EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER—TWELVE PAGES TODAY—FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE SERVICE

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
PORTLAND (AP)—Oregon—Fair tonight, cooler in southwest portion. Sunday fair except cloudy in extreme northwest portion.

VOLUME XXIV. MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1926. MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS NUMBER 137

MAKE PLANS FOR COMING CONVENTIONS

De Molay, Women's Clubs and Realtors to Meet in La Grande

WALLOWA COUNTY WILL TAKE PART

Real Estate Men to View Wallowa Wonderland on Final Day of Stay Here.

Preparations for the three conventions—one regional and two state—that will be held in La Grande during May and July, showed progress this week, with several meetings taking place.

It is roughly estimated that the three meetings will bring nearly 2,000 visitors to this city during the two months and every effort is being made to insure the visitors a royal welcome and an entertainment program that will long remain in their memories.

Wallow Comes to Aid

Chairmen of the entertainment committee and the Wallowa trip committee for the northwest realtors' convention to be held here July 22 to 25, inclusive, met with Archie Miller, real estate man of Enterprise, at the Foley hotel Thursday noon for luncheon to discuss plans for the Wallowa county trip, to be a feature of the last day of the convention.

The Wallowa county realtors will assist the local men in entertaining the 500 or 600 people expected here for the meeting. They are making extensive plans for Sunday, the last day of the convention, when the visitors will be

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TEACHERS ARE AGAIN SIGNED

"The majority of Union county teachers seem to be giving satisfaction, judging by the re-elections that have been reported," observed Superintendent E. A. Sayre yesterday. He has been receiving contracts from the various districts for registration in his office.

All superintendents save been returned to their positions: J. T. Longfellow, La Grande; E. S. McCormick, Elgin; Ralph L. Morgan, Imbler; E. E. Coad, Cove; Roy C. Conklin, Union; L. D. Hollenberg, North Powder.

Union has re-elected most of its present staff of teachers. Imbler and Elgin have renewed the contracts of all of theirs. Contracts of Mrs. J. H. Diehl, Fruitdale, Mrs. Mary B. Kail and Mrs. Nephi Combs, of Perry, and Henry Maxfield, of Mt. Glenn, have all been sent to the superintendent's office.

100 Essays Entered By Boys, Girls

Closing Day of The Observer's Contest Finds E. A. Sayre Besieged with Manuscripts.

Manuscripts by the score have been pouring into the office of Superintendent E. A. Sayre today, for the historical essay contest that closes tonight. More than 100 entries had been registered at 11 o'clock this morning, and the number was increasing steadily. Several teachers made special trips to La Grande from outlying districts to be sure that the essays from their pupils arrived in time.

The majority of the larger schools were represented in the lists recorded this morning. La Grande turned in a liberal portion of the whole, the high school, Central grade school and the Sacred Heart academy all contributing. Elgin, Imbler, Union, Perry, Cricket Flat, Pleasant Grove, Cove, Catherine Creek, Willow Creek and Grange hall schools all sent packets of neatly penned manuscripts.

Some of the essays cover but a page apiece. They are mostly the work of the third and fourth graders, but precious bits of history painstakingly preserved. Others spread over a dozen or more sheets, recording in nicely turned phrases the history that the valley pioneers have made.

Tells of History

But long or short, each essay saves to the future authentic stories of Union county's beginnings—stories that might have been lost forever had not the contest captured them before they passed away with the memories of the settlers who lived them.

Aside from its historical value, each manuscript speaks eloquently of hours their youthful writers spent digging into the past, gaining new respect and reverence for the courageous souls that bought the country from the unknown wilderness. It tells, too, of valuable knowledge gathered as to the making of history and books.

To Give Cash Prizes.

The Observer has $90 in prizes ready to give to the winners as soon as the returns from the judging come back from the University of Oregon. There will be three prizes in each division of two grades each, and a special prize of $15 for the library fund of the school that produces the finest essay of them all.

Mr. Sayre said this morning that some of the teachers had forgotten to send the names and grades of the writers to correspond with the numbers on the papers. He will have to hold the collection for a brief time until he can get in touch with the teachers to get them, because the essays cannot be graded unless the judges know in what classes they belong.

State Forester Will Visit Eastern Oregon

F. A. Elliott, state forester, will be in Eastern Oregon the last three days of this month, according to word received here by L. H. Russell, fire warden, Monday. March 29, the forester will cover Wallowa county with the members of the association there; Tuesday, Baker county, and Wednesday, Union county. Government men will be here to assist Elliott in the work. The state forester is a brother-in-law of A. T. Hill.

HOT METAL SHOWERED ON WORKERS

Explosion in Birmingham Plant Snuffs Out Lives of 16

MOLTEN MASS IS HURLED ON GROUP

Employes Within a Hundred Feet of Furnace Blast Are Killed Instantly.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Mar. 20. (AP)—Sixteen men were instantly killed and 17 injured early today when number 2 furnace of the Woodward Iron company exploded. It was believed a number of the injured men were badly hurt.

The top furnace was lifted and hundreds of tons of molten metal spread over an area of several hundred feet. The men who caught the force of the flaming cloud had no chance to escape. Scores of other employees were working just out side the area covered by the scattered metal. The cause of the accident had not been determined.

Molten Lead Scattered

According to early advices, a hole developed in side of the huge stack just as the night shift was ready to go off and an explosion threw molten metal for a hundred feet instantly killing all the men near the stack. Howard Mussey, furnace superintendent, was among the dead.

The injured, ten whites and seven negroes, were removed to the Tennessee, Iron and railroad company's hospital at Fairfield where surgeons sought to give relief from burns which in most cases were described as "terrible."

CLUB WORKERS' YEAR ACTIVE

Out of the boys' and girls' clubs department of the economic conference in La Grande came the report that a total of 27 groups of children had carried on specialized work during the club season recently completed. Sixteen new clubs are already beginning the activities of the coming year, and the prospects are good for a material increase over last season's record.

Of the 170 boys and girls who enrolled at the beginning of last season, 106 carried on the work to the end. At a cost of $2,938.70, these youngsters produced farm and home products with an actual value of $4,109.81, showing a profit of $1,171.11.

Five clubs were rated 100 per cent by the club leaders at the end of the year.

County Superintendent E. A. Sayre directed the work of 21 garden, sewing, cooking and home-making clubs. The six stock clubs were under the supervision of H. G. Avery, county agent.

Club members exhibited 21 head of cattle and 74 hogs at the Union stock show, winning both grand championships in the open classes and one grand championship in the dairy division in the open class. Eight club members exhibited at the Pacific International, receiving more than $1400 from premiums and sales.

Winnings at the International

(Continued on Page Five)

Union Man Fined $250 For Possessing Liquor

C. M. Gibson, arrested at 12:30 last night at Union by George M. Pierce, special deputy, pleaded guilty to a charge of possession of intoxicating liquor this morning in the justice of the peace court, and was fined $250 and costs. Unable to pay, Gibson was returned to the county jail.

Chamber of Commerce To Have Local Program

For the first time in several weeks, the chamber of commerce is to have a strictly local program at the regular forum luncheon Tuesday noon. The meeting will be at the Foley hotel.

The program will be in charge of the local officials of the Ford Motor company, with W. C. Perkins, manager, as the main speaker. R. J. Hammer will give a vocal selection. T. J. Scroggin will preside.

Pessimistic Statements Cause Stir

Houghton's Words on the European Situation Attract Attention in London Circles.

LONDON, Mar. 20. (AP) — A stir has been caused in official and diplomatic circles by dispatches from the United States saying that Ambassador Houghton made pessimistic observations at Washington regarding the situation in Europe.

Commenting on Ambassador Houghton's visit to Washington, the Daily Chronicle which opposes the government, blames Sir Austen Chamberlain, the foreign secretary for "the Geneva fiasco," and adds:

"Unless Chamberlain can place his conduct in quite a different light there is every reason to fear that the Coolidge administration, which hitherto has been drawing visibly nearer in sympathy with Great Britain and the league of nations, will draw sharply away again from both."

Paper Scores League:

The Daily Express says that it is useless and perilous to prolong "the farce of the league."

"America, which founded the league," it adds, "foresaw the complications and stood back at the last moment. The British government might do worse than give serious consideration to such a step."

A suggestion that it might be better if the Latin-American nations were out of the league altogether was made in a speech last night by Lieutenant-Colonel L. C. M. Amery, secretary for the dominions.

He said it was his personal opinion.

From Geneva comes word that the council of the league of nations has decided to require the United States to participate in a conference concerning American membership in the world court with reservations.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20. (AP) —The American government has no objection to a conference of nations to discuss the American reservations to the world court, and does not understand that such a conference as has been proposed at Geneva would in any way constitute action on the reservations by the league of nations.

JARDINE FOR GRAZING BILL

WASHINTON, Mar. 20. (AP)—A new bill to regulate and stabilize grazing on national forests was approved today by Secretary Jardine in a letter to Chairman Stanfield, of the senate public lands committee.

The secretary said that the new bill's provisions under which ten per cent of the receipts of the grazing would be available for range improvements in the national forests has been approved in principle by the budget bureau as "in harmony with the fiscal policy of the administration." The bill proclaims a national policy regarding the forests, setting forth that the utilization for grazing shall be subordinated to development of mineral resources protection and development of forests and their waters and their use for farming. All grazing permits in effect will remain in force and additional permits may be granted by the secretary for periods up to ten years. The secretary will make allotments for grazing arrangements and the grazers will receive the benefit of any increases on the capacity of their allotments. Preference in grazing permits is granted to applicants owning or controlling property or range improvements in the vicinity.

Teachers to Meet at Elgin Next Saturday

John F. Brumbaugh, head of the department of psychology, at Oregon Agricultural college, will be the principal speaker for the local institute that is to be conducted for Union county teachers at the Elgin high school building Saturday, March 27.

E. A. Sayre, county superintendent, will have charge of the meeting. Attendance among the teachers is optional, he explains, but most all of the number living at convenient distances will be expected to attend.

Superintendent J. T. Longfellow, of La Grande, Superintendent and Mrs. E. S. McCormick, of Elgin, and John Wortman, of Union, are all on the program. The opening session is at 10 a. m., the Rev. E. A. Pollock, of the Elgin M. E. church, offering the invocation. The institute will be dismissed at 3 p. m.

MAY LOCATE LONG LOST OPIS SITE

Scientists Discover Prehistoric Mounds to the Northeast of Kish

THREE SUMERIAN TOWNS UNEARTHED

Study of Luminous Pottery and Clay Tablets Gives Clue to Searchers of City.

CHICAGO, Mar. 20. (AP)—Discovery of pre-historic mounds which may cover the "lost city of Opis," long sought by early Greek geographers, was announced in a report received today from Professor Stephen S. Langdon, leader of the Field Museum-Oxford university Mesoptomanian expedition by D. C. Davis, director of the museum.

Finding of perfect specimens of painted pottery some 16 miles northeast of Kish in the biblical plain of Shingar, was reported by wandering Arabs and led Professor Langdon to the location of three ruined Sumerian cities. After a study of the pottery and inscriptions on clay tablets he reported the possibility of ruins to be the site of the "lost Opis."

The cities now being excavated are known as Tal Barghu Thiyat, Jaudet Nasra and Jamdet Ubaid. At Jamdet Nasra, Professor Langdon stated one of the earliest known sites of Sumerian civilization has been discovered. The city was abandoned after a great fire before 3000 B. C. In the ruins the expedition has found pottery manufactured by an art lost five thousand years ago and the only complete set of painted household ware ever obtained in Babylonia."

The highly colored pottery is so luminous, Professor Langdon reported that when uncovered "a warm glow seems to precede the moldy chambers."

The expedition's work is being carried on in what is reported as a "desolate and unsafe region, waterless and roadless," and only the hope of history-making discoveries tempts the scientists to continue research.

MOTHER TAUGHT RED CREED TO ASTORIA LAD

ASTORIA, Mar. 20. (AP)—School authorities said that the case of Paul Biro, fourteen, former president of student body of Captain Gray junior high school, who was compelled to resign office because of communistic beliefs, first came to their attention when the lad appeared at a meeting of student body officers wearing a lapel button on which was a picture of Nicholas Lenine. This, he said was the emblem of the Young Worker's league. Under questions Biro told the school officials that he believed in communist principles and revolutionary socialism and declared he had been taught the doctrine by his mother.

Suicide Suggests Wife Kill Self for Nagging

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 20. (AP).—In a will executed more than a year before he ended his own life by poison last June, Dr. David Reiter suggested that his wife hang herself, declaring that she had "nagged him for 25 years." The will directed that she be given only $1, of his $15,000 estate and suggested that this be used to purchase a rope to form the noose.

It was believed Reiter had died intestate until a brother recently found the will among papers in the physician's desk.

Fire Drives 300 Families From Brooklyn Homes

NEW YORK, Mar. 20. (AP).—Fire which destroyed the engine room of the Brooklyn Union Gas company's Nassau branch in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn today caused damage estimated at $200,000, and created alarm because of its proximity to gas storage tanks.

Three hundred families were driven from their homes and 20 firemen were overcome by gas fumes.

PLAN MEMORIAL FUND

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 20. (AP) —A memorial fund for the mother of Christy Mathewson is to be used to promote the senatorial campaign for Governor Pinchot.

Finds Out How High Is Up

Lieut. John A. Macready and his wife just after he completed his flight at McCook Field, Dayton, O., which is believed to have set a new altitude record for airplanes. Examination of the instruments of the plane indicates he reached an altitude of about 41,000 feet or nearly 2,000 higher than the mark set by a French aviator, but this figure may be changed by the official calibrations.

SPRING WHEAT FIGURES GIVEN

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 20. (AP).—Thirty-four percent of Oregon's 1925 average acreage in spring wheat is indicated for this year, said F. L. Kent, agricultural statistician of the department of agriculture, in a report today. The small percentage of Oregon spring wheat (34 per cent) is due to the unusually large acreage seeded in the spring of 1925 as a result of reseeding the winter-kill of the preceding winter. The total 1926 spring wheat acreage will probably be about the same as usual.

It will be recalled that the seeding of winter wheat, reported in December, 1925, for the 1926 harvest, indicated that the acreage was 99 per cent of the 1924 fall seeding, with the Oregon and Washington figures considerably less. The total prospective acreage for the 1926 United States total wheat crop is a little over 1 per cent less than acreage of 1925. A better yield per acre than last year, therefore, will be necessary to produce a wheat crop equal to the short crop of last year. Prospective increase in the oats and barley acreage is a little surprising in the light of the increasing use of the auto and the working of the eighteenth amendment. The farmer who reads this report may change his plans somewhat when he notes the oats and barley intentions.

The oft remarked tendency to plant large acreages of high priced potato seed appears to be working again this spring.

Rules Committee Acts Against Forward Pass

NEW YORK, Mar. 20. (AP)—Unexpected drastic action against the forward pass was taken today by the football rules committee at its annual session here. The new rule, designed to discourage indiscriminate use of the pass, specifies that "a second and third incompleted pass which shall be made in the same series of plays before the first down is obtained shall be penalized by a loss of five yards."

Another rule is the team making a safety shall put the ball in play on its own 20-yard line instead of 30-yard mark. The attacking team must kick on the first down with the opposing eleven lined up on the forty-yard line.

River Changes Course; Nation Faces Drought

POLTORAATSK, Asiatic Russia, Mar. 20. (AP). — Advices from Khiva to the Turcoman soviet government here say the Amu-Darya river has radically changed its course, deviating sharply to the right and threatening the whole Turcoman republic with a drought. All the great cotton growing areas of Turkestan are dependent upon the Amu-Darya for irrigation, and the government has mobilized the entire population to check the impending calamity.

Bulletins

OMAHA, Nebr., Mar. 20. (AP)—Frank Carter, Omaha "sniper bandit," was found guilty of the murder of Dr. A. B. Sharpe today and his punishment fixed at death.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 20. (AP) —Senate investigation of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad now in receivership was proposed in a resolution introduced today by Senator Gooding, republican, Idaho.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Mar. 20. (AP) — Complete support of the American Legion's selective service draft plan was given today by Major General Hanson E. Ely, commandant of the army war college, in an address before the New York legion post.

NEW YORK, Mar. 20. (AP)—The New York Evening Telegram today says that seven well known jockeys will be ruled off the race tracks for accepting bribes to "throw" races, when the spring meeting of stewards are held. The charge against them is that they accepted fees of one thousand dollars for each race where they guaranteed that the horse they rode would lose.

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Mar. 20. (AP)—Edwin Bellows, Chicago publisher, died at Stuart, Fla., yesterday.

SALEM, Ore., Mar. 20. (AP)—H. B. Van Duser, of Portland, was today reappointed by Governor Pierce as a member of the state highway commission.

ROSEBURG, Ore., Mar. 20. (AP) —Frank Runnell, aged 18 years, of 1113 East Martin street, Tacoma, was arrested here last night charged with the theft of an automobile. As a federal law is involved in transportation of a stolen car from one state to another, the case will be turned over to the government.

FATHER OF PRESIDENT LAID AWAY

Simplicity Marks Funeral Services for Colonel J. C. Coolidge

BURIAL IS HELD IN VERMONT CEMETERY

Snow Whips Faces of the Presidential Party and Host of Mourning Neighbors.

PLYMOUTH, Vt., Mar. 20. (AP) —With utmost simplicity funeral services were held today for Colonel John C. Coolidge, father of the president, in the white Vermont farmhouse which was his home. Burial took place immediately afterwards in the little hillside cemetery a quarter of a mile from the house, with the president, Mrs. Coolidge, their son, John, and old-time neighbors clustered about the grave.

From the graveyard, the president returned by sleigh and auto to his special train at Woodstock, 16 miles away, for an overnight journey to Washington.

Although the storm which had been sweeping the countryside since dawn had abated slightly by the time of the funeral, snow, wet and fine, whipped into the faces of the mourners as they slowly made their way through high drifts to the cemetery.

The funeral service was conducted by the Rev. John White of Shrburne, who preached during the summer at the little meeting house across the road from the Coolidge home. The revised burial service of the Episcopal church was used. No hymns were sung, and no sermon delivered.

The casket rested in the parlor, which adjoins the sitting room in which Col. Coolidge by lamplight in August 1923, addressed the oath of president to his son.

Crowded into the farmhouse for the services in addition to the president's family and old-time neighbors, were Attorney General Sargent, close friend of the col-

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UPTON FILES HIS CANDIDACY

SALEM, Ore. Mar. 20. (AP)—Jay H. Upton, of Bend, one of the candidates for the republican nomination for governor, is the first of the gubernatorial aspirants of either party to file his candidacy with the secretary of state. He filed today by petition.

"If I am nominated and elected," says his statement, 'I will, during by term of office give the people of Oregon a safe, and sane business administration and I will be governor of all the people. I am opposed to any increased expense or annoyance to motor vehicle owners. I favor such reduction of automobile licenses as will not endanger our highway program; the abolition of the emergency board; harmonizing assessments through the state; strict enforcement of all laws by honest and capable officers; better harmony between the executive and legislative departments of the state, help for the infirm and orphans; aid by constructive legislation of the reclamation problems of our state."

Wool Growers Meet At Union With Hugh Sproat

About fourteen sheepmen, representing between 10,000 and 12,000 head of sheep in the county, met yesterday afternoon in the directors rooms of the First National bank at Union, with Hugh Sproat, secretary of the Oregon Woolgrowers' association.

J. Sears, of the Yakima Woolgrowers Service commission, was in attendance and told how sheepmen could secure money on sheep through the services of the Intermediate Credits bank at Spokane, Washington. Mr. Sproat gave a general talk on the sheep and wool industry and the prospects of the lamb market. He said that efforts were being made to drive the price of wool down but that he thought wool owners should hold their wool back until the market improves. He also expressed the opinion that prospects were for a good lamb market this year. "It might be lower than last year," he said, "if the wool continues to be low, but it will more than likely be a profitable market." He recommended that the sheep-growers attempt to send their lambs to market at lighter weights this year, between 60 and 80 pounds, rather than

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Not Spending More Money

The secret of adequate returns from advertising is not necessarily in spending more money and buying large space. Rather is it in spending the money intelligently — advertising along tried and proven lines.

The Observer's service to advertisers who desire it neither starts nor stops with the mere acceptance of copy and printing it in the advertising columns. It includes aiding the business man in his publicity plan, showing him how and where his money can be placed to the best advantage — and WHY. It is a service of experienced advertising men that is available without charge.

"Observer Advertising—
A Merchandising Service."

Wreck of Planes Halts Wilkins' Arctic Advance

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, Mar. 20. (AP).—The Detroiter and Alaskan, two of three airships Capt. George H. Wilkins purchased for an Arctic airship expedition this spring, lay disabled in Fairbanks today. The other was destroyed in Detroit January 17.

Although the enterprise is at a standstill for the present, it was believed misfortunes which have followed the Wilkins party since its first move would only temporarily halt the undertaking. Other mishaps which tended to dishearten the personnel of the Wilkins group include the failing of snow motors to transport supplies to Point Barrow on the Arctic coast, and the death of Palmer Hutchinson, a newspaper correspondent who was killed by a whirling propeller of the Detroiter.

The Detroiter which was to have been used in an attempt to fly over the Arctic in a test flight from Point Barrow to Spitzenberg, was wrecked yesterday when its landing gear crumpled in soft earth and snow, while running over an aviation field to rise for its first test flight. It turned up on its nose, mashing propellers and shifting the main engine of three. Major Thomas C. Lanphier, who was handling the big ship, was accompanied by Captain Wilkins. It was the second jolt in two days for Captain Wilkins, as he was a passenger in the Alaskan, a single motor plane, which was damaged while lighting after a test flight Thursday. The Alaskan suffered damages to its propeller, landing gear and fuselage. It was to have been used to hunt land in the Arctic regions from the supply base at Point Barrow.