

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER PORTLAND (AP)—Oregon: Unsettled, probably rain in the north and west tonight and Sunday. Warmer in the east tonight.

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Hunt's Daily Letter

(By HARRY B. HUNT) WASHINGTON (NEA Special)—Holiday shoppers in the capital paused with mere holiday interest before one of the downtown candy shops. The crowd quickly grew until it approached the dimensions of a blockade.

Still, there didn't seem to be any unusual display of sweets in the window. What, then, was attracting all the attention? It wasn't the array of candies, nor any part of the exhibit beyond the plate glass window that was responsible.

The center of interest was a slender, sandy-haired man who was looking in the window. He couldn't be wholly oblivious of the circle of curious folk around him, but he seemed to be entering his interest in a survey of the goodies before him, particularly on some large slabs of Vermont maple sugar that had a conspicuous part in the display.

Doubtless that maple sugar was responsible. It must have recalled to him the busy days back in the old maple lot when he "sugared off" just such slabs of sweetness from the sap he himself had totted down to the sugar shed.

For the man at the window, the cause of the crowd was—probably you've guessed it already—none other than the erstwhile Vermont farm boy, Calvin Coolidge, now president of the United States.

Senator Pat Harrison, Democratic key-note and bold politician who thinks nothing of baiting Republican senators in their own stronghold, lost his courage completely the other night at a demonstration of legislation given at the National Press Club by a famous magician.

One of the wizard's best tricks is the apparent sawing in two of a live and lovely lady. The lady had composed herself in a trunk, with her head projecting at one end and her feet at the other, when the master of ceremonies asked for volunteers to hold her head and feet so the audience could be sure there was no deception.

Senator Pat held her head, while (Continued on Page 5)

BOMBS WRECK CITY BUILDING

GALESBURG, Ill. (By the Associated Press)—While a Ku Klux Klan meeting, attended by 140 men was being held in the city building at Macomb, McDonough county capital, Tuesday night, two unknown men who escaped in an automobile placed a bomb under the rear stairs on the first floor of the building, klan offices here stated Friday night.

The explosion wrecked the stairs broke glass and caused plaster to fall all over the building. The chief of police, a police officer, two prisoners in the city jail and three families of 14 persons living on the second floor, who were in the building besides the klansmen, were unhurt.

1924 BEST FARM YEAR SINCE 1919

Decided Change Occurred Last Year in Status of the Farmer

WHEAT CROP BIG; PRICE WAS HIGHER

Optimism in Agricultural Conditions Expressed by Roger Babson, Statistician.

BABSON PARK, Mass. (Special to the Observer)—"What was the most significant development of 1924 so far as business is concerned?" The question, put to Roger W. Babson, the statistician, brought an immediate answer outlining the recovery of the farmer and the effect this recovery may have on business during 1925.

"The year 1924 marked a decided change in the position of the American farmer," says Mr. Babson. "As we enter 1925 he is better off than he has been at any time since 1919. Two main factors have contributed to this improvement: first and foremost has been the rapid and substantial recovery in the price that he receives for his products and second, the trend of those non-agricultural commodities which he buys has been downward."

"The year corn crop totaled 2,436,000,000 bushels, a decided decrease from the 1923 crop, and it is also substantially under the average output. However, the tremendous jump in prices, which amounted to over 60 per cent from the low of this year more than offsets the decline in production, and as a result, this year's crop is estimated to be worth 4 per cent more than last year, respective valuation figures being \$2,405,688,000 and \$2,277,229,000 bushels."

"The wheat crop was not only substantially greater in volume than the 1923 crop, but the price that the farmer receives was 47 per cent higher. Hence, it is estimated that this year's wheat crop is worth 54 per cent more than last year, or \$1,136,596,000 against last year's farm value of \$735,923,000."

"The oat farmer was benefited also to a great extent, the value of his crop being estimated at 35 per cent more than last year, or about \$729,495,000 against approximately \$541,137,000 last year."

"Prices of cotton to the farmer as compared to last year have dropped about 20 per cent. However, the yield is placed at 12,153,465 bales, against last year's yield of 10,146,000 bales. Hence, much of the substantial price decline has been counteracted, and he will probably receive about \$1,437,000,000 for his crop, against \$1,571,815,000 for last year."

"This year's potato crop is a record for all time, exceeding that of 1923 by 29,000,000 bushels. Potatoes to price are 17 per cent under last year, but the substantial increase in yield should allow the farmer to receive close to \$295,000,000."

C. S. JACKSON'S WIDOW IS LEFT BULK OF ESTATE

PORTLAND, Ore. (By the Associated Press)—Maria C. Jackson, widow of the late C. S. Jackson, is made sole heir to the bulk of the estate under the terms of the will admitted to probate yesterday.

One thousand dollars was willed to Phillip L. Jackson, a son, \$1000 to C. S. Jackson, Jr., a grandson. In their petition the heirs state that the value of the estate is unknown to them. The principal property is proprietorship of the Oregon Daily Journal.

East in Grip of Snow; Transportation Is Hit

NEW YORK (By the Associated Press)—Sixteen thousand men and 417 motor driven plows and sweepers are at work removing an eight inch fall of snow from the city's wide expanse of pavements—the first real snowfall of the winter here. The snow was accompanied by high winds that roared out of the northwest. The temperature was 24 degrees above zero. Several liners were delayed in getting into port and there were a few minor accidents throughout the city.

Of two ships damaged off the Atlantic coast, the Clyde liner Mo-

Wealthy Man Is Held For Wife Murder

Wife of John Warren Hahne Found Asphyxiated; Bloody Hammer and Hatchet Nearby.

OMAHA (By the Associated Press)—The police today are holding John Warren Hahne, wealthy contractor and real estate dealer, pending investigation of the death of his wife whose body was found at the bottom of a stairway in the basement of their home late yesterday. Hahne declares he knew nothing of the

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MILLERS WED FIFTY YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. George Miller celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on New Year's day at their home at Cove, Oregon, according to word received here today.

The happy couple were host and hostess to 25 of their friends. Because of the bad condition of the roads and sickness some of the invited guests were unable to come.

Dinner was served at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and a better dinner would be hard to imagine. If the consensus of opinion of the guests is taken as proof.

Biographical Sketch. Mattilda Adeline Miller is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Conley, of La Grande, and a sister of J. J. and J. L. Conley, of Cove, Mr. and Mrs. George Miller have nine children, all of whom live in Union county. They are: Will, Ernest, Frank, Ben and John Miller, and Mrs. Jack Smith, Mrs. George Grey, Mrs. Ed Clark and Mrs. Lillian Chidwick. They also have 24 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Two sets of bronze and gold electric light fixtures and a gold ring were given Mr. and Mrs. Miller by their children.

Married in La Grande. They were married in La Grande exactly 50 years ago New Year's day and attended a dance given that night in La Grande following their wedding supper. They lived here for a few years and then moved to a farm near Alice. Mr. Miller has been a prosperous farmer for the last 35 years and is now interested in watching his boys try to do as well as he did on the same farm.

Mrs. Miller is 66 years of age and her husband is 75.

160,000,000 Coins Made In Philadelphia in 1924

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—One hundred and sixty million pieces were made at the Philadelphia mint in 1924, of which 12,643,193 were foreign coins, the annual report of S. E. Chaffin, assistant superintendent, made public Friday, showed. This was approximately 40 and one-half million pieces less than the output for 1923 when there was an unusual demand for coins of all kinds.

The total value of the domestic coinage last year was \$105,315,820 divided among double eagles, silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. Foreign mintage consisted chiefly of silver bronze coins for Peru, Venezuela, Nicaragua and Poland.

Street Section To Be Used as Coasting Hill

The chief of police today closed the section of Pennsylvania avenue from second to fourth street to motor vehicle traffic. As long as the icy conditions continue this district will be used as a coasting hill for the children of the city.

Bars will be placed at the terminal of this section to prevent automobiles or other vehicles from using the streets and endangering any boys or girls who are coasting.

DR. SUN YAT SEN ILL; OPERATION NECESSARY

PEKING (By the Associated Press)—Dr. Sun Yat Sen, leader of the government of southern China, who has been suffering here with the victorious Chang Tso Lin wing of the government, is seriously ill. Physicians said he is afflicted with a liver malady which will entail an operation. Prospects for Sun's recovery are very promising, attendants said, although Sun was ordered to abstain from official duties during his convalescence.

HILL NAMED LA GRANDE PRESIDENT

Will Lead New City Commission Through the Coming Year

W. C. CREWS NEW MANAGER OF CITY

Appointment of Municipal Judge Postponed; City Office Appointments to Be Made Soon

At approximately 8 o'clock last night, the city administration changed and a new city commission began functioning. Little of the demonstration marked the retiring of the 1924 commissioners and the crowning of the 1925 executives, the taking of the oaths of office passing off quietly and with the utmost simplicity.

President H. S. Brownton called the meeting to order, with Commissioners C. J. Black and Sherwood Williams present. City Recorder J. E. Stearns read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved.

Three Sworn In. Then, with all official duties ended with the exception of turning over their posts to their successors, the commissioners ordered the city recorder to administer the oaths. A. T. Hill, Charles Payne and R. P. Landis were inaugurated as commissioners in the order named and the retiring members left the table and turned the meeting over to the newly made executives, at the same time wishing the new commissioner a progressive and fruitful year.

Hill Named President. Commissioner Landis moved that Commissioner Hill be elected president of the city of La Grande and Commissioner Payne seconded the motion, which carried. As Hill took the chair a wave of applause swept through the audience gathered to witness the change.

Mr. Hill, in a few brief words, thanked the commissioners for the honor they had bestowed upon him and asked for their cooperation in facing problems of the year. He asserted that, while they might not always agree on every item, he was of the opinion that majority rule should always be paramount and expressed the hope that the commission would always be united for the best interests of the city.

Crews Appointed. Dr. Landis then nominated Wren C. Crews, former office engineer for the local branch of the state highway department, for the position of city manager. No further nominations were forthcoming and Mr. Crews was given the post

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DEBT PROBLEM YET UNSOLVED

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Frustrated by contradictory reports emanating from Paris during the last 24 hours, officials concerned in the war debt discussions with France today determined to form an opinion pending an official report from Ambassador Herriot.

Today's dispatches from Paris indicate that M. Clemenceau had presented to the committee only an "official memorandum" instead of a "formal note." This somewhat dampened the optimism which followed first reports.

The weekly luncheon of the chamber of commerce next Tuesday will be devoted to entertainment. In other words it is expected that "joy will be unconfined."

Ernest Watkins is chairman of the luncheon and promises many good things in the way of entertainment. Among other things scheduled is an old time burlesque and fiddle team with song and fiddle. The skit will be presented by a well known La Grande business man whose name is to be announced later.

When He Can't Afford It

That's the time a business man needs advertising most—that's one time when he can't afford NOT to advertise.

Every keen business man, who analyzes his advertising as he does his business, knows that advertising is ONE thing that he can afford and most afford regardless of other things. It's a modern business necessity.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Income Tax Blanks Are In The Mail

Collector Huntley Sent Out Forms to 47,000 Taxpayers Yesterday.

PORTLAND, Ore. (Special)—Blank forms for the use of individuals in reporting income for the year 1924 of \$500, and less, derived from wages, salaries and commissions, were mailed yesterday by Clyde G. Huntley, collector of internal revenue, to every person who filed a return of income from the same sources a year ago. Envelopes were addressed to 47,000 taxpayers.

Persons, any part of whose income for 1924 was derived from business or profession, farming, sale of property or rents, regardless of the amount, will be required to use a different blank. The use of this larger form will be required also, in cases where the net income was in excess of \$5000, whether from salary, business, profession, or other taxable sources.

Mail Others Soon. Forms for this class of taxpayers, also for corporations, partnerships and fiduciaries will be mailed as soon as a delayed shipment is received from Washington. Collector Huntley expects to complete the distribution of all income tax blanks within the next ten days. In view of the fact that every individual, firm and corporation that filed a return last year, he asks taxpayers to be patient for a few days pending the receipt of their blanks.

There is also available at Collector Huntley's office a supply of blank forms for the use of employers in reporting salaries, wages and commissions of \$1000, or more paid during 1924 to any employee or other person. In fact, all other necessary blanks incident to the preparation of income tax returns are available at the internal revenue office in the custom house.

All Must File. Under the 1924 revenue act, returns of income must be filed by every single person whose net income was \$1000 or more, or whose gross income was \$5000 or more, and by every married couple whose joint net income was \$2500 or whose gross income was \$5000 or more. Married persons not living together, such as divorcees or persons separated by mutual consent, are classed as single persons.

Exemptions Given. There is no change in the exemption for single persons, which is \$1000. Married persons, living together, and heads of families are allowed an exemption of \$2500, regardless of the amount of their net income. In addition to his personal exemption, the taxpayer is also allowed a credit of \$400 for each dependent but this credit cannot be claimed for the husband or the wife, though one may be totally dependent upon the other.

The normal tax rates under the 1924 act are 2 per cent on the first \$4000 of net income in excess of the personal exemption and credits for dependents, 4 per cent on the next \$4000 and 6 per cent on the balance. The surtax rates range from 1 per cent on net incomes between \$19,000 and \$24,000 to 49 per cent on net incomes in excess of \$200,000.

March 15th Deadline. Taxpayers may file their returns immediately and pay their tax in full, or they may avail themselves of that provision of the law which permits them to pay the tax in four equal quarterly installments. Returns, accompanied by the payment of at least one-fourth the total tax, must be filed with Collector Huntley not later than March 15. Taxpayers will find it to their advantage to file returns early for the reason that the assistance of experienced deputies in preparing their statements of income.

"FUN LUNCHEON" ON PROGRAM FOR NEXT TUESDAY

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U. S. Representatives At Session Chosen

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Ambassadors Kellogg of London, Herriot of Paris, with Colonel James A. Logan, will represent the United States at the allied finance ministers meeting in Paris next Wednesday.

Cuban Mayor Reported To Have Been Murdered

HAVANA, Cuba (By the Associated Press)—The mayor of Guantanamo, Manuel Salas, has been assassinated, according to dispatches to El Mundo from that city. No details were given. Guantanamo is the American naval base on Guantanamo bay.

McNary Asks Congress For Veterans Hospital

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Construction of a \$500,000 veterans hospital at Fort Stevens, Oregon, will be authorized under a bill introduced by Senator McNary.

Some Wife She'd Make! Shops But Doesn't Buy



She spends all her time, day after day, shopping—but she never buys anything. For Marion Agnew, a death for the Business Commission of Cincinnati. O. Things must be "as advertised" or there will be trouble ahead for the advertiser.

G. O. P. SOLONS RETURN HOME

RUTLAND (By the Associated Press)—Self-exiled Rhode Island Republican senators are going home today as the exile which began after the release of bromine gas in the senate chamber June 19th, ended when the general assembly adjourned yesterday after a session which began January 1st, last year.

Wary of the filibuster conducted by the Democratic minority during which disorder occurred several times, the Republicans left the state. They established themselves in a hotel here and were followed by their families. The senators played a prominent part in town affairs, promoting celebrations and civic affairs.

The "exiles" organized a close knit community and organized a Fourth of July celebration that dwarfed anything the town had seen previously.

Meanwhile Rhode Island went on without them. Elections were waged all long range and houses were returned to office. Several didn't run for reelection.

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RATE BILL FAVORED BY PRESIDENT

Coolidge Satisfied with Redrafted Postal Rate Increase Measure

TAX HEAD GIVES OUT NEW RULING

Declares Employes of Municipalities Must Pay Income Tax, Past, Present and Future.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The postal rate increase bill as revised by the senate postoffice committee, is satisfactory to President Coolidge. Chairman Moses of the subcommittee which drafted the bill announced today after conferring with the president.

Coolidge's position, according to Moses, is if the measure provides a scientific manner of raising funds necessary to meet the proposed postal pay increase bill, the desired end will be accomplished.

EMPLOYEES MUST PAY TAX

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Under a new ruling of the internal revenue bureau many employes of municipalities who heretofore regarded themselves exempt from the federal income tax, will be required to pay such a levy, not only in the future, but to cover several past years.

GRANGE PLANS BIG CAMPAIGN

The officials of the Union County Pomona Grange and the county deputy are starting plans for securing a membership in Union county of 1,000, according to announcement today.

A goodly share of the gain is to come through additional membership in the present granges, there being eight in the county. To date the grangers at Elgin and Summerville have made the largest gains, and are planning on a number more before the county grange meeting at Elgin on the fourth Saturday in March.

To aid in creation of interest the county grange is holding a contest and the committee that has the plans underway will give its report of the prize to be awarded at the next Pomona meeting.

Plans are also fostered for a tri-county contest with Baker and Wallawa counties.

The county masters have the arranging of the work in their hands. The contest will also include other lines of work, such as community project work, awakening more interest in civic affairs and also the enforcement of the food and dairy laws and other kindred work of special interest to the rural welfare.

ASK STATEMENTS

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The comptroller of the currency today issued a call for the condition of national banks at the close of business on Wednesday, December 31st.

MARKETS TODAY

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Live-stock nominally steady. Eggs and butterfat steady. Butterfat 49c.

XTRA

PARTY ENDS IN DEATH SEATTLE, Wash. (AP)—Eight persons are held for the coroner in connection with the death last night of Oscar Olson, 38, who died after being removed from a house where police said he and eight witnesses attended a party. Physicians declared Olson had died from poison not alcoholic.

GALE MODERATES LONDON (AP)—While there has been some moderation in the sale which has been sweeping Great Britain and the greater part of Europe, food, coal and iron throughout England have become steadily worse. From all sections come reports of homes being abandoned. Six lives are reported lost.

DYNAMITE PLOT FOUND GOLDHILL, Ore. (AP)—City officials are investigating what charge were attempted Thursday morning to dynamite the police station and the residence of City Recorder Kellogg.

NINE DIE IN FIRE MONTREAL (AP)—Nine persons, eight of them small children, lost their lives early today when fire swept three dwellings in two sections of the city. In each case the flames spread rapidly, trapping the victims.

COALITION FAHS B. F. H. I. N. (AP)—Chancellor Marx decided today it was impossible to form a coalition ministry which would command a majority in the reichstag.

Wild Life Woman Led Told Of By Witness

ARENA, Mich. (By the Associated Press)—Testimony intended to corroborate charges made by Congressman Frank D. Scott, that his wife received the clerk of a Washington hotel in her apartment late at night, was given at the resumption of the hearing of his divorce suit here by Miss Jane Kennedy, for 15 years private secretary to Mr. Scott.

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Miss Kennedy, on direct examination testified that she was on friendly terms with Mrs. Scott and on numerous occasions was an overnight guest at her apartment.

On one of these occasions, she testified, Mrs. Scott asked her if she would not like to meet the clerk of the hotel.

"She told me he was a nice boy and admired her apartment," Miss Kennedy said. Then she stepped to the telephone and asked about some bills.

Mrs. Scott later explained, Miss Kennedy testified, that her inquiry about bills was a "conversational" one.

Her next over night visit at the

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