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GUARD UNIT
PRAISED BY
SPEAKERSCompany Has Shown a
Improvement of Late,
Major Huron SaysNO LONGER SECOND
LINE OF DEFENSECaptain Ely Explains the
Workings of National
Organization at Cham-
ber of Commerce Meet.

Drake was given the local company of the Oregon National guard today in generous quantities by speakers who appeared before the chamber of commerce luncheon in the Eagles hall. Several officers were in attendance and the general spirit exhibited was one of pride and faith in Company E.

"Every community that has a guard owes it its unqualified support," Captain Ely, of the regular army, who is now stationed in La Grande, declared. "It is by training alone in times of peace that we can hope to avert such disasters as took place at the beginning of all major wars. If we must have the good service we must have the strength to protect it because goodness cannot live unless it is strong."

He pointed out that the guardsmen over all the nation are now listed with the regular army in the first line of defense, saying that the organization is "no longer in the second line of defense."

During his address, the captain touched upon several phases of guard work, including discipline, which he vigorously defended as being the great fundamental factor in successful army life.

He told of the deplorable results

ADmits GUILT
BEFORE JUDGE

William Johnson, a transient, answered guiltily to a grand jury indictment of possession of hash, read to him by the district attorney before Judge J. W. Knowles during a brief interruption of Mrs. Mary Welfon's case against the M. Emily Lumber company in circuit court this morning.

Judge Knowles commanded the prisoner to appear before him at 10:30 a. m. Thursday for sentence. Johnson was arrested January 25 by George M. Pierce.

The jury in Mrs. Welfon's case retired shortly after noon.

E. C. Gillingham, chairman of the Sloan Construction company, of Spokane, was the next up, when court convened this afternoon. Gillingham asks remuneration for work he says he did on the construction company's road machinery, automobile and crusher, and for gasoline and other supplies he furnished them. Jesse Crum, of Elgin, is the plaintiff's attorney. The Spokane company is represented by Green & Hess.

Dayville and Wallowa
Will Enter TournamentBuyers
Come In
Every Day

Merchandise sales are no longer seasonal in any great volume. The goods sold by any La Grande merchant are bought by some one every day in the business year—and are used every day in the year. It is that constant use and constant need on your part that convinces the business man that you are interested every day in his goods or services. He can therefore profitably give you advertising space of his business every day and every week of the year. As his rent is an investment in location, so is his advertising budget an investment in customer contact. The observer's low reader cost makes it particularly effective. "Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service."

Peddler Is
Richer But
Not VictimsOregon Retail Merchants'
Association Seeking C.
Kerr, Who Took Or-
ders Here.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of C. Kerr, ex-foot of blind peddler, weighing about 165 pounds, who in December, is alleged to have swindled five La Grande filling station men—and he probably had other victims—out of \$15 supposedly in down payments on coveralls of indestructible material?

The Oregon Retail Merchants' association is looking for him. Kerr visited La Grande December 14. He called on at least one of the leading service stations, and represented himself as an agent of the Universal Clothing Manufacturers of Chicago. Very patently he measured his customers for indestructible coveralls.

The peddler was a personable fellow, and the talk he recited was fairly convincing. He made indestructible coveralls sound like an indispensable part of a station attendant's equipment. Three of the men decided to take advantage of his offer, and paid the peddler the \$15 per cent down payment that he demanded—\$2.25 on each of the four \$5.75 garments that they ordered. The remainder of the cost the patrons were to pay cash-on-delivery.

Due to the Christmas rush, the higgler said, delivery could not be made until after the first of the year.

Came January, and no coveralls. By the end of the month, the victims began to grow suspicious. They wired the Universal Clothing Manufacturers to speed up the delivery.

But the Manufacturers only "regretted exceedingly the unfavorable occurrence which was beyond their control."

"We have no salesman by the name of Kerr, but have received numerous complaints from his victims," advised the company. "We do not make coveralls, nor did we receive such orders as you inquire about."

In Kerr the Universal Clothing Manufacturers?

L. H. RUSSELL IS
MADE RAJAH OF
MYSTIC SHRINE

PORTLAND, Ore. (Special).—L. H. Russell of La Grande has been appointed a rajah in Al Kader temple, Mystic Shrine, of Portland, for 1926, according to an announcement made by Illustrious Potentate Phil Metchen. The position comes as a reward for the services rendered the shrine in the La Grande locality. The principal duty of the rajah during 1926 will be to act as personal representative of Potentate Metchen in all matters pertaining to Al Kader temple in Mr. Russell's district.

Grand Jury Called
In Special Session

Charges of non-support are said to have occasioned the calling of the grand jury in a special session at the court house today. The hearings were expected to reach an end before night. A. W. Nelson is the grand jury chairman.

UNION MAY
OPEN MILL
LONG IDLEWoolen Industry Looked
to as Possible Pay-
roll for CityMAYOR TELLS OF
PROGRESS MADECity Dads Purchase Mill
Site and Old Building,
Which May Be Remod-
eled and Equipped.

UNION, Ore. (Special).—It is possible that the Union Woolen Mill here will again be equipped after the building shall have been repaired and perhaps remodeled, and the plant once more put in operation, if local business men and others succeed in consummating an agreeable arrangement for sale with the proper parties, according to a statement made yesterday by Mayor M. S. Levy.

Following a meeting of the Commercial club held recently it became known that interested parties here were looking for a man or group of men of woolen mill experience with whom a satisfactory deal could be closed.

Business is much better here at present, with the outlook most promising. High hopes are entertained that a payroll of some proportions will be brought to the city through possible reestablishment of the woolen mill here. If the Union folk behind the movement are successful in interesting out-of-town mill men.

City Buys Property. The Union Woolen Mill as formerly operated enjoyed a splendid business. It is pointed out, and the only reason the mill here was closed in the past was due to the sale of the establishment to outside parties, who moved the machinery and business to Washington, Wash., where they already had other interests. Forty-four or 45 men were employed by the company at that time. The city of Union recently acquired the mill site and building with a view to reestablishment of the enterprise, its conditions favorable to the woolen industry are ideal here.

(Continued on Page Five.)

LOCAL STORES
CONSOLIDATE

A business deal has been contemplated here whereby the J. G. Snodgrass grocery store will be consolidated with the Grande Monde Meat company's grocery department, with Mr. Snodgrass in complete charge. The new arrangement will go into effect March 1, and about two weeks later the stock of the Snodgrass grocery store will be moved to the Grande Monde Meat company's store in the main market on Adams avenue. Previous to that time the Snodgrass store will continue to operate in the present location.

"I believe by the consolidation we will be able to serve the public better," Mr. Snodgrass said this morning. "My patrons will be served in the same way as in the past."

Mr. Snodgrass has been in the grocery business in La Grande for the past 19 years. He was employed for six years in a grocery store before going into the business, making a total of 25 years that he has been a grocer in La Grande. He has been in the present location on Depot street for the past four years.

The Grande Monde Meat company is equipped with a modern grocery department, with a first class refrigeration system. The department was instituted last year.

Resolutions Referred
To Game Commission

PORTLAND, Ore. (Special).—Three resolutions, offered by the Wing, Fin and Ploft club of La Grande, one of the newer members, were received here yesterday at the annual meeting of the Oregon Sportsmen's association. The trio was referred to the state game and fish commission for such action as it may see fit to take.

The resolutions follow: Opening the season on bull elks five years of age or more in the Grande Monde watershed opening the season on sage hens in certain localities in Eastern Oregon; permitting the training of hunting dogs during the closed seasons.

EDUCATION
BUREAU IS
ENDORSEDN. E. A. Commission Re-
ports in Favor of Bill
Now in CongressDEPARTMENT HELD
TO BE BASIC NEEDEducators, Meeting in
Washington, Point Out
Necessity of More At-
tention to Schools.

WASHINGTON, (By the Associated Press).—To meet "the nation's most fundamental need" the legislative commission of the National Education association went on record today in favor of a bill before congress creating a department of education with a secretary in the cabinet at its head.

Declaring the American public school is the "backbone of our civil and religious life," the commission's report, submitted to the meeting here of the association's department of superintendents, declared its hearty endorsement of the bill as the means of bringing about coordination of government and educational activities.

GRADE FIVES TO
PLAY FOR TITLE
WEDNESDAY EVE

The basketball championship of the La Grande grade schools will be decided at the final game of the tournament in the high school gymnasium at 7:15 p. m. Wednesday, the date having been advanced a night in order to avoid a conflict with the high school meet at Friday night.

Both River and Central boys are eager with excitement. The Riverside players expect the second game when they took their second game from the billion squad. A pair of wins places the book shows now. The two teams were about equally represented in the all-La Grande team that defeated Union last Friday night, and drew a good deal of confidence from the spectators. Their game tomorrow night is expected to attract many basketball show they have faced during their brief first season.

Ray Lynch will be referee if he is available for the changed date, coach R. F. Hummel announced this morning. While the tournament closes this week, the boys are looking forward to their first out-of-town game in a short time, when they hope to show Union that their progress here was not all due to familiarity with the court.

Status of Countess'
Case Doubtful Today

WASHINGTON (By The Associated Press).—The department of labor admitted it was doubtful if it could meet the case of Vera, countess of Cathcart, Assistant Secretary Bliley, on whom the countess was freed from detention at Ellis Island last Sunday, was on his way here to lay from Rochester, N. Y. Those in charge at the department denied knowledge of the reason for the countess' release, and said they understood Bliley communicated with Secretary Davis in Miami before he ordered the release.

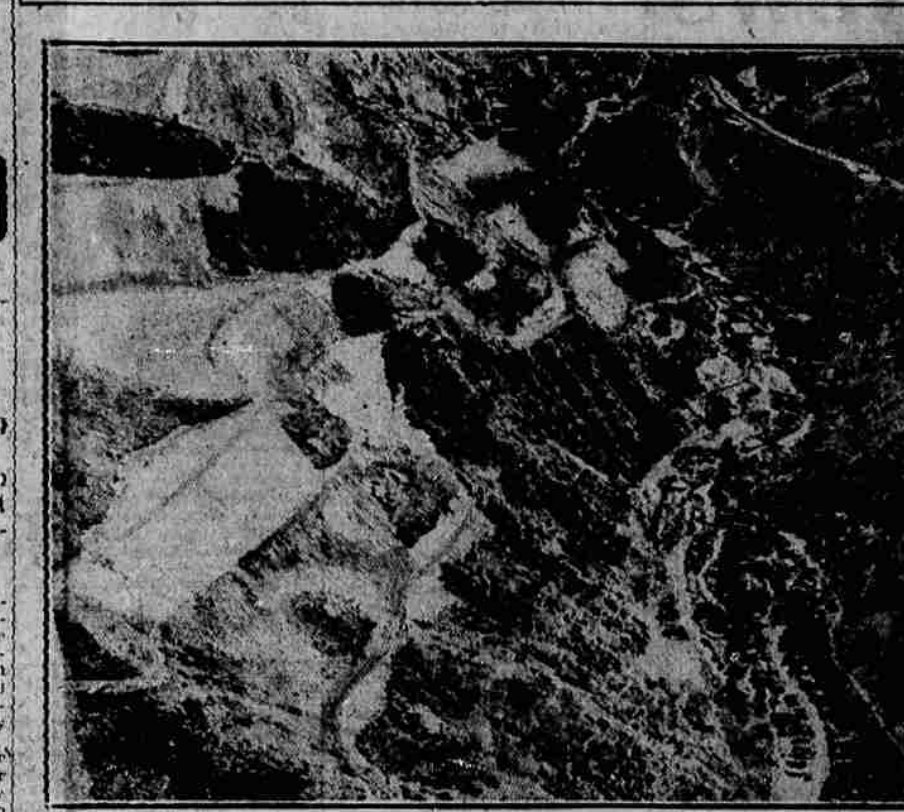
Patriotic Meeting at
Island Well Attended

Thirty young men and boys of the Island City community were entertained at a banquet at the Island City hall last evening under the auspices of the community church. The tables were decorated in red, white and blue honoring George Washington, banquets of pussy willows, tied with American colors, being used. The Rev. Harry Hamilton, district superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal church, was the principal speaker of the evening. Miss Bokland presided as toastmaster and called upon several young men and boys present for short talks.

FURNAL TO BE THURSDAY

Federal services for Lyman E. Longfellow, of Boise, brother of Superintendent J. T. Longfellow of La Grande, will be conducted at 2 p. m. Thursday, according to word received today from the superintendent, who telegraphed from Mountain Home, where his father resides. Mr. and Mrs. Longfellow are expected home Saturday or Sunday.

Where Snow Slide Buried A Town



This is an airplane view of the town of Bingham, Utah, buried by an avalanche of snow that, it is feared, has taken 70 lives. Bingham is known as the narrowest town in the world. At the right its one street can be seen winding through the gorge, while at the left is shown the steep mountainside with drifted snow that slipped down on the town. This picture was taken by Captain A. W. Stevens of the U. S. army air service.

BAND CONCERT
NEXT SUNDAY

The next indoor public band concert will be held in the Arcade theater, next Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. It is announced today by Director Andrew Lowry.

Among the selections that will make up the program will be the always popular descriptive overture "William Tell." Other numbers will be given later this week. Visitors who make frequent visits at the rehearsals of the La Grande band, claim they can see the improvement every week and are of the opinion that the organization is now at its peak. Of late the concerts have attracted bigger crowds than ever before and the same condition is expected to exist Sunday. Mr. Lowry urges those who wish to attend to come early so as to be assured of a seat.

Band Dance Wednesday. Tomorrow night the band will give an old-time dance at Zuber hall. The proceeds to be used to help pay up an indebtedness incurred by the purchase of instruments. A prize walk will be one of the features. Dancing will begin at 8:30 p. m.

Omaha Sniper Admits
Killings to Officials

OMAHA, (By The Associated Press).—Residents of Omaha and Council Bluffs drew their first breath of a week Monday night. For in the Omaha city jail a transient farm hand, of medium height, scarred, shaven, heavy build and giving the name of Frank Carter, 45, was held as the sniper whose work of murdering security men has resulted in the death of two, the wounding of one and the terrifying of hundreds.

Carter, cool and apparently untroubled, admitted the killings to newspaper men and police, explaining they were the result of a career of crime which he wanted to hide by killing.

A section foreman, A. C. Brown, in responsible for the capture, for which combined police forces of Omaha and Council Bluffs have worked frantically night and day. Carter, riding a hand car, sighted Brown walking the tracks near Bartlett, Iowa, 25 miles southwest of here early Monday just after he had traveled from a haystack hiding place.

Suicide Was Resident
Of Palmer Junction

Francis Earl Hickman, who yesterday committed suicide by jumping into the Unadilla river at Pea Bottom, where he had been confined in the Eastern Oregon state hospital for nearly two years, had lived at Palmer Junction for a year before his commitment. He was 33 years old, and so far as is known was unmarried.

He was not a violent case, according to the original papers filed in the vault at the county clerk's office.

Aged Yellow
Man Answers
Death's Call

Moek See, More Than 100
Years Old, Laid to Rest
by Oriental Population
Here Today.

Moek See is dead. And by the time this story is off the press, his body will have been laid to rest—amid wailings and the scattering of charms to frighten away evil spirits—in the little spot of Orient that the Chinese maintain in the Old Fellows cemetery.

Moek See was old, very old—100 years old, lived more than a hundred years, his almond-eyed eyelids were closed.

For a long time he lived in La Grande. Chinatown cannot recall the days before his coming.

"Moek See was the first Chinaman ever come to Oregon," one of his countrymen suggested. "Anybody been in this town more than 40 years."

He used to work around some of the stores here, though as one remembers which ones. Before that, he is believed to have been a laborer, probably one of the Chinese laborers imported when the Grande Ronde was a placer mining province.

Retired Years Ago. But Moek See has not worked for many years. Down at Toy Look's laundry, at Fourth street and Jefferson avenue, where he made his home, the mole Moek See used to sit on the door-step and watch the little children playing in the street. Sometimes when they ventured near enough, he used to give them apples and even great quantities of candy.

Moek See could speak a little English, but he seldom did. Rather he stroked his little white beard with his yellow hands, and silently waited.

Clarence Helmick Is
Perfecting Water Motor

BAILEY, Ore. (Special).—There has been perfecting in Bailey a machine which it is claimed will produce more than 15 times as much waterpower as any device now in use and which may revolutionize waterpower development throughout the world.

The inventor is Clarence Helmick, an engineer on the Union Pacific railway for the past 22 years and well known in Bailey and La Grande. He has worked on his invention for 19 years and has almost reached the point where it will be ready to manufacture. The device is called a "water motor."

XTRA

TAX BILL APPROVED. WASHINGTON (AP).—The house today approved the \$287,000,000 tax reduction bill as agreed to by house and senate conferees. The final vote was 353 to 28. With-out a record vote the house rejected a motion to send the bill back to conference with instructions that the inheritance tax be repealed.

LOSERS APPEAL

SALEM, Ore. (AP).—Joseph I. Cavender, of Harney county, today lost an appeal to the supreme court from lower court's decree sentencing him to 10 years for shooting H. L. Hatcher July 3, 1923.

NEW YORKERS BILED

NEW YORK (AP).—"New Yorkers are being biled out of millions of dollars annually by mediums and spiritualists, who cloak their operations under a ritual of a semi-religious character," says a survey by a committee given today. Representative Solmonson also is considering seeking legislation from congress on the matter, since the mediums do a vast order business. Milton Wright, associate editor of the Scientific American, and member of the committee, declared he was unable to find one medium devoid of tricks among several hundred examined.

SACRAMENTO (AP).—A dis-

patch from Redding says a "light eruption" of Lassen Peak is visible today.

Coolidge Pays Tribute
To George Washington

WASHINGTON (By The Associated Press).—President Coolidge, on the birthday anniversary of George Washington, paid tribute to him last night as "the greatest example of character."

Speaking before the department of superintendence of the National Education association, the president avoided direct reference to the recent controversy over Washington's personal habits and religious devotion, but he reminded his audience no one clung more tenaciously to what he believed was right or was prepared to make greater sacrifices for a just cause.

"We shall fall in our estimation and understanding of him," Mr. Coolidge said, "unless we remember that during his life time he hoped to build a life of religious worship. In his will he provided for institutions of learning and in his last address he emphasized the spiritual values of life. But what he did was even more eloquent than what he said. He was a soldier, a patriot, a statesman, but in addition to all these he was a great teacher."

"He followed our political institutions were superior to those of other countries but he never preached hatred of all things foreign and he made large contributions to the negotiation of treaties for the settlement of disputes—questions which were for the advantage of foreign nations. He believed that obligations were mutual, that what we expected to receive we should be ready to give."

BERT HANEY
QUITS U. S.
SHIP BOARDCommissioner from Ore-
gon Turns in Resig-
nation TodayBRINGS TO AN END
MUDDLED SITUATIONHaney Ignored the Presi-
dent's Request Last Au-
gust—Will Step Down
on March 1.

WASHINGTON, (By the Associated Press).—Bert E. Haney, Democrat, of Oregon, resigned today as member of the United States shipping board, effective March 1.

The action brings to a head the troublesome situation that has existed since last August when President Coolidge requested Haney's resignation on the ground that in proposing the removal of President Palmer, the commissioner had run "contrary to an understanding I had with you when I was appointed you."

Haney declined to resign on such grounds. His letter of resignation said he could properly and his service now as three months time has elapsed since congress convened, when Coolidge stated he would not be reappointed.

Says Conditions Improved. Haney's letter declared that the "shipping board had resumed its powers" over the government's merchant fleet after the dismissal of President Palmer by a majority vote of the shipping board, and that conditions have improved to a point that "American shippers today are being furnished with satisfactory better service than for years shipping is being furnished around at the expense of the government-owned fleet."

Haney, who has been mentioned

GUNMAN SLAYS
TWO COPPERS

ST. PAUL, (By the Associated Press).—Two patrolmen were shot by an unidentified gunman in the residence district here today. Each was shot through the head.

The slaying came as the climax to a search for robbers who terrorized the residence district the last two nights and who committed seven holdups in three hours.

John Scholten and Fred Vertsch, the slain patrolmen, were patrolling the district in an automobile and started to investigate a large car when the shooting occurred.

Continued on Page Five.

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