was born in the last hour of the last day of the last week of the last month of the year.

(Continued on page 2)

Bert Haney Expected To Be Renamed

Oregon Man's Renomination to U. S. Shipping Board Is Foreseen.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—With the selection of the new chairman of the shipping board virtually decided, President Coolidge is understood to have worked out the points of a general policy in respect to the merchant marine.

Chairman Jones of the senate commerce commission, is preparing for expeditious action in the nominations to fill the three shipping board vacancies.

The nominations of Bert Haney, Portland, Oregon, and Frederick L. Thompson, Mobile, withdrawn when it became necessary to select a new chairman after the committee voted disapproval, will be resubmitted, it is understood, when the name of Coolidge's choice to fill the third vacancy goes forward.

BULLETINS

Ask Bank Statements WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for the condition of all national banks at the close of business December 31.

Agnes Winsler LOS ANGELES (AP)—O. A. C. basketball team last night defeated the Grange athletic club 24 to 18.

May Flood Paris PARIS (AP)—A flood in the Seine is assuming proportions that may bring disaster to Paris. Many buildings along the river banks are flooded. One death has occurred by drowning. Workers are busily engaged attempting to check the flood.

Johnson in Race CLEVELAND (AP)—Hiram Johnson arrived here today in a fighting humor. "I am in the race and will fight with the best of my ability and endurance," he said.

PLUMBERS QUIT IN SALEM, ORE.

SALEM (By the Associated Press)—With hurried water pipes here as the result of the cold weather, journeyman plumbers quit Wednesday when most plumbers refused a one dollar increase in wages. A conference of the strikers and employers is planned.

BOYHOOD HEROES



(Continued on page 2)

LIQUOR IS DISCUSSED IN HOUSE

Congress Meets After a Two Weeks' Holiday; Busy Session Seen

I. C. C. CHAIRMAN DEADLOCK FIRM

Representative Upshaw, Democrat, of Georgia, Roundly Scores Solons Who Drink.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—After a two weeks' holiday, Congress is back at work today and indications are pointing to a busy five months before the adjournment for the national conventions.

In the senate the balloting for a chairman for the interstate commerce commission is in order of the day. Despite the holiday con-

(Continued on page 2)

OPPOSED TO SALE OF ARMS TO THE OBREGON FORCES

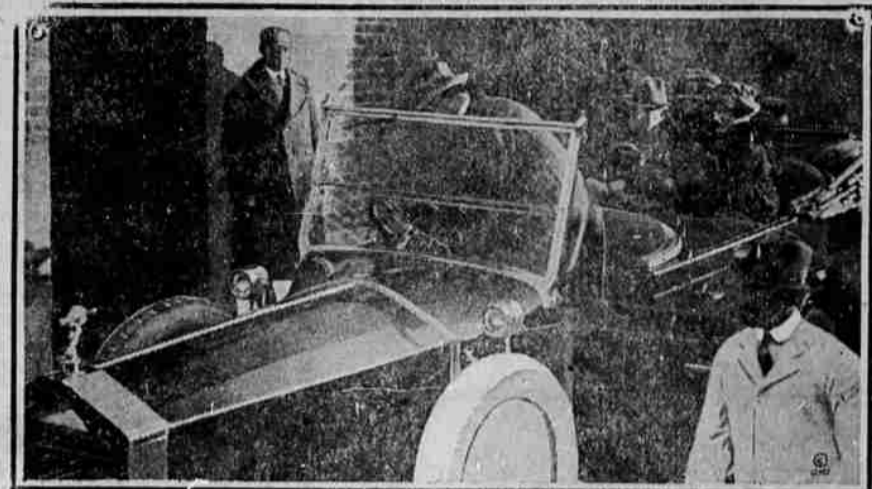
NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—Warren Shaw Fisher, national commander of the United American War Veterans, made public a letter to President Coolidge today verifying the opposition on behalf of the organization against the sale of arms to the Obregon government.

FUNERAL OF MR. FAULK WILL BE TOMORROW MORN

Funeral services over the remains of Isaac Faulk, commander of the Oliver Morton post of the Grand Army of the Republic, who passed away recently here, will be held tomorrow morning at eleven o'clock from the Spodgrass and Zimmerman funeral service parlors. The body is lying in state in the chapel now.

Reverend O. W. Jones, of the First Christian church of La Grande, will deliver the funeral sermon. The services will be conducted by the G. A. R. and the W. R. C. Interment will take place in the Masonic cemetery.

Woodrow Wilson's New Automobile



This automobile was presented to Woodrow Wilson on the occasion of his 67th birthday. The picture was taken when the former president rode in the auto for the first time. Seated next to him is Mrs. Wilson. The other woman in rear is Miss Margaret Wilson.

COMMISSION IS ORGANIZED FOR NEW YEAR

Reorganization of the city commission and appointment of city officials for the ensuing year occurred at the session of the commissioners last evening. Sherwood Williams, president of the commission for the past year, suggested that C. J. Black, county manager, nominate Dr. H. S. Brown, commissioner, as president for the ensuing year. Mr. Brown was elected by the vote of the commissioners Williams and Black and was immediately sworn in and took his chair.

In addition to the acceptance of H. J. Kitchen's resignation as municipal judge and the appointment of J. D. Slater to the office left vacant, E. B. Hayes was reappointed city manager for 1924. Other officers of the city are either filled by popular election or by appointments that stand until a change is desired by the authorities.

WORLD RAISE SALARIES

An ordinance was introduced and passed the second reading regarding the salaries of city officials during the year of 1924. The salaries of all departments remained the same with the ex-

(Continued on page 5)

Marriages 5 To 1 Chance

Records Show Weddings in 1923 Far More Numerous Than Divorces.

Conclusive proof that marriages are not a failure in Union county was revealed today when a reporter of the Evening Observer ascertained from the offices of the county clerk, C. K. McCormick, the total number of marriages licensed issued during the past year and also the total number of divorces decrees granted during the past nine months. The final evidence was overwhelming in favor of the happy (?) marriage.

During the year of 1923 exactly 174 licenses to wed were issued from the county clerk's office, an average of nearly one per two days or 15 per month.

During the past nine months 20 divorces decrees have been granted which, roughly speaking, about three per month.

Comparing the averages of the two for 1923, it can be readily seen that about five marriages occur in Union county for every divorce granted.

RUM ROW NOW IN EXTENSION

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS, N. J. (AP)—State authorities claiming to have reduced to a thin trickle the flood of holiday liquor which Rum Row has set about checking the smuggling of diamonds, narcotics and other contraband items, which the rum runners and bottle fishermen are reported by residents to be actively engaged.

Colonel H. Norman Schwartzkopf, head of the New Jersey state police, and Major Kimberling of the Trenton headquarters, declared that these contraband items have become so numerous that they have planned to station state troopers here permanently.

Several Chinese are known to have been smuggled in at Perth Amboy recently. The authorities asserted also that many more rum runners were transporting narcotics to New York, Philadelphia, Jersey City, Trenton, Newark and other centers.

"We know diamonds are being smuggled into Highlands, Waterbury and Atlantic Highlands," said Sergeant Light, assigned to the place of the "rumpler" activities. "There are too many there. Persons suspected of being in the rum business are offering diamonds of fabulous prices, and one of the biggest men in the trade is reported to have boasted—even to the police—that he can get diamonds duty free."

OFFENDER GIVEN JAIL SENTENCE IN CITY COURT

Judge J. D. Slater, newly elected municipal judge, was sworn in this morning and heard two cases shortly afterwards. Frank Thomas, who pleaded guilty to drunkenness and charges placed against him, according to the police, was fined \$10 and sentenced to 10 days in jail. Earl Conley, charged with being drunk, was fined \$20.

BUSINESS MEN START YEAR IN A JOLLY MOOD

After stowing away an extra large amount of country sausage, butter beans, hot biscuits, Oregon prunes, coffee and a double pie order, members of the chamber of commerce settled back with black cigars yesterday—those who had not won off smoking—and listened to an interesting bunch of resolutions.

They were all New Year resolutions and they bristled with fun and occasionally one was a little too personal to print. But Toastmaster Dixon handled the situation very well and made excuses where they were necessary so that the entire occasion was a diplomatic success even when discussing in the showings of "our brothers"—which some of the resolutions did.

Probably the most important subject presented yesterday was that of motor buses and after considerable discussion a resolution was referred to the committee on transportation.

The attitude taken by many was decisive. They contended that motor buses are unfair competition to the short haul for the railroads; that the highways erected at a heavy cost to the people are being ruined by buses and trucks which endeavor to compete with the railroads; that because of no fair size is charged for the running of these vehicles, and that La Grande, being a railroad town with a greater portion of her citizens engaged in railroad work, should go on record as opposed to the motor bus.

The bus men had some friends in court, however, for an argument.

(Continued on page 5)

MANY DIE IN TRAGEDY AT PEKIN

Dust Explosion Deals Death and Injuries to Seven Score Men

FIRE FRUSTRATES RESCUE WORKERS

Corn Products Company Explosion Followed by Blazes That Cremate Bodies.

PEORIA, Ill. (AP)—Between 25 and 35 men are believed dead and over 100 others injured due to a terrific dust explosion in the starch plant of the Corn Products company in Pekin today.

Pekin immediately sent a call to Peoria and firemen, doctors and policemen, with ambulances, rushed to Pekin. Eighty injured men were taken to the hospitals.

Fire broke out following the explosion and kept the rescuers from removing bodies that could be seen in the blazing ruins of the establishment.

It is feared that many bodies will be burned beyond recognition.

Six men identified as dead are George Barnes, Lee Harding, Louis Schmidt, William Romber, John Hopper and William Vogel, all of Pekin.

The Corn Products plant was the principal industry of Pekin and was one of the finest equipped plants in the country. It was safeguarded by all known safety appliances.

Heroism Displayed

Trapped in the third floor of the burning plant, Frank Lichwein sang nearly an hour to calm his companions. When the last retreat was cut off he jumped from the window of the blazing building.

Lichwein was working on the third floor when the explosion occurred. He has a good voice and some of his companions died with the strains of his songs in their memory. He did not jump until all the men able to leave had gone. He was severely burned and his eye was hurt.

Late News Flashes

DINES WILL RECOVER.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Courtland Dines, shot New Year's night by Mabel Normand's chauffeur, was pronounced in a satisfactory condition by physicians who state his chances of recovery are good. Miss Normand is in a highly nervous state. She will be operated on for appendicitis in a couple of days.

Greer was again questioned by the police but denied ever using drugs. His statement was the result of Dines' allegation that Greer must have been "full of hop" when he fired the shots. The chauffeur also explained his record as a rubber heel robber. He said he entered a store in Oakland in 1914 with James Gallagher, a chance acquaintance, and that Gallagher stole a pair of rubber heels while Greer was buying some second hand shoes. Greer was then sentenced to 90 days but later escaped.

REMINGTON CHOOSES PENDLETON BAKER (Special).

On February first Bishop William P. Remington expects to remove his temporary headquarters from Baker to Pendleton. This step is being taken, says a newspaper here, after mature deliberation and for causes which effect the proper administration of the Episcopal diocese. From the point of view of overseeing Eastern Oregon's large area and growing field, Pendleton is the logical center from which to work the parishes and missions which are under his charge, the bishop believes.