

HIGH SCHOOL STAGES PLAY

UNION, Ore. (Special) — Wednesday night the high school put on its first play of the season when the Senior class staged the comedy-drama, "The Real Thing After All." The cast included Erma Puckett, Elma Orton, Edythe Gillison, Lyle Castor, Marian Huntley, Ferris Giles, Francis Kent, Richard Vanhook, Mary Zauer, John Gertson, Floyd Baxter, Edith Wright, Grace Salzer, Noye Cox and two small children from the grades, Gene Parent and Irene Taylor. The Sophomore class will have their class play, "In Plum Valley" ready for production in about a week.

The lyceum, which about thirty people have been backing, put on its last number Saturday night when the Fenwick-Nowell Concert company made its appearance at the school gym. This number was by far the best of the season and was thoroughly enjoyed by several hundred people. However the cost of the lyceum, which is an Ellison-White production, has been so much more than the door receipts that the guarantors will have to pay nearly two hundred dollars to make up the season's deficit, and it is very doubtful if Union looks another chauntanga or lyceum for next year. It seems to be the opinion that the public will not support this kind of entertainment, especially at the prices which must be charged in order for the local committee to come out even. It was hoped that the final attraction, which consisted of two vocalists, a tenor and a soprano, a violinist and a pianist, would be a good drawing card, but lack of interest, the stormy weather and handicapped games in La Grande and Imbler, in which local players participated, all combined to cut down the door receipts with the result that a large deficit stares the committee in the face.

The Men's Athletic Association has an indoor basketball team that was challenged by "Jesse" Spencer's boys, called the "Everharpes." Sunday afternoon the two lines crossed bats at the gym and the pencil boys were defeated 49 to 11 by Hutchison's "Athletes." Spencer vows he will whip the boys later in the week. With "Jim" Hutchison in the box, "Cad" Caldwell behind the bat, and an air-tight infield the "Athletes" challenge all comers.

Roy Conklin, Robert Wakefield, Mr. Emmell and Coach Pitts of the local high school, went to Powder Friday night to see the basketball game between that high school and Cove. Mr. Pitts refereed.

Location in Doubt.
The postal inspector has come and gone and still Union does not know just where her postoffice is to be located. He looked over the different places whose owners had bid for the office and departed without making any decision.

Mrs. Edith Dobbin has joined her mother, Mrs. Mary Hutchinson, in a trip that takes in Portland, San Francisco and the Hawaiian Islands. They will be gone several weeks.

At the regular meeting of the Union Grange at the state experiment farm Thursday evening, three candidates were initiated and a feed was furnished by the members from near Hot Lake.

Tony Smith, our genial postmaster, has joined the radio addicts, and is enjoying a new outfit which he recently had installed in his home in South Union.

Miss Nina Conley, one of the grade teachers in the Union schools, went to Walla Walla at the close of school Friday to spend the week end with her two brothers who are students at Whitman college.

Roy Conklin, Mr. and Mrs. W. V. Connor, John Wortman, Robert Wakefield, Audrey DeLap, Nellie McDaniel, Dorothy Cushman and Mr. Pitts went to Imbler Saturday evening to see the two basketball games between the Union and Imbler high school boys and girls. Visited Cove Lodge.

Vernon Allen, R. H. Rohrer, William Kiehlbeck, Darrell Erwin, Rex Gamble and Charley Cross went to Cove Saturday night to visit the Cove Odd Fellows who were putting on the third degree. After the work the members and visitors enjoyed a supper. The trip was a very enjoyable one, except when one of the cars went into the ditch and had to be pulled out on to the road again.

BIRTH TO START WORK
NEW YORK (AP)—Babe Ruth, Yankee home run king, will leave for Hot Springs, Ark., next Sunday to condition himself for the coming baseball season.

Mr. Pratt is on the Coast at present looking after business interests, but under the temporary supervision of a local man the building material goes marching on. We are sending material to all neighboring towns and some as far as Idaho. There's a reason. Investigate!

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Mother Freed by Babe's Smile



A blue-eyed baby's smile did what a lawyer's eloquence failed to do—free her mother from jail. Mrs. Anna Gustafson of Chicago told neighbors she had found hair in bread purchased at a bakery. The proprietor, Fred Gustafson, unable to pay, sued for damages and was awarded \$28. Mrs. Gustafson, unable to pay, was remanded to jail for six months. The baby's smile, however, was permitted the mother to sign her own bond and go home.

Great Consolidation Forecast By Babson

BABSON PARK, Mass. (Special)—When discussing the present stock market situation Robert W. Babson, today pointed out the probability of various industrial consolidations, and outlined the benefits expected from them. "Owing to the rapid rise in stock market prices since the election, and noting recent erratic conditions, many wonder if the market has not seen its highest price," says the statistician. "The most experienced observers, however, do not believe the highest prices have yet been reached and give for their reasons the improved domestic situation, the plentifulness of money for legitimate purposes, the restoration of Europe, and the conservative administration in Washington. All these favorable conditions exist yet there is another impending development which may be even a greater factor than any of these mentioned. I have in mind the probability of a number of consolidations among the industrial, as well as the railroad, during 1925. If the market has already discounted these consolidations, then it may be around top prices; but otherwise many stocks should go higher before the present bull market culminates.

Consolidations Follow Panics
"The first industrial depression this country ever witnessed was in the '30s and the first consolidations came at the close of that depression. The fact is that these consolidations paved the way for better times that followed. The next great depression came in the '80s and this was followed by further consolidations and the first great bull market. These consolidations especially affected the banks which had grown up like mushrooms in the twenty years previous. The next depression came with the panic of '73. This in turn was followed by a third era of consolidations. This time railroads were prominent. The next great depression came in the '90s at the time of the Bryan free silver scare. This culminated with the Spanish American war and was followed by the first consolidation era of the industrialists. It was in this period that the United States Steel Corporation, Amalgamated Copper Company, American Woolen Company and various other industrialists were put together. In conjunction with these consolidations the market rose to great heights culminating in 1906. In this study it is interesting to note that these eras have occurred about twenty years apart, or one to each generation. Therefore, as far as statistics are concerned, we are on this twenty year basis, ready for another era of such consolidations, although I do not give this as my reason for feeling that such an era is now approaching.

Expansion Period Results.
"The real reason for such consolidations is that during a period of prosperity a large number of new concerns, in every line of business, spring up, old concerns expand, and almost every industry becomes inflated and spreads out. This results in a total producing capacity in excess of normal demands. During the depression—which according to the law of action and reaction is bound to follow—each industry gets into a position where it is making no money, and is subject to cut throat competition. The only way out is to reduce overhead, eliminate unnecessary competition, and produce and sell economically. This

can be accomplished only through consolidations which, when properly consummated, reduce the cost both of manufacturing and selling. There is no reason why the present year should be an exception to the rule. History is bound to repeat itself, and the stage is now set in almost all industries for such consolidations. It is to be expected that the year will be higher today and that a great quantity of goods are being consumed, but the average manufacturer is now making little profit owing to the high cost of manufacturing and selling. This condition cannot continue indefinitely and, if such consolidations do not take place, then the weak concerns will be eliminated through bankruptcy.

Rail Consolidations Seen

"Of course consolidations of the railroads is now being anticipated by all. Both the government and the security owners are united upon the need for such combination. The main thing blocking these railroad consolidations seems to be the fear of certain railroad officials, attorneys, and specialists who may lose their jobs as a result. However, these consolidations are inevitable and the action of the rails on the stock exchange is now discounting them. Consolidations amongst the industrialists, however, are just as surely ahead of us. This will be accelerated by foreign competition. Personally I do not fear foreign competition so far as the next year or two is concerned, as it will take Europe some time to get organized industrially so that it can ship low cost goods in large quantities. The real foreign competition will come three to five years from now, and when this comes, it will come with a vengeance. Wise are those manufacturers who refuse to wait but who now get together and prepare for it by reducing overhead, lowering costs on manufacturing, and by developing efficient sales organizations abroad as well as at home.

Mr. Babson referred specifically to the possibility of drastic consolidations in the automobile industry, the shoe and leather industry, the textile industry. "General business," he concluded, "is now again above the normal line, registering 5 per cent compared with 12 per cent below normal six months ago. I believe that during the next two months the Babsonchart Index will continue to climb."

WALLOWA SNOW FALL 5 INCHES

WALLOWA, Ore. (Special) — About five inches of new snow fell over this section the last of the week. The snow began falling early Saturday evening and continued through the greater part of the night. The weather has been very warm here for the past several days and the snow has melted and settled rapidly, until practically all snow has melted from the roads in the valley.

Elmer Southwick, rural carrier on route one has found travel very difficult the past several days, due to the lack of sufficient snow in the roads on this end of the route and the deep snow drifts at many places in the hills, where the use of a wheeled rig is virtually impossible at this time. He expects to start the first of the week by using bargies on the ends of the roads from where they strike the valley, and continue to use his sled

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in the hills and make the route by traveling in an opposite direction each day.

Many farmers state the feeding conditions have not been good for the past several days, as many of the feed lots have become bare

and much of the feed is tramped into the slush and wasted where the stock are fed on the ground.

Miss Chella Pickett has been sick at her home in the west part of town for the past few days suffering from a severe cold.

Guy Downing and family of Dry creek visited the law of the week with F. A. Downing and family of Leap.

Bruce Fisher and wife returned home the last of the week from La Grande.

Mrs. John Pace and two children recently moved into town from their ranch home a few miles east of town.

T. G. Johnson is reported to be getting well along with his logging contract in the woods near Maxville. Other contractors working in that section are also reported to be making good progress. The snow is said to have been quite deep in that section until the warm weather of the first of the week, which caused it to settle considerably.

Some people's idea of a newspaper is one that will cuss everybody but them.

Out of the mouths of babies—Blahh.

MINERVA SAYS:

"Her bank account is getting like Margy's skirt, 'exceedingly short.'"

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