

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

OREGON—Unsettled, probably rain in the northwest portion tonight and Sunday. Normal temperature. Moderate southerly winds.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1926.

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NUMBER 132

CITY MAKES
PREPARATION
FOR XMASBusiness Enters Final
Busy Week—Postal
Clerks in "Big Rush"CHURCHES, SCHOOLS
PLAN PROGRAMSElks to Erect Fir Tree
Tomorrow, Arrange to
Have More Than 2,000
Children at Party.Swirling snowflakes and the
thickening approach of Santa's rein-
deer now but a few days distant—
and La Grande entering its
final pre-Christmas week, a period
that will be crowded with joyous
activity.The stores, radiant with attrac-
tive gifts and colorful decorations,
have in many cases employed ad-
ditional clerks to take care of the
final rush of shoppers. Although
the season found more than usual
doing their buying early, the re-
mainder will be large enough to
keep the merchants and their
staffs working overtime to accom-
modate them, it is believed.

Five More Shopping Days

Only five full shopping days re-
main, exclusive of tonight, and
as the stores enter the final lap,
the postal clerks will also go into
a period that far surpasses any
other in point of hurry-hurry to
distribute countless Christmas
cards, gifts of all sizes and shapes,
both inward and outward bound.
Extra clerks have been added at
the post office and the packages
are being handled as efficiently
as is possible under the strain of
the last-minute rush.Churches are making final
preparations for their Yuletide
programs and Christmas day,
and night features. The work in some
churches is in the hands of car-
tain groups while others find the
congregation working more or less
as a unit.

Schools to Close Dec. 23

The usual programs will be held
in the La Grande schools, mostly
on Thursday, the last day of school
until Jan. 3 when the classes will
reconvene after the holidays. Each
grade will have its own "party,"
or one will combine with some
other to make the affair bigger
and more attractive.The members of the B. P. O.
Elks, who annually provide Christ-
mas cheer for scores of needy fam-
ilies, are surveying the city to get
in touch with everyone who de-
serves assistance. Last year, a
large number were served and the
figure this year is expected to be
about 200.

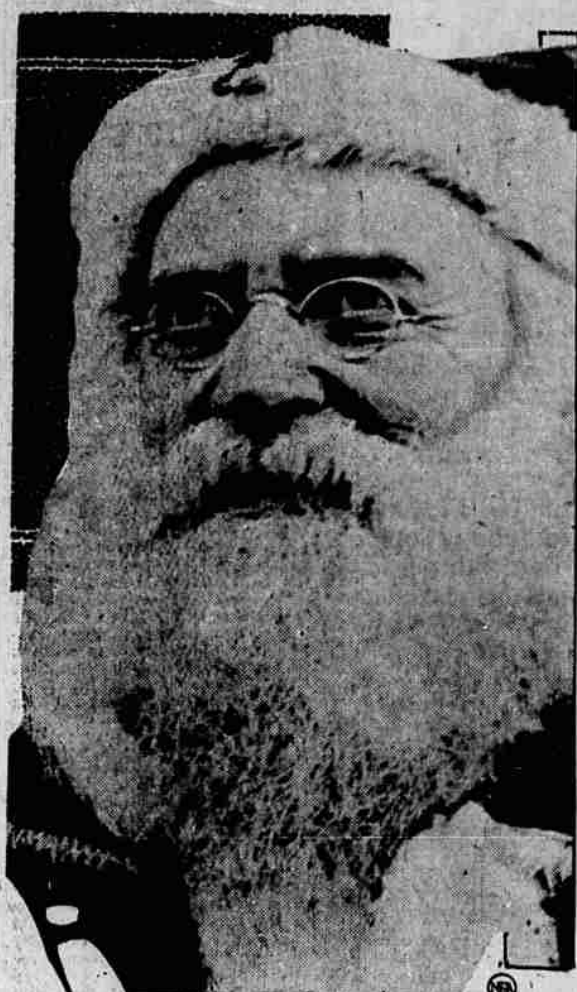
Erect Tree Tomorrow

The huge fir tree, which will
prelate at the Christmas day kid-
dies' party by the Elks temple at

(Continued on Page 4)

LEGION JAN. 1
MATINEE WORK
IS PROGRESSINGJack Coleman, native born
Scottishman, and well known here
for his clever Scotch songs, will
be the headliner in the vaudeville
program of the American Legion
matinee, to be given
New Year's eve, at 12 o'clock, at
the Arden theatre.Coleman, who was born in Scot-
land, will appear in native cos-
tume, and will sing one time on the
Orpheum circuit and is said to be
a "stomachy" root.The vaudeville program will
begin at 12 o'clock sharp, allowing
all who desire to attend dances or
private parties first.Several other interesting fea-
tures have also been arranged for.YOU
ARE THE
JURYA business man's claim on
your time and his assertion that
he can satisfy you in service and
quality and price constitutes his
case "before the bar." You are
his jury—and if he succeeds in
convincing you of the excellence,
value, and desirability of what
he has to sell, he wins the case—
you vote his way—and you
vote in the form of dollars and
cents spent with him.The only logical way in which
he can keep the "evidence" in
his case constantly before you, the
"jury," is by advertising
messages in The Observer. By
this means he can maintain daily
contact with you—he can tell
his story, present his "witnesses"
in every possible light. And,
fortunately, the cost per "jurym-
an" is by far the lowest of any
method available to him, and is
a real service to you."Observer Advertising—
A Merchandising Service"La Grande Post
Second Largest
As Drive EndsLegionnaires' Quest of
Members Results in
"Going Over Top" with
203 Enrolled.The La Grande American Leg-
ion post went over the top in the
membership drive, which closed
last evening with a special meet-
ing at the city hall. State legion
headquarters were notified of the
close of the drive, which places
La Grande, with 203 members, the
second largest post in the state to
date. Last year's total was 196.
Otis Palmer was leader of the
winning team in the membership
contest, and the losing side, head-
ed by Lloyd Busby, will banquet
the winners, Wednesday, Jan. 3,
when the first meeting of the new
year will be held. There will be
installation of officers at that
time, besides the initiation of the
new members. The legion auxil-
iary will be invited to the banquet.Arrangements have been com-
pleted for the first annual "Silver
Thaw" dance to be given by the
Thaw post Dec. 28 at Zuber hall.
The decorations for this holiday
dance are to be the main fea-
ture, and will be unique and dif-
ferent, it is said. The dance is
being given at this time because
college students are now home for
Christmas. The proceeds will be
added to the American Legion
convention fund.Masonic Lodge
Elects OfficersCarl G. Helm was elected and
installed as worshipful master of
the Masonic lodge here last even-
ing, when the regular meeting was
held at the Masonic hall and elec-
tion and installation took place.
Robert S. Eakin, deputy grand
master of the state of Oregon, was
installing officer.E. A. Epling was elected senior
warden; Ellis L. Knight, junior
warden; C. M. Humphreys, treasur-
er; and A. V. Lindgren, secretary.
F. J. Loites was appointed senior
deacon; L. G. Knight, junior dea-
con; Harry Hoffmann, senior stew-
ard; Thomas Wilson, junior stew-
ard; and Oscar Berger, Tyler.L. H. Russell and Sherwood Wil-
liams will serve on the Masonic
Cemetery association.
The inter-county meeting for
Masons of Union and Wallawa
counties, scheduled for Monday,
Dec. 20, has been postponed indefi-
nitely because of the weather
conditions and the Christmas rush.
The meeting may be held shortly
after the holidays.Basketball Topic
Of Meeting HereCoaches, superintendents and
principals of Eastern Oregon are
meeting this afternoon at the high
school building, taking up a more
thorough discussion of new base-
ball rules and matters pertain-
ing to the 1926-27 school season.
The meeting was called at the
request of E. D. Fowler, local
principal.Collegians To Be
Luncheon GuestsThe college students home for
the Christmas holidays will be the
guests of the Union county cham-
ber of commerce Tuesday noon at
the regular forum luncheon at the
Sommer hotel. All students are
asked to call the chamber of com-
merce office and make reservations.Dr. W. T. Ploy, commerce cham-
ber president, will preside, and a
representative from each of the
schools will be called upon to talk.Emperor Yoshihito
Is Fighting DeathTOKYO, Dec. 18 (AP).—Em-
peror Yoshihito late tonight con-
tinued his battle with death. An
official bulletin from the household
department stated that his condi-
tion was "virtually unchanged."
The physicians who have strug-
gled unceasingly for many days
against pneumonia which attacked
the sovereign, were cheered at
evening today when he partook of
food, including milk, soup, port
wine and yolk of eggs.The anxiety of newspapermen
was caused by the Japanese cus-
tom of withholding the announce-
ment of death until the deceased
monarch has been taken to the
palace at Tokyo. Such announce-
ment would be made by the
household department and it
would also announce the suc-
cession to the throne of Crown
Prince Hirohito, who, since 1927
has been Japanese regent, acting
for the invalid emperor.Miss Elgen Morelock was among
the college students who arrived
home this morning for the holi-
days. She is a sophomore at the
University of Oregon and will
spend Christmas with her par-
ents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. More-
lock.

DUE HERE CHRISTMAS EVE

Here is one of the latest pictures of Santa Claus, who is sched-
uled to arrive in La Grande Christmas eve to leave his precious
gifts for the kiddies of this city. Many, many pictures have been
taken of Santa but this is one of the few showing him wearing
spectacles, which he occasionally uses when the light doesn't suit
him exactly, especially when he is reading the hundreds of letters
from little boys and girls.CADMAN CONCERT
WILL BE JAN. 19Famous Composer-Pian-
ist and Indian Prima
Donna to AppearMusic lovers of La Grande and
territory adjacent are looking for-
ward to a treat when Charles
Wadsworth Cadman, noted as the
foremost American composer and
pianist, will appear in concert
here Wednesday, Jan. 19, in the
L. B. S. tabernacle under the
auspices of the La Grande North-
west club.Cadman's fame is exemplified
in the sales of three of his songs,
"At Longlast" has passed the mil-
lion mark and "From the Land
of the Sky-Blue Water" and "I
Bore a Thrush at 3,000" have
reached half a million copies.He will visit La Grande during
a two-month tour of the north-
west and he will spend January
and February in the more im-
portant cities of Idaho, Washin-
ton and Oregon.He will appear jointly with
Princess Tashina, American In-
dian prima donna, who will wear
the costume of her race. Selec-
tions from his Metropolitan opera
success "Shadows" written espe-
cially for her, will be featured.Death Result of
Frying-Pan RowLEIGH, Neb., Dec. 18 (AP).—
Argument over the use of a new
frying pan culminated last night
when Frank Mason, 15-year-old
wife of Duffy Mason, horse trad-
er, was shot to death by her
brother-in-law, Ted Mason, assis-
tant in a barber's chair getting her
hair trimmed.Earthquake Alarms
All Lisbon TodayLISBON, Portugal, Dec. 18
(AP).—A violent earth shock,
lasting three seconds today, alarm-
ed all Lisbon. The vibrations,
which ran vertically, cracked walls
and knocked down chimneys. No
casualties were reported.Reports from the island of Ma-
deira stated that the earth shocks
were felt there but no details
were given.

APPEAL IS DENIED

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 18 (AP).—
Donna Arnett, 12-year-old school
girl, had a white and tan fox ter-
rier which died about a month
ago, and today she appealed to
the city council by letter for a re-
fund of \$3 which she had paid
for the dog's license, so she could
use the money to buy her mother
a Christmas present. The coun-
cilmembers could not grant her peti-
tion.Prospects Good
For Victorious
Girls' SextetProspects for a championship
girls' basketball team seem fairly
bright as the season approaches.
All but two members of last year's
squad are back and newcomers
from other schools, as well as un-
derclass girls, are giving the for-
mer team members competition for
their positions. Regular practice
has not yet been arranged because
of the conflict with the boys' prac-
tice in the gym but the girls have
had a couple of good workouts
under their coach, Ruth Johnson,
and expect to work regularly be-
ginning next week. The season's
schedule will be definitely an-
nounced soon and, in all probabili-
ty, will include games with the
Baker, Union and Wallawa sextets.Much new material is being de-
veloped this year through the work
in the gym classes and through
the class teams which are being
coached by members of last year's
first team. Much enthusiasm is
evidenced and some exciting games
are expected next week when the
class title will be decided. A small
admission fee will be charged for
the final game, the proceeds of
which will go to the A. G. S. chari-
ty department.Squad members who are back
this year are: Lena Campbell, cap-
tain; Mildred Courtney, Ann Stange,
Marjorie Reynolds, Lois Nelson,
Betty Cochran, Helma Hansmann,
Hazel Graun, Pearl Murray and
Bertha Bantz.McCully Ranch to
Go Under HammerPORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 18 (AP).—
The 800-acre ranch in Wallawa
county, formerly owned by E. D.
McCully, will be sold at auction
this afternoon at the court house
at Portland under federal court
order to satisfy a judgment of \$45,
000 on a foreclosed mortgage held
by the California Joint Stock Land
bank of San Francisco.There is also a second mortgage
on the ranch held by the Ladd and
Tilton bank of Portland and the
American National bank of Portlan-
do.Eight hundred shares in an East-
ern Oregon irrigation company
will be offered at the same time.
Two years ago McCully passed
through federal bankruptcy, fol-
lowing slump in farm produce.Monsignor White
New Spokane BishopROME, Dec. 18. (AP).—Pope
Pius has decided to appoint Mon-
signor Charles D. White, rector of
St. Joseph's preparatory seminary,
in Grand Rapids, Mich., as bishop
of Spokane, Wash., at the next con-
sistory.ENTERPRISE
THREE-STORY
MILL BURNEDFlouring Company's Loss
Estimated at \$35,000;
Plan to RebuildCIGARET BELIEVED
CAUSE OF FLAMESFighting Facilities Are
Inadequate to Stop Ad-
vance of Fire Licking
at Structure.ENTERPRISE, Ore., Dec. 18
(Special).—The three-story plant
owned by the Enterprise Flour-
ing Mill company was destroyed
by fire at an early hour this morn-
ing, with an approximate loss of
\$35,000, first estimates indicate.The flouring mill, owned by
George S. Craig, H. C. Mahaffey
and R. C. Wiley, was partly in-
sured and the owners expect to re-
build during the coming spring.Fire fighting facilities were in-
adequate to successfully cope with
the flames and only a small
amount of grain and flour was sal-
vaged from the burning structure.The alarm was turned in at three
o'clock by Mr. Holman and Mr.
Gassett, who lived nearby. They
saw the flames licking at the out-
side of the mill and called the fire
department. By the time it arrived
it was impossible to stop one
spread of the blaze.Officials believed that the fire
may have been started by a care-
lessly thrown cigarette. Boys fre-
quently coasted near the mill and
a lighted cigarette may have been
left near the scales, eventually ig-
niting the lint.

W. O. B. BUILDING BURNS

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 18. (AP).—
With a gross loss estimated at
\$10,000 and \$50,000 the W. O.
B. temple located on Liberty
street, the lodge home of 3,200
members of secret orders in Salem,
was totally destroyed by fire at an
early hour this morning. Insur-
ance, carried on the building
amounted to \$22,000. All lodge
equipment, musical instruments
and furnishings with the exception
of four or five pieces of furniture
were destroyed.

FIRE IN BELLINGHAM

BELLINGHAM, Wash., Dec. 18.
(AP).—Damage estimated at \$30,-
000 was caused by fire of unde-
termined origin this morning in a
three-story business building on
Cornwall avenue.

(Continued on Page Four)

Ormiston Returns to California;
Ex-Temple Radio Operator UnafraidLOS ANGELES, Dec. 18 (AP).—
Kenneth G. Ormiston whose sur-
render here today ended a country-
wide search of nearly seven
months, was taken into superior
court and ordered to appear Dec.
27 for arraignment on an indict-
ment charging him with criminal
conspiracy for his alleged part in
the disappearance here last May of
Alma Temple McPherson. He was
released on a \$2,500 surety bond.

Took Advice of Scribes

Ormiston said he had taken the
advice of certain Chicago news-
papermen as a second considera-
tion in deciding to return here
voluntarily.
"I do not think for a minute that
I could not have waged a winning
fight against extradition had I
chosen to remain in Chicago and
legally oppose the move to bring
me here," he explained. "But this
would have been unsatisfactory not
only to the officials here, but to
the public which has naturally fol-
lowed this case closely because of
the wide prominence given to it
and to myself."

Not Like a Fugitive

"This business of being a fugi-
tive from justice is laughable. I
have never had that status and
never will. It is a matter of rec-
ord, and has been since August 1,
that I offered to meet the district
attorney or his representative at
any time in the office of my Chi-
cago attorney, Edward H. S. Mar-
tin."Ormiston added that the third
influence which prompted him to
return to California was the coun-
sel of Martin, who, he said, had
advised him to keep "well within the
law" and to conduct himself "entirely
along legal lines.""It was too tough a proposition,
this being arrested in Chicago, so
I decided to try Los Angeles and
sure enough, I was successful," he
explained.While Ormiston talked freely
about his return to California he
continued evasive on all questions
pertaining to Mrs. McPherson or
the conspiracy charges pending
against her.
M. T. Johnson, G. E. Conklin and
Tom Page, all of Imbler, were
Christmas shopping in La Grande
today.Regents Winding
Up East Oregon
Inspection WorkClaims of Mid-Columbia
Cities to Be Heard To-
day—Central Oregon
Visited Yesterday.

HOOD RIVER, Ore., Dec. 18.

(AP).—The board of regents of
the state normal schools, who
have been surveying Eastern and
Central Oregon cities and towns
with a view to selecting a site for
the normal school voted for East-
ern Oregon, were to consider the
mid-Columbia sections claims to-
day. The board had a busy time
yesterday taking note of the of-
fers of Redmond, Prineville and
Bend, each of which promised
sites free and urged its advantages
as a possible location for the nor-
mal school.Redmond has four free sites to
offer in addition to water for ir-
rigation and domestic purposes.
Housing facilities there were de-
clared adequate, and it was claim-
ed that a sufficient number of
children would be available for
practical teaching.Prineville also offered four
sites, and proposed to place the
entire school system at the dis-
posal of the board of regents to
be used in conjunction with the
normal school. Prineville urged
that it should be considered on
the ground that geographically it
is the center of the state.Bend's arguments were present-
ed at a banquet last night at
which speakers stressed the cen-
tral location of that city and
spoke of the development in the
county adjacent to the city. Hous-
ing facilities were declared ad-
equate and the accessibility of the
city by railroad and highways was
mentioned. Three sites were of-
fered by Bend.The board of control, seeking a
site for a tuberculosis hospital,
yesterday investigated conditions
at Deschutes, seven miles north of
Bend. Today Sam Koser, mem-
ber of the board of control, went
to Dufur to see what that town
had to offer.UMBRA AND LUNA
FLIRT TONIGHTPhenomenon, Occurring
Once in 400 Years, Will
Delight Sky GazerBOSTON, Dec. 18. (AP).—A lun-
ar phenomenon so rare that the
last one occurred 400 years ago will
delight the sky gazer tonight.Scientifically speaking, the moon
will enter the earth's penumbra.
But the man on the street, will
see it as a shadow that will flit
lightly across the mountainous face
of the man in the moon and then
disappear.The affair might be described as
a flirtation between Luna and the
umbra of the earth.It will be almost, but not quite
an eclipse. The umbra, in the
earth's true shadow and around
this shadow, separating it from the
full light is a zone of partial shad-
ow, the penumbra.The appulse will come when the
penumbra darkens the moon as the
planet swings close to the umbra.
About 11 p. m. eastern standard
time and there will be a general
shadowing until about 1:20 a. m.,
when its accustomed face of chaste,
cold white will be edged by a dark-
ish hue shading to ruddy brown.Shortly after 3:30 the appulse
will pass into history.Portland Almost
Back to NormalPORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 18 (AP).—
Portland was practically back to
normal today after a wintry spell
that set in last Sunday night,
snow having almost entirely dis-
appeared and a silver thaw which
gripped outlying sections having
been dispelled by rising tempera-
tures.Traffic was moving cautiously
over the upper Columbia river
highway which was icebound yester-
day. The morning stage on the
highway started out, expecting to
get through.
Several cars went into the ditch
along the upper Columbia high-
way during the past few days on
account of ice.Water Tank Falls;
Kills One WorkerPHILADELPHIA, Dec. 18 (AP).—
One person was killed and possi-
bly two, when a large water tank
fell through the roof of the T. H.
Wunderlich candy factory on
Pegg street today. A large num-
ber of employees were buried in
the wreckage, but all but two, the
police said, were rescued.
Seven or eight persons were in-
jured and taken to hospitals.
Marie Hammit, an employee, was
taken out dead.Mrs. Homer Green was in this
city on business today. Her home
is at Imbler.LEGISLATORS
INHERIT MANY
BIG PROBLEMSForthcoming Session of
State Legislature Prom-
ises to Be Busy OneTAX QUESTION IS
AT TOP OF LISTConsolidation of State
Offices and Depart-
ments to Be Taken Up
—Irrigation Looms.SALEM, Ore., Dec. 18 (AP).—
The forthcoming session of the
state legislature which meets in
January will inherit a number of
problems bequeathed by the leg-
islature of 1925 which provided for
investigation by committees of
questions which could not be dis-
posed of two years ago. These in-
clude:Taxation, which has been studied
by a special investigating com-
mittee. This committee recently
returned from California where it
studied the taxation methods of
the southern state. The commit-
tee will meet in Salem next week
to decide upon its recommenda-
tions. Whether intangibles are to
be taxed is a problem it is consid-
ering.State working men's compensa-
tion has been studied by a com-
mittee which will report. Whether
the present non-compulsory act
shall be given "teeth" as proposed
by the state commission, is a mat-
ter to be decided.

Courses of Study

High school courses of study
have been under investigation by a
committee of which Senator H. L.
Eddy, of Roseburg, sponsor of a
movement for "rotting back to
fundamentals" is a member. This
question occupied much attention
at the last session and was dis-
posed of temporarily by referring it to
the committee.Reforestation will come up in a
bill prepared by a commission ap-
pointed by the last legislature. The
question of taxation to provide
funds for reforestation is an im-
portant element in these bills.Irrigation legislation looms
large as one of the outstanding
problems to be tackled by the
legislature which will be asked to
solve the question of how settlers
and districts in distress are to be
aided.

Free Text Books

Consolidation of state offices and
departments will be embodied in
at least one bill, which will be of-
fered by Representative Hector
McPherson, of Albany.Free Text books for schools,
urged by the state education as-
sociation and the Oregon Parent-
Teacher association are expected to
be the subject of much discussion.FERDINAND TO
STAY AT HOME;
SHUNS FRANCEBUCHAREST, Rumania, Dec. 18
(AP).—Although it has been de-
cided to send King Ferdinand to
Paris for radium treatment of his
intestinal disorder, opposition by
the Rumanian cabinet now has
made it uncertain whether the trip
will be attempted.The king himself whose desire to
go to Paris for medical treatment
was largely inspired by a wish to
see his errant son, former Crown
Prince Carol, has wavered in his
determination to make the trip.The king's condition is steadily
improving as a result of the last
operation which he underwent in
Bucharest. Radium treatment will
be used eventually, but it is pointed
out in court circles that this can
be given as readily at Bucharest as
at Paris, while the political results
of his absence from his kingdom
might be serious.5 SHOPPING
DAYS TILL
CHRISTMASPop's bought the kids a lot of toys.
They're hidden out of sight.
But when the kids have gone to bed
Pop lies them out each night.