

LA GRANDE PREPARING FOR XMAS

Happy Throngs Rush the Post Office and Department Stores

ELKS TO PUT UP TREE TOMORROW

Schools of City Will Close December 23 Following Christmas Entertainments.

Only five more days until Christmas. And for thrills, and dreams and excitement of anticipation, five days before Christmas are worth more than five months after.

This morning's snowfall—although it may not whiten the world for Christmas—quickened the shoppers to a realization of speeding time.

The benevolent Elks, remembering their own impotence as the day of days approached, are sending out word through the Observer this evening that the community tree will be raised in its place at the intersection of Washington avenue and Depot street tomorrow.

Elks to Seek Tree. Armed with axe and hatchet, the committee will start for the woods in the morning. The tree—or trees, for two will be bought together to make the branches look heavier—will be brought back to town and set into place before noon.

Then the lights and trimmings will be woven among the needle branches. And tomorrow night, the tree will kindle into a dancing flame of lights and color. And every night it will blaze out its promise until Christmas at last shall arrive, and the branches give their loads of toys and fruit and candy.

In all the churches tomorrow, the services will vibrate with the spirit of the coming holy day. Christmas carols will be sung, and the sermons will prepare the hearts of the congregation for the story of the Saviour's birth. Sunday school pupils will hear of the journey of Joseph and Mary to Jerusalem, and will thrill again to the story of the mysterious star and the heavenly song that led shepherds and wise men to the Babe in the manger.

For weeks the little folk have

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BAKER HEARING WILL BE TODAY

Jesse Baker, arrested here last Saturday, will appear today before United States Commissioner C. E. Ebenhard for a preliminary hearing. Baker is of Cascade, Idaho, and is wanted by the federal authorities in Portland on a charge of violation of the Mann act.

John C. Logan, who left his home in Greece in 1905, succeeded at his second attempt to pass the examinations.

Seals Selling Rapidly; Proceeds Nearing \$400

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Mrs. Rosenbaum had charge of the work in La Grande last year and was reappointed at the request of the state tuberculosis association, who stated that she had exceeded their expectations.

Assisting her in the campaign are the following women representatives of the several parishes of the city: Episcopal—Mrs. C. H. Seranton and Mrs. C. J. Osborne; Presbyterian—Mrs. F. B. Morgan and Mrs. C. P. Thompson; Methodist—Mrs. Harry Smith and Mrs. Lee Hanford; Baptist—Mrs. French and Mrs. Graham.

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Tax Levy Is Cut .4 Mills In County

County Commissioners Announce the General State and County Levy Will Be 16.9 Mills.

The taxpayers come in for their share of Christmas rejoicing today with the announcement that the general state and county tax levy has been established at 16.9 mills. That means a reduction of .4 mills over last year's levy, which stood at 17.3, according to the county commissioners, who completed their work at the office of Judge U. G. Couch today.

An increased high school tuition fund—necessitated by the growing number of students registering from the outside districts for higher education—increases that levy from 1.25 to 1.7 this year.

Added the state and county levies, the high school tuition tax brings the levy up to 18.6 mills this year in all districts outside of La Grande, North Powder, Union, Imbler and Elgin.

Last year the total levy was 18.55 mills for the non-high school districts.

MASONS ELECT, INSTALL HEADS LAST EVENING

At the annual meeting last night of La Grande lodge No. 41, A. F. and A. M. officers for the year 1925 were elected and installed.

The following is the personnel of the lodge: W. H. Richardson, w. m.; J. A. Tedford, m. m.; J. A. Tedford, w. m.; J. A. Tedford, m. m.

Every store in La Grande will be open until 11:30 o'clock Thursday evening, December 24, for the benefit of those who are late in completing their Christmas shopping.

Furniture and hardware stores and other places where toys may be purchased plan to leave their doors open to the public until that hour every evening next week.

Most of the stores of the city have added additional salesmen and women to help take care of the many shoppers during the holiday season.

Following its usual custom, the Observer will not issue a paper Christmas day.

Two Become American Citizens Here Today

With simple but impressive ceremony, the rights of American citizenship were bestowed this morning upon two La Grande residents of foreign birth.

Judge Knowles was assisted in the appointment by Superintendent E. A. Sayre, while teachers anchored in the courtroom for the state teachers' examinations looked on as interested spectators. Yesterday at Enterprise, the judge said, teachers participated in the examination of applicants for second papers.

First to have citizenship conferred upon him was Fred Swanson, a tailor. Mr. Swanson came to America from Sweden 40 years ago.

John C. Logan, who left his home in Greece in 1905, succeeded at his second attempt to pass the examinations.

Chamber of Commerce Plans Xmas Luncheon

In keeping with its custom, the chamber of commerce has set aside the last Tuesday before Christmas for its annual program. Earl Stoddard has the affair in charge.

Details of the entertainment will be kept secret until Monday, but it is known that a stack of packages is accumulating for Santa Claus to distribute during the luncheon. La Grande merchants have donated articles for the occasion.

Rock Island Is Being Removed from River

Under the direction of S. B. Morrison, county engineer, workmen are removing a small rock island from the Grande Ronde river below the Elmhurst overhead crossing and deepening the channel at that point to give the surrounding country better drainage.

The work, which the engineer estimates will cost about \$1000, is financed by a drainage fund appropriated by the county.

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Arrested



Michael Enright of Campbell, N. Y., brother of Police Commissioner Richard E. Enright of New York City is being held in jail at Bath, N. Y., pending arraignment on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the death of Timothy Shay, farm hand. Officials charge Enright, who was running his brother's farm, killed Shay with an ax during a drunken quarrel. He maintains his innocence.

CHORUS WILL GIVE CANTATA

A Christmas cantata entitled "Holy Night," with music by Ashford, will be sung in the Presbyterian church tomorrow night, commencing at 7:30 o'clock.

The general public is most heartily welcomed with the suggestion that they come early to get seats, states the Rev. William Crosby Ross.

A chorus of 50 voices will render this sacred music under the direction of Mrs. A. L. Richardson, with Mrs. J. A. Tedford at the organ.

The following is the personnel of the soloists and chorus:

Mrs. Ray Miller, soprano; Miss Adelaide Ruth Clark, soprano; Mrs. W. H. Bohlenkamp Jr., contralto; G. L. Dutton, tenor; R. O. Williams, baritone; E. D. Fowler, bass.

Soprano—Mrs. E. N. Ashby, Mrs. L. C. Bowser, Mrs. L. L. Busby, Miss Cora Baker, Miss Adelaide Ruth Clark, Miss Goldie Isabelle Miller, Mrs. L. F. Dunn, Mrs. Ray Miller, Miss Bess Gehl, Mrs. Sam Harris, Mrs. Evelyn Hershaw, Mrs. Edith Helin, Mrs. L. J. Lindquist, Mrs. A. V. Lindgren, Mrs. L. B. Mac, Mrs. Ray Murphy, Mrs. Oscar Pouch, Mrs. George Richardson and Mrs. Earl Reynolds.

Altos—Mrs. W. H. Bohlenkamp Jr., Mrs. G. B. Claycomb, Miss Dorothy Funk, Mrs. E. L. Holmes, Mrs. J. L. Harvey, Miss La Rue Banks, Mrs. Andrew Lacey, Mrs. Robert Newlin, Mrs. W. J. Nowell.

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Club to Have XMAS PROGRAM

Men of varying ages—mostly men of middle age—are going to revert back to the "good days when all of them were kids" tomorrow morning at 9:15 o'clock when the Men's Forum of the Methodist church will hold its annual Christmas tree exercises.

Santa Claus is scheduled to rig up the tree tonight and all members and special guests will be remembered him.

After the "congratulations" have been exchanged, the members will sing Christmas anthems and frolic.

To Clean Up The Dolls

In order to dispose of the balance of the dolls on hand before Christmas the Observer is making a special doll offer—good until December 24th—a beautiful Floppy Flirt doll free to anyone turning in a renewal subscription for one year in advance and one new subscription for a year.

For any one who hasn't secured a doll yet, this special offer will have immediate appeal. You may turn in your own renewal and get only one new subscriber and win the doll at once. Only about 24 are left and they should all be given out FREE in the next few days. Get busy—don't wait until it's a hurry. Immediate delivery of dolls.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service."

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DISCUSSION IS CLOTHED IN SECRECY

Col. House Visits Coolidge and Kellogg But Won't Comment

ARRIVAL CAUSES GENERAL FLUTTER

Observers Link Conferences with League of Nations' Disarmament Invitation.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Colonel E. M. House, for years President Wilson's confidante, and appointed by him as a member of the Versailles Peace commission, is the house guest of President Coolidge at the white house.

The colonel arrived here last night and went immediately to the white house. Today he visited Secretary Kellogg.

His sudden appearance at a time when the president and secretary of state are seeking advice on the league of nations' invitation to participate in a disarmament meeting, caused a flutter in Washington.

White house officials professed ignorance of any special significance which might attach to House's visit, and the state department declined to disclose what had been discussed with Secretary Kellogg. Colonel House also declined to comment.

RUSSIA ACCEPTS. MOSCOW (By the Associated Press)—Soviet Russia will accept the league of nations' invitation to participate in an international disarmament conference as well as a world economic conference.

Many Prizes Offered For Lone Tree Shoot

Almost unlimited are the prizes that the Wing, Flu and Fleedfoot club has provided for the holiday shoot Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, in the shooting house at the Lone Tree field.

There will be orders for dressed birds and orders for merchandise, and the number will depend only on the persistence of the contestants.

Rifles, shotguns and other means of competition will be permitted, the club officials announce.

In January, the twentieth or thereabouts, the club will have its annual venison feed. L. R. Hannefeld is chairman of the committee in charge. The affair will take place in the basement of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Clyde Bloom Pleads Not Guilty to Charge

Clyde Bloom entered a plea of not guilty to the charge of illegal possession of mash this morning in Judge Hugh E. Brady's court. The judge named Saturday, Jan. 2, at 9:30 o'clock as the time for the hearing, which, according to the district attorney, will be but a preliminary one. Bloom's case will be tried in either the circuit or the federal court.

Wallowa Budget Passed As Originally Drafted

WALLOWA, Ore. (Special)—The county budget has been approved as originally prepared, except that the state tax item was reduced from the estimated \$87,000 to the actual \$80,000. The amount to be raised by taxation is thus placed at \$255,000, which is to be compared with \$171,000 last year, \$295,000 in 1923 and \$255,000 in 1922.

Oregon Wool Growers To Meet in Pendleton

PENDLETON, Ore. (Special)—Preparations for the 25th annual convention of the Oregon Wool Growers association, which will be held here January 21-23, inclusive, are now being made, according to Mac Hoke, secretary.

The Pendleton convention will follow the National association's convention in Boise, January, 13-20, inclusive.

Alabama Eleven Starts Long Trip to Pasadena

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (By the Associated Press)—With every man in the pink of condition, the University of Alabama football eleven, will entrain today for its long trek to Pasadena where the Crimson tide meets Washington university's Purple Tornado on New Year's day.

New Ban Put On Whiskey, Rum and Gin

Treasury Rules Against Use in Manufacturing Medicines or Flavors After February 1.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The use of whiskey, brandy, rum or gin after next February 1 in the manufacture of medicinal preparations of flavoring extracts and syrups was forbidden today by a treasury order.

Alcohol and wines can be used instead for the purposes named. The order will not effect the use of whiskey, brandy, or other distilled spirits by druggists in filling prescriptions by physicians.

IDAHO COMPANY ACQUIRES JOSEPH MARBLE DEPOSITS

JOSEPH, Ore. (Special)—A deal of much importance to Walla-walla county was consummated this week when the Idaho Marble company, of Lewiston, acquired the black marble deposits northwest of Joseph from the Black Marble and Lime company. H. J. Kressly and A. J. Warren, manager and engineer respectively of the Idaho firm, have been in Joseph several days conferring with J. Ross LeVie, who gave them a 60-day option a couple of months ago, and finally closed the deal at the last minute.

At this time the new owners are unable to give definite statement regarding their plans for development.

REHEARING IS DENIED FALL

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The District of Columbia court of appeals today refused to reconsider its decision holding the bribery indictments against former Secretary of the Interior Fall, E. L. Doherty, and E. L. Doherty Jr., to be valid.

The indictments, which arise from the naval oil leases, were quashed by a lower court but the government appealed and the court of appeals overruled the lower court.

Fal and the Dohertys asked a rehearing, which was refused today.

MONUMENT TO EVE ERECTED

GREENVILLE, S. Car. (By the Associated Press)—Robert Quillan, noted newspaper paragrapher and humorist, has erected a monument in the front yard of his home here to Eve, the first woman.

The monument, which Quillan says is the first that mankind has erected to Eve after 6000 years, bears the inscription: "In memory of Eve, first woman."

Quillan had a nicely carved apple with a twig and leaf placed below the inscription.

Feng's Forces Whipped On Yang Tsun Front

LONDON (By the Associated Press)—The forces of General Feng Yu Hsiang, leader of the national people's army, are declared to have been defeated by General Li Ching Ling, governor of the Chihli province, in a battle on the Yang Tsun front. Feng's losses are said to have been serious.

Appropriation Bill Reported to House

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The first big appropriation bill of the year—that for the treasury and postoffice departments—was reported to the house Friday, calling for increased expenditures of \$102,942,000 over the total allowed these establishments in last year's allotments. The amount, \$87,852,000, is \$4,600,000 below the budget estimate.

A large part of the increase is for the postal service to meet increased salaries and to handle a greater amount of mail.

Mrs. Ponzi Hits The Keys



Here is the first picture taken of Mrs. Charles Ponzi since the days years ago when she lived in luxury while her husband was a millionaire. She is now living with him in a small furnished room in Jacksonville, Fla., acting as his secretary and typing letters for him on a rented typewriter.

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BERGAL DESTROYED

ROME (AP)—In reprisal for the killing of two Italian officers and one artilleryman by the forces of Sultan Osman Masud, in battles near the Italian border, have destroyed the village of Bergal, which was the capital. Warships are blockading the entire coast.

KLAMATH GETS SNOW

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (AP)—Two inches of snow fell here last night giving promise of a white Christmas.

FARM RELIEF PLANS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Plans for early congressional action on farm legislation were made early today at a white house conference attended by President Coolidge, Secretary Jardine, Senator McNary, of Oregon, and Representative Timmer, of Kansas, both Republicans.

It was announced that a cooperative marketing bill worked out by the department of agriculture in cooperation with farm leaders would be introduced before Christmas and rushed to passage early in the year.

OPPOSES PROHIBITION

WASHINGTON (AP)—Representative Vane, Republican, of Pennsylvania, assailed the Volstead act in the house today as an unworkable law. "People don't want to be bone dry," he said.

BEND MAN KILLS SELF

BEND, Ore.—Twenty-four hours after Andrew F. Tauscher of Bend left a note telling his wife not to hunt for him he took his own life. Tauscher left the note, but returned home, and after telling his wife he wanted no breakfast, went to the woods and shot himself in the temple.

Dependent upon an injury received several months ago and ill health was the cause of suicide, a coroner's jury determined. Tauscher is survived by his widow and several brothers. One of his brothers is Albert Tauscher, assistant physical director of the Multnomah Amateur Athletic club.

New Ambassador To U.S. Learns English Language

PARIS (By the Associated Press)—Since Senator Victor Henry Borner was appointed ambassador to the United States he has become one of the most inaccessible men in France and until recently there was something of a mystery about it. Callers at his home were always told that he was in the country, but he was not known where he was. Officers of newspaper to which he is a regular contributor said his whereabouts were unknown.

Finally one of the new ambassador's political friends threw light on the mystery. "He is studying English as hard as he can at a school of languages," this friend said.

The first volume of Raymond Poincaré's memoirs is to be published next February and will deal with the policy of France during

SENTENCE IS CLASSED AS 'INSULT'

Arkansas Representative Airs Views on the Mitchell Case Today

POSTPONE ACTION ON DEBT FUNDING

House Committee Asks Secretary Mellon for Data and Recesses Until January 4.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—The Mitchell court martial case came to the floor of the house today for the first time when Representative Tillman, Democrat, of Arkansas, charged that the court was organized to "get the colonel" and that its verdict "insults free America."

"I call upon," said the president of this justice-loving nation to mitigate or quash this harsh sentence," he said.

Tillman declared the court's verdict suspending Mitchell for years is shameless and unusually cruel.

ACTION POSTPONED

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Action on the war debt funding settlement negotiated during the summer, including those with Italy and Belgium, were postponed today by the house ways and means committee, pending a hearing.

The committee which must approve the agreements before they are submitted to the house called upon Secretary Mellon to submit certain data and then recessed until January 4 when Mellon will be heard.

While the step is unusual, Mellon declared it is not indicative of any change in the committee's attitude.

RESOLUTION MOVED UP

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—A resolution calling for an investigation of alleged manipulation of crude rubber prices by the British colonial governments was given preferred status today on the house legislative program.

OFFICIAL AXE CUTS BUDGET

VALE, Ore. (Special).—The levying board and county court of Malheur county, consisting of Judge H. Lee Noy, Commissioner C. H. Oxman and J. D. Fairman, has swung the official axe, cutting \$36,000 from the estimate submitted and proposed by the budget committee for expense of county government for 1926.

However, this reduction is only a part of the real story, as \$50,000 was about the amount that had to be taken from the proposed budget in order to comply with the requirements of the 6 percent limitation law. Under this constitutional amendment, the budget cannot be raised more than 6 percent over the budget of the preceding year.

One of the main topics of discussion since the proposed budget was published, in November, was the continuance of the county agent's office and boys' and girls' club leader. Many farmers of the county favored the office, but no way could be found clear to meet its expense. Consequently the at-

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