

LaGrande Evening Observer

(Incorporated)

An Independent Newspaper

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BLESSING OR CURSE—"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse: A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God; . . . a curse, if ye will not obey."—Deut. 11:26, 27, 28.

Princess Meets Sinclair Lewis



Princess Maria de Bourbon, a member of the Spanish royal house, who is visiting Mrs. B. G. Dahlberg at International Falls, Minn., has met Sinclair Lewis, America's famous author, amid most unroyal settings. This picture shows Mrs. Dahlberg at the left, Mr. Lewis in the center and the princess at the right.

ROBBERS GET STATE MONEY

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 19. (AP)—One hundred thousand dollars worth of United States Treasury certificates, mailed for delivery to the Oregon state treasury here and to be paid for from funds of the world war veterans state aid com-mission, were stolen from the reg-istered mail pouches on Union Pacific train No. 5 when that train

was held up and robbed by two un-mas-ked bandits near Ravenna, Wyo., shortly before 2 o'clock Sat-urday morning, according to word received here early this afternoon by Major W. H. Simpson, secretary of the commission. The envelope had been carefully opened, the contents removed, and the empty container put back into its place. Word of the loss was re-ceived here following the arrival at Portland of the empty envelop. The amount contained in the single package is as large as postal authorities had unofficially esti-mated the entire loss from the rob-bery, at which time 23 pouches of mail and 60 packages were opened. Inter-posed pouches on Union Pacific train No. 5 when that train



THIS LADY'S LIKE A COVER FOR A SONG. The back ground is art of Southern California's that in the tournament of roses at Pasadena.



FOR GARDENS TO MATCH her costs is the latest fashion table on the horizon. Gwen Lee of Hollywood has a very be-coming gait.

La Grande's Leading Store

ANNOUNCES

The Arrival of a
Number of New Fall
Frocks in the
Increasingly
Popular Colors
of
Burgundy Red, Camel
Red and Jungle Green
at
Very Popular Prices
See Our Windows



N. K. WEST & CO., INC.
La Grande's Leading Store For 25 Years

"It's a struggle of darkness against light," says President Calles, of the religious war in Mexico. Both sides will agree on that.

If Governor Pierce is interested in the telephone business, we suggest he do something to improve the service at Baker. That's a job worthy of his best vocabulary.

A DANGEROUS EXPERIMENT

With some nineteen different measures appearing on the November election ballot the voters of Oregon are asked to decide many questions about which the average citizen can know but little and which can, unless care is exercised, create a tremendous amount of trouble for the people of the state. The Eastern Oregon normal school bill is one of the worthy measures and the state hydro-electric bill of the Housewives' Council is one of the objectionable ones.

Seldom in a state's history is there a measure urged upon the people that has such possibilities of danger as this housewives' electric bill. Seldom in a state's politics are there found politicians who possess such a combination of nerve and bad judgment as to perpetrate such a bill on an unsuspecting and normally trusting public. If it were the only measure appearing on the ballot so that voters might give some time and thought to its provisions, there would be no need to entertain fears regarding its fate. It would be assured an overwhelming defeat. But with many bills to consider and interesting contests between candidates, only the proverbial "safe 'No'" can be surely counted on as protection.

There is much to be said on both sides of the state hydro-electric question in the abstract, but when presented in the concrete form approved by the Housewives' Council and offered to the people of Oregon there is no favorable argument of which we can conceive. The bill, which would plunge the state into ownership of power and water, names a board of five citizens to control this ownership and spend the insignificant sum of forty million dollars to make water and power development—and the board is not responsible to anyone but can do as it sweetly pleases with the taxpayers' money and the state's properties.

The guise under which it appears, of course, is to develop power and water right and sell to Oregon's citizens at a nominal rate the electricity and water thus controlled. What the bill actually means is that it would turn over to these four men and one woman the power to build a great political machine, to control the irrigation of the state, to build and operate power plants whenever and wherever they saw fit, to run the state into debt and gouge the taxpayers anew for any deficit that might attend their operations. The bill would give these five "housewives" more power than all the rest of the state agencies and commissions combined. And any mistakes or catastrophes they might cause could be corrected only by another vote of the people after the damage had been done.

We would not express any doubt whatever of the sincerity of the five citizens who have sponsored the bill and seek to have themselves named on the all-powerful board. They may be entirely loyal to the best interests of the state of Oregon and may think that our water power can best be developed through public enterprise. But we are not willing to give them a trial to the tune of forty million dollars of taxpayers' money. It may be a fine idea for these five "housewives" but it's too dangerous an experiment for Oregon.

One would think that signers of such a petition would have experienced enough tax burden already without considering a freak forty million dollar bond issue, that they would have had enough of political inefficiency and non-responsible public boards without wanting to provide a super-opportunity for repetition. It is commonly acknowledged that a private business would be bankrupt in six months if run as inefficiently as most of our governmental affairs. What hope could there be for a forty million power project operated by the same kind of politicians with no supervision at all? Oregon may experiment occasionally with legislation, but we are confident she will not go to such insane extremes as invited by the Housewives' bill at the coming election.

Merrenger, Arrested In Murder Case, Freed

SEATTLE, Aug. 19. (AP)—Harry Merrenger, held here after posthumous notes accused him of doing away with Harry Gilmore, alias Charles E. O'Hern, a waiter, was released today after Detective Kent declared no evidence was found to connect Merrenger with the death of Gilmore.

Kent ordered the release after visiting in Vancouver, B. C., a man named in notes by T. H. Seymour, who shot and killed Merrenger's mother, Mrs. Ada Merrenger, and himself in a hotel here Tuesday. Seymour charged that Mrs. Merrenger and her son had done away with Gilmore, whose body was found in a lake here last November, and whose auto disappeared at the same time.

Seymour told the secretary of the cooks and waiters union here Monday that "the police will soon know all about Gilmore's missing automobile."

Mrs. Merrenger was a beneficiary in a policy for \$5,000 on Gilmore's life.

STENUSLOFF DIES

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 19. (AP)—F. W. Stenusloff, president of the Valley Packing company of this city and democratic nominee for state representative from Marion county, dropped dead of heart failure in the waiting room of a local physician's office this morning. Prior to coming to Salem he was a resident of Pendleton.

Belgium has recently passed a law providing for compulsory insurance of workers against old age and premature death.

BOY BANDITS MAKE ESCAPE IN COLORADO

(Continued from Page 1)

headed west. Encountering a Pueblo county deputy sheriff, they relieved him of his weapons and automobile. Later they terrorized the little resort town and Tuesday night eluded their efforts with a real old-fashioned western "stink up" of the Y. M. C. A. summer camp near Rye. All their escapes have been accomplished in the face of an intensive search that has been conducted for them since they robbed the deputy sheriff.

Boys Heavily Armed
Both boys are armed heavily and officers believe a sanguinary battle may ensue once they are cornered.

Several blue geese have been successfully raised in captivity by the United States national zoological park. This is the first time this has ever been done.

Americans living in London now number 6,700.

The total church wealth in the United States is about \$3,300,000,000.

Flashlights

\$1.25

Complete with Battery

All first-class New York burglar's use Yale and Eveready Flashlights. Reason is that they are dependable, handy size, and economical.

See Our Window

Red Cross Drug Store

Blue Mountain Butter and Blue Mountain Ice Cream

Are the Very Best Obtainable

BLUE MOUNTAIN CREAMERY

R. F. TYLER, Prop.
Telephone Main 60 1109 Washington Ave.



\$1 SALE

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HATS, CAPS, SHOES DRESSES, WASH SUITS

And several other items to close out.
2 Full Tables of Genuine Bargains.
See Window Display — Buy What You Need

Norton's Kiddy Shop

Infants' and Children's Wearables