

NEW SCALE OF WAGES IS ADOPTED

Bowman-Hicks Lumber Co. Will Pay-Common Labor More

NEW MINIMUM TO BE 40c AN HOUR

Raise Will Become Effective First Day of January, Officials Announce.

A new wage scale, with the minimum wage 40 cents an hour, has been adopted by the Bowman-Hicks Lumber company, effective January 1, it is announced today.

Yesterday notice of the raise was sent to the Canadian P. B. A. M. members with instructions to notify the men working under them.

Along the new scale, the company extends holiday greetings to its employees. "While there is no subtraction in the figures showing the results of our operation for the year just closing, in looking back we always find something to make us happy and thankful," the greeting, signed by H. N. Ashby, general western manager, and Dan R. Turner, general superintendent, reads.

"One of the greatest sources of our happiness during this Christmas season is the feeling that results from the increased loyalty and earnestness of our organization as shown by your splendid efforts and co-operation during 1925. We are also happy in the thought that notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions, we have been able to provide steady and continuous employment for you throughout the year. . . you have our best wishes for a very joyful Christmas and a happy New Year."

Raise Fully Explained The bulletin presented to foremen in connection with the raise in wages follows:

"The attached time sheets will show the new wage rates to be effective January 1, applying to men in your departments. This has the effect of increasing our minimum wages to 40 cents an hour also. We are also happy to advance the men in the first bracket above common labor so as to maintain about the same differences as heretofore existed.

You foremen handling these departments fully realize the result from our operation during the years 1924 has not been such as

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CHORUS WILL SING CAROLS

The Monday Musical chorus combined with the high school girls' chorus will sing Christmas carols tomorrow evening at six o'clock in the downtown district. After several carols in the business section of the city they will go to the Grande Hotel hospital and sing for those who are sick and unable to be out for Christmas.

From the hospital they will go to the depot in time for train No. 23, where they will finish their program. Earl Stoddard and Miss Isabelle Miller are directing the carols.

Members of the Monday Musical chorus and the girls' clubs will meet for a short rehearsal this evening at 7 o'clock in the Neighborhood club rooms.

Decisions Given On Two Wallowa County Cases

Two Wallowa county cases attempting to set aside the will and two property deeds executed by the late Cornelius Allen of Wallowa were decided in the defendant's favor by a decree of the supreme court issued yesterday.

Mr. Allen, possessed of considerable property in Wallowa county, had seven children. Before his death he devised ranches to two of his sons and made a will bequeathing five dollars to each child and all his remaining possessions to his wife. The five children thus deprived of what they considered their rightful inheritance, sought to set aside both deeds and will on the grounds that their father was mentally incompetent and unduly influenced.

Green & Hoss of La Grande represented the plaintiffs. The will case, beginning in the probate court, was appealed to the

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Rev. Riley



The Rev. Oliver Riley, who comes to La Grande as rector of the St. Peter's Episcopal church. His first service will be held Sunday morning, January 3. Mr. Riley has a very favorable record and comes to this city from Pierre, South Dakota.

PASTOR TAKES PULPIT JAN. 3

The first service in the St. Peter's Episcopal church will be held Sunday morning, January 3, at 10 o'clock. The new rector, who with his wife will come here in the near future, was born of Scotch-Irish parentage and is possessed of a pleasing personality. He is a graduate from St. John's college and St. Chad's seminary, and has a wide and varied career. He served in various countries, including Canada and Central America. He comes directly from Pierre, South Dakota where he was rector of the Episcopal church for four years and chaplain to both the American Legion and the South Dakota legislature.

Mr. Riley was most district commissioner of the boy scout organization, a member of the Kiwanis club and fraternally, he is identified with the Eastern Star, and is also a 32nd degree Mason and past master, P. P. D. G. M. R. G. given to foremen in all departments. He served overseas as captain in the Canadian Expeditionary forces in the World War.

A. G. S. Will Give Aid To Needy in La Grande

Among the many organizations which are aiding the needy people of the city during the holidays the Associated Girl Students of the La Grande high school are doing their share. The A. G. S. serves committees, sponsored by Miss Vernon, with Miss Matt Gore as chairman, has requested the girls to bring donations.

A considerable amount of food and clothing has been gathered together and plans are now being made for its distribution. Many toys have also been donated by the girls.

Chinamen Arrested for Punching Each Other

Harry Fong and Lem Sing, Chinamen, were arrested yesterday for punching each other in the downtown district. They live in American homes and have adopted some of the customs of Americans, including the gentle art of fistfights.

But that one American weakness—that of the fighting—got both of the yellow men in hot. They had an altercation yesterday and decided to settle it with bare knuckles—but the police interfered. Both pleaded down \$25 in American money as bonds.

Masonic Heads Grant Petition From Baker

Permission to form a council in Baker was granted in response to a petition when Royal and Select Masters, A. E. and A. M. of Oregon, Council No. 5, held their regular meeting at Union Saturday.

The Baker council will work under a dispensation until the grand council of the state sees fit to grant the members a charter.

The Union meeting began with a 4:20 o'clock dinner at the Union hotel, with La Grande and Baker members in attendance. Selection and installation of officers for the coming year followed.

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Chang Wins Back Ground At Sinminfu

Manchurian Dictator Is Credited with Important Victory by Conflicting Dispatches.

TOKIO (By the Associated Press)—Vernacular newspapers and war-office advices from Mukden today said that Marshal Chang Tso-Lin, Manchurian dictator, has defeated General Kuo Sung-Lin, leader of the national people's army, and has occupied Pailipu and other positions near Sinminfu.

The advices are somewhat conflicting but indicate that Chang obtained a decisive victory.

TRAIN FIRED UPON

PEKING (By the Associated Press)—The international train running from Tientsin to Shanghai was fired upon at Hsinsho yesterday by troops of the national people's army, and was compelled to return to Tientsin, according to wireless messages.

There is no confirmation of the reports that these forces have captured Peipsiang and Tientsin.

POTTER KAYOS MEIR IN FIFTH

HOW BOUTS ENDED. Coleman wins by decision from Dana, four rounds. Ford defeats Caldwell in four rounds. Davis-Harlow fight thrown out in fourth by referee. Johnson and Becker fight to six-round draw. Potter kayos Meir in fifth round.

A snappy, speedy fight card, with the climax in the form of a clean-cut knockout, featured the fight mix here in L. O. O. F. temple last night between the E. P. A. C. of Huntington and the La Grande Athletic club.

Action was plentiful from the start and although the third preliminary was thrown out by referee O. D. Scott, the other four fights furnished excitement enough to satiate the fans' appetite for awhile.

In the main event Ace Potter, 145-pound leather pusher from Weiser, decided the card had gone long enough by the time the fifth round arrived and cut the argument short with a well-placed right to his opponent's jaw—and Meir kissed the canvas with a resounding smack. To stay put in the arena, a blanket of snow was used.

In the curtain raiser Coleman came out of it in the second and gained some superiority. He continued in the third, punishing Dana. The latter attempted to come back in the fourth but it fell short and the bout ended with Dana groggy and bespattered with gore. Just before the gong Dana sidestepped into the ropes.

Ford defeated Caldwell in his fight with a snarling countenance, and didn't believe his good nature by falling behind in the first round. In the second Ford punched the kid from Weiser considerable, bringing blood. A Caldwell rally failed to stay off the onslaught. The third and fourth were positive proof of Ford's leadership although the affair wound up with both taking and receiving, the result was without question.

Harlow and Davis fought the first and third even but the former gained some advantage in the second. At the opening of the third the fight was thrown off the card and the stage set for the semifinal.

Although Johnson outweighed Becker 11 pounds, the weight advantage went for naught. Becker stopped Johnson's bull-horn rushes in the first but the second frame fought honors even. The third and fourth ended even but Becker swung further into the lead in the fifth with a fusillade of blows. Johnson led his opponent

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GEN. BUTLER FIRED BY KENDRICK

Director of Public Safety Formally Dismissed at Noon Today

MOVE RESULT OF REFUSAL TO QUIT

"Well, I'm Out, the Mayor Has Fired Me," Butler Comments When Informed of Action.

PHILADELPHIA (By the Associated Press)—Mayor Kendrick today formally dismissed General Butler as director of public safety, effective at noon.

The formal dismissal came as a result of the director's refusal to resign as requested by Kendrick. Butler earlier announced he would leave his office today as "under suspension" and that the mayor would have to "fire" him.

"Well, I'm out, the mayor has fired me. Now we can shoot me now. I'm a free man," Butler exclaimed when notified of his dismissal.

Butler, before leaving the office, fired a volley at Kendrick in a letter accusing the mayor of lack of moral courage in "enforcing" the liquor law against larger hotels.

He made public correspondence in which he had urged the mayor to take action against these places.

After Butler left the city hall amid the cheers of a thousand persons Mayor Kendrick appealed to the citizens to help him enforce the law. He declared his friends would obey the laws and that others must. Assistant Director George W. Ellett, who had strongly supported Butler in his campaign here, succeeded the general.

PROHI AGENTS HEAR WARNING

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Prohibition agents were warned today that "reckless and unjustifiable expenditures" during their work in the future would cause their dismissal from the service.

Prompted by the recent case in which an agent expended nearly \$1,000, Assistant Secretary A. Brown declared money for tracing bootleggers must be used intelligently and economically and "never without complete justification."

WHITE YULETIDE FOR MOST PARTS OF U. S. FORESEEN

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—A bright Christmas with normal temperatures is looked for by the weather bureau for most sections of the country.

A white Christmas over all northern sections except near the coast, with a blanket of snow covering the interior between the Appalachians and the Pacific, is predicted.

Fire Takes Toll of Nine Lives In Bellaire

BELLAIRE, O. (By the Associated Press)—Fire, believed to have started when a fall of coal short circuited electric light lines, took a toll of nine lives at the Webster mine at Shadydale, a few miles south of here last night.

Two other miners are in serious condition suffering from shock and gas.

Planning A Bigger Year

The business man who is constantly progressing and is intent on making each year better than the last is already planning his advertising for 1926—putting aside an appropriation that will permit him to keep in close touch with you, the buyer, to tell you of his business and how he can serve you best.

He realizes that through The Observer he reaches the greatest number of prospective customers at the smallest cost of any method available to him. He appreciates the constantly growing circulation of The Observer. It is the most efficient publicity means he can hope to have. It will help make a bigger and better year for him in 1926.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service."

Churches To Celebrate Christmas

Pageants, Recitations, Trees and Candy to Spread Spirit of Day Among La Granders.

Christmas eve will be church night in La Grande. Almost every congregation in the city has planned a program to commemorate that night, 2000 years ago, when an angel sang out the tidings of "Peace on earth, good will toward men."

Pageants by the grownups, recitations and dialogues by the tiny tots and solemn masses by two robed choirs will tell the glad story of the first Christmas and the gift of Salvation to all men everywhere.

And after the programs, there will be Christmas trees to shed their treats of candy for good little folk.

One of the most elaborate festivals honoring the holy eve will be given at the Zion Lutheran church, at 7 o'clock. The children of the Sunday school will take part in a pantomime interpreting "A Christmas Story" to be told by a reader, Miss Genevieve Nelson. "The Incense Burner" will illustrate the power of prayer, ascending the throne of God.

Mrs. William H. Holl, wife of the pastor, is in charge.

At the Baptist church, there will be a program featuring pantomimes and a tableau of the manger scene and the coming of shepherds and wise men to Bethlehem. Candy for the children will be distributed from the tree. The observance is under direction of Mrs. C. L. Wallace.

"The Nativity" is the title of a tableau that will be presented by the older Sunday school students at the First M. E. church, following a group of Christmas exercises by the primary department. The choir will sing carols during the performance. After the program, treats will be distributed from the tree. In charge of the preparations are Mrs. Vera Vuletich, Mrs. A. E. Kluman and Mrs. H. W. Parker.

Christmas eve in the Presbyterian church will be celebrated with a miscellaneous program, beginning at 7:15 o'clock. Mrs. Lynn Wright, superintendent, has directed the rehearsal of a holy pageant as the climactic number. Santa will visit the congregation to pass treats from the tree.

In Our Lady of the Valley Catholic church, midnight mass will be conducted, the choir singing Levee's "Mass in F." Mrs. McNamee is choir director. Rev. Father Nooy announces services for 8 o'clock and 8:20 Christmas morning.

The Episcopal church will have two Christmas eve services: one by the little folk at 7:20, with Bishop Remington, of Pendleton, addressing them, and a midnight communion service at 11 p. m., with the bishop in charge. The offering at the latter gathering will go to support the church program.

Songs, recitations and exercises by the Sunday school will make up the program that will be offered at the Church of the Nazarene at 7:20 o'clock.

A Sunday school Christmas tree and a program are scheduled at the South Methodist church, beginning at 7 o'clock.

Senior Christian Endeavorers will entertain some of the younger people of the Christian church at a social affair Christmas eve. The parish had its tree and program for the primary pupils last Sunday morning.

FISHING BOATS MISSING. TOKIO (By the Associated Press)—Twenty fishing boats containing 150 fishermen are missing in a storm which struck Northern Japan, yesterday. A number of houses were wrecked and 40 vessels captured.

ILLNESS STOPS WEDDING. SHERBORN, Ore.—A wedding that was to have taken place Sunday was indefinitely postponed, and the bride-groom-elect hurried to a Portland hospital when he was taken suddenly ill with appendicitis.

All arrangements had been made for the marriage of Miss Bess Ayre to C. O. Taylor of Reedsport at the bride's home here. Invitations had to be recalled and Miss Ayre left for Portland to be at the bedside of her affianced.

Violinist Plays While Wife Is Cold in Death

STOUCHEVILLE, Iowa (By the Associated Press)—One of life's tragic tales ended before an unsuspecting audience at a theater last night as they listened to J. Rimoldo, billed as the "wandering violinist."

Just before Rimoldo took the stage, an usher brought him a telegram telling of the death of his wife in Pasadena. A moment later he was before the audience smiling and beginning the first strains of his Violin solo.

Champion Milk Maid



A year ago Miss Julia Spenker, Modesto, Cal., high school student, aspired to be the champion milk maid of the Pacific coast. She lost. She practiced milking ten cows twice a day. This year she won the title at the Pacific Slope Dairy show in Oakland, Cal., when she drew 5 6-10ths pounds of milk in less than two minutes.

HOT LAKE TO GREET SANTA

HOT LAKE, (Special)—The Christmas-tide spirit has been swept over Hot Lake. From the kitchen where the chefs are busy planning a dinner of surprises for the day of the twenty-fifth to the hospital where the nurses spend "hours off" decorating trees for each patient the holiday spirit has pervaded the sanatorium.

More than 50 employees, armed with greens, wreaths, bells, poinsettias and the other symbols of Christmas, made rapid work Tuesday night of converting the grill and cafeteria into appropriate festive rooms.

The new stand and such trees for the hospital are not finished for the hall room, while this afternoon, when the house is entirely finished, camp fire girls from Union are to carol in the halls.

Not only employees but all patients who were able have helped in the decorating. The men's ward have "manufactured" string after string of cranberries; but it was a noticeable fact that more felt well enough to assist when it was time to string popcorn.

Country Club Dance Will End Organization

The last dance to be given by the La Grande Country club will be in the form of a New Year's party and will take place December 31. The country club has been sold and the new owners will take possession the first of the new year. The committee in charge of the dance is preparing to make the last social affair at the club house the most enjoyable.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Holmes are general chairmen. The other committee members are: Mr. and Mrs. August Stange, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Larson, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. O'Brien, Mrs. A. Polack, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fitzgerald, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Stoddard, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Coolidge, Marcus Roesch, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Hoss, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Roesch, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Colburn, Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Appley, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Halston, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Ellis, Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Rigger, Mr. and Mrs. John Thomsen, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Aidmet Dayie, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gilbert, Waldo Stoddard and Tex Knight.

Three Children Slain In Xmas Party Panic

ERIE, Pa. (By the Associated Press)—Three children were trampled to death here late Tuesday in a panic which resulted from the collapse of seats at an outdoor Christmas observance.

William Wagner, 5, Ellen Rickards, 9, and an unidentified boy, about 9, are dead and seven children are in a hospital, one being reported in a serious condition.

Approximately 5000 children were in the closed arena when a bench upon which some of them were standing broke. The children screamed as they fell to the floor and this was the signal for a general panic.

Fertile Valley Of West May Revert To a Desert

BISHOP, Cal. (By the Associated Press)—Owens valley, cradled on the eastern slope of the high Sierra, once a fertile productive region where cattle roamed, its grassy floor and fruits and grains grew in abundance, is threatened with return to the desert wastes from which hardy pioneers reclaimed it more than half a century ago.

Water, the perennial point of controversy in the west, formerly flowed through Owens valley between the banks of the Owens river and into canals and ditches dug by the early settlers to irrigate the fields and orchards. Now it has been diverted into the Los Angeles aqueduct to supply the needs of the city, 225 miles southward.

Citizens of the valley declare the city used arbitrary methods to get the water, when, in 1913, an agent alleged to have been disguised as a federal official, entered the region and made filings along the Owens river for some 40 miles. His filings included storage rights which the valley people had given back to the government in exchange for what they understood to be a project to reclaim 150,000 acres of the desert stretches.

The agent, they say, later proved to be employed by the city of Los Angeles. Instead of the reclamation project, the city announced

EXPECT U. S. TO JOIN IN DISCUSSION

League of Nations' Disarmament Invitation May Be Accepted

KELLOGG, BORAH VISIT PRESIDENT

Senator from Idaho Declares He Is in Accord with Coolidge's Views But Won't Talk.

WASHINGTON (By the Associated Press)—Developments here today pointed with increasing definiteness to American participation in preliminary league of nations disarmament discussions if a feasible way can be found.

Both Secretary Kellogg and Chairman Borah, of the senate foreign relation committee, conferred with President Coolidge and there were indications that a decision had virtually been reached, although the American reply to the league's invitation will not be forwarded until after the holidays.

Borah, after leaving the White House, said he is in full accord with the president's views, but he did not indicate definitely what those views were.

In some quarters it is suggested that congress probably will be asked to express its opinion on the subject.

Later it was revealed that Coolidge had progressed so far that he has asked congressional leaders whether an appropriation will be necessary to send representatives to the league conference.

STORM LEAVES DEAD IN PATH

PARIS (By Associated Press).—A tempest continues to howl in France, leaving death and destruction in its path.

Nine passengers were drowned in the Seine last night when a ferry boat capsized.

Paris is now almost completely cut off by telegraph from the outside world. There is only one line working—with Switzerland, Belgium and England. There is no communication with Germany or Italy.

Owing to prostration of wire facilities the full extent of the havoc wrought throughout the country is not known.

Good Samaritan Robbed

CASCADE LOCKS, Ore.—Because Nick Nickols of Stevenson, Wash., was charitable enough to take a hungry, ragged stranger into his home and give him food, clothing and a bed for the night he is the loser of \$29 in money besides the food and clothing and has lost faith in human nature.

During the night the man searched the house, found \$29 in bills, took it and departed.

More Shopping Day

Mr. Allen, possessed of considerable property in Wallowa county, had seven children. Before his death he devised ranches to two of his sons and made a will bequeathing five dollars to each child and all his remaining possessions to his wife. The five children thus deprived of what they considered their rightful inheritance, sought to set aside both deeds and will on the grounds that their father was mentally incompetent and unduly influenced.

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