

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Rains in the west,
snows in the east portion to-
night and Wednesday. Normal
temperature. Strong southerly
winds and rains on the coast.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1926.

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LEGION LOOKS
FORWARD TO
COMING YEARState Convention Will Be
Feature of La Grande
Veterans' ProgramACCOMPLISH MUCH
HERE DURING 1926Officers, Elected Recent-
ly, Will Be Installed on
First Wednesday of
January.This year's work of the La
Grande American Legion post is
practically finished and the new
year will begin next Wednesday,
when the first meeting of 1927 will
be held at the K. P. hall and new
officers will be installed.To complete the work of 1926
and begin the new year in the
proper spirit, a midnight matinee will
be held at the Arcade theater on
New Year's eve beginning at 12
o'clock, just as the old year goes
out and the new one steps in.Schedule Dance, Matinee
The matinee promises to be good
and legions are asking that
everyone resolve immediately to
attend. The seats will go on sale
tomorrow at the Glass drug store.Jack Coleman, of Pendleton,
Scotch comedian, will be the big
feature, and many other interest-
ing acts have been arranged. There
will be a Charleston contest be-
sides two other dancing acts.A musical saw act, Harry and his
musical saw, will perform a one act
comedy farce entitled "The Weak
Spot," under the direction of El-
wood Williams, assisted by Mrs.
Williams and Mrs. R. W. Ander-
son; a comedy skit, under the di-
rection of Len Russell; a wall
sculpture exhibition by the national
guard, and other attractions.The legion post will provide an-
other means of entertainment be-
fore the close of 1926 also. This
evening, beginning at nine o'clock,
the first "Silver" dance
sponsored by the post will be given
at Zuber hall. Decorations, which
are said to be the most elaborate
of any used at a dance here, for
some time, are already up and
everything is ready for the music
to start. The novel lighting ef-
fects to be used during the dance
is one of the principal features.Much Accomplished
Many things have been accom-
plished by the legion post during
the past year. The post has al-
ready gone over the top in the
drive for new members, and was
one of the first in the state to re-
port to headquarters of having
reached its goal. Although the
membership is larger than last
year's post No. 42 still has 100 mem-
bers to gain before it exceeds the
largest membership the post has
ever known in the year 1924.The local post is recognized as
one of the strongest in the state
and is one of the few posts which
has among its members a past state
commander, Fred E. Kiddie was
state commander in 1924.Convention in July
As proof of its good standing
legions from all over the state
voted to come to La Grande for
(Continued on Page Five)L. D. S. CANTATA
WILL BE GIVEN
ON WEDNESDAYThe second ward of the Latter
Day Saints church will have a
Christmas program tomorrow
evening at the tabernacle, and will
present a cantata, "The Star of
Bethlehem." About 30 persons
will take part in the program, to
begin at 8 o'clock.
After the cantata a dance will
be held at the recreation hall on
Fourth street.
The public is invited to attend
the cantata and the dance.GOOD
ADVERTISING
MONEYThis is a week of inventories
and not a few business men will
"take stock" of their advertising
and plan the expenditure for the
coming year.The intelligent merchant
avoids a definite advertising ap-
propriation of the expenditure of
which will keep you informed
about the advantages of doing
business with him. In 1927,
more than ever, he is going to
eliminate freak and unknown
methods propounded by smooth-
talking salesmen. He will ana-
lyze his publicity problems and
concentrate all or a majority of
his money in the Observer
where the reader-interest is
highest, the reader-cost the low-
est."Observer Advertising—
A Merchandising Service"Convict Seven
In City Court;
Four Go to JailTotal of \$325 Taken in
Fines and Forfeits as a
Result of Christmas
Day Arrests.Four new "boarders" and an ad-
dition of \$225 to the city treasury
is the result of arrests made by the
police department on Christmas
day.Seven men stood trial in munici-
pal court last night, most of them
pleading guilty before Judge C. M.
Humphreys. The others were con-
victed. Five others, arrested on
charges of gambling and who had
posted \$10 bail each, forfeited a
total of \$50 by failure to appear
for trial.Joe Thomas was fined \$100 for
possessing liquor. He pleaded guilty
to the charge and paid the
amount.F. O. Garrett, who admitted
guilt on a like accusation, paid a
fine of \$150.Dan Anderson, charged with
gambling, was fined \$25. Steve
Goullous, Nick Amos, Tony Ther-
as, Frank Diano and J. A. Ketr
also accused of gambling, forfeit-
ed \$10 each.

Four Go to Jail

Fred Wirth, E. W. Redding,
George Simmons and C. W. Hines,
charged with drunkenness, refused
to pay their fines and will serve
time out at the rate of \$2 a day.
Redding, Simmons and Hines were
fined \$25 and Wirth \$50.Although the annual report has
not been completed, Police Chief
Clint Haynes declares that more
money has been taken in fines this
year than had been expected.HIGHWAYS OPEN
DESPITE SNOWSState Crews Overcome
Hardships—Some Work
60-Hour ShiftsThe heavy snow over the week
end and the wind, which has been
blowing at a terrific rate in parts
of the valley, have worked a hard-
ship on state highway crews in
trying to keep the roads open to
traffic, but so far the work has
been fairly successful and persons
have been possible most of the time,
the local office reports.The La Grande-Eugene highway
was blocked near Joseph several
hours on Christmas eve and about
25 cars, including two stages, were
halted there. Workmen succeeded
in opening the road at about 2:30
o'clock Christmas morning and the
cars were allowed to go through.

Two Feet At Meacham

The heaviest snow since 1916
was reported from Meacham over
the week end. Two feet of new
snow fell there. Most difficulties
on this section of the road were ex-
perienced between Glover and
Emigrant hill, where the snowfall
was heaviest. Two state highway
crews have been making an effort
to keep the road open. Some of
the men have worked as long as
60 hours without rest.No trouble was reported on the
Baker-La Grande highway.

All Roads Open

All roads were open this morn-
ing, but crews were still busy re-
moving the drifts from the high-
ways caused by the wind. At hard
wind was blowing between here
and Elgin keeping the men working
constantly to keep the road pass-
able.Several cars are reported to have
slid off the highway into the
ditch as a result of the snow. There
were no serious accidents, how-
ever.Williams Attends
Realty MeetingSherwood Williams, of La
Grande Investment company, left
this morning for Tacoma where
he will attend the mid-winter
meeting of the Northwest Real
Estate association. The officer
and directors who were elected at
the convention here this summer
will be installed at this time. J.
W. Wheeler, of Tacoma, succeeds
A. H. Barnhart to the presidency
of the association. The meeting
will be held in the new Winthrop
hotel in Tacoma. Williams is Or-
gon vice president.Million Fish Eggs
Delivered at UnionUNION, Ore., Dec. 25 (Special)
—Harry Cole, an employee of the
Bend state fish hatchery, and for-
merly employed in similar work
here, delivered 1,000,000 Eastern
Brook trout eggs at the Union hatchery
last week and a like amount to
the Canyon City hatchery.This is the first shipment of
eggs to the local hatchery for the
coming year.TEACHERS OF
STATE GIRL
FOR BATTLEWill Oppose Move to
Have State Print Text
Books for OregonHAMPTON REPORT
SOUNDS WARNINGEducators, However, of
Opinion That Free
Books Should Be Pro-
vided Students.PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 28. (AP)
—Warning that an effort will be
made in the coming legislature to
provide for state printing of text
books was made in the report of
the committee on free text books
delivered by its chairman, A. C.
Hampton, of Astoria, before the
representative council of the Ore-
gon State Teachers' association be-
ginning its session today.The report suggested the advisa-
bility of teachers putting them-
selves on guard and preparing to
fight special legislation when it
comes up before the legislature.
"Our investigation reveals," says
the report, "that the material in
books printed by the state is gen-
erally inadequate, for the reason
that the plates from a number of
the leading publishing houses are
not available.""We hold that the children of
Oregon are entitled to the best
books available and that the state
is not justified either on educa-
tional or economic grounds, in
printing text books."Favors Free Text Books
The report further indicated that
free text books is a natural corol-
lary to compulsory education."We submit that when the state
says to the parent: 'You must send
your children to school and you
have no election in the matter,' it
is not fair for the state not to fur-
nish the full equipment for educa-
tion of the children."Adopted by Association
The report of committee was
submitted to the convention with-
out recommendations and was
adopted unanimously."Tax payers are paying too much
for civic pride at the expense of
the pupils," said Elmer F. Good-
win, chairman of the committee on
unification of small high schools,
in reading the report of his com-
mittee.The report pointed out that many
communities are erecting buildings
that are out of proportion to the
number of pupils to be accom-
modated and at the same time are
not able to finance a first class,
fully equipped school.

Favors Consolidation.

The committee suggested that
consolidation of minor high schools
and provision for free transpor-
tation of children to and from the
schools with complete facilities, and
(Continued on Page Five)Permit Smith to
Take Seat Until
Senators VoteWASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (AP)—
Under an agreement among sen-
ate leaders Frank L. Smith is ex-
pected to be permitted to take his
seat in the senate under the Illinois
governor's appointment after the
house has voted on understanding
that the senate will vote 10
days later on the question of oust-
ing him because of his campaign
expenditures.This procedure is understood to
meet with the approval of the lead-
ers of republicans, democrats and
independents.The first move will be to seek
unanimous consent to seat Smith
and refer the case to the election
committee with instructions to re-
port within five days, with the sen-
ate voting five days later.If unanimous consent is blocked
Senator Curtis, the republican lead-
er, plans to submit a motion em-
bodying the same proposal.Christmas Liquor Drinking Death
Toll Mounts to 41 Over the NationNEW YORK, Dec. 28. (AP)—
The death toll from Christmas li-
quor drinking in Greater New
York today had risen to 23, with
scores, perhaps more than 100, of
persons under treatment in hospi-
tals for alcoholism.In Chicago seven deaths have
been reported; in Detroit five; in
Des Moines two; in Milwaukee
three; and Omaha one.Dr. Charles G. Norris, New
York City medical examiner, de-
clared that extensive chemical
analysis would have to be made
before it could be determined
whether the deaths here were due
to drinking liquor or excessive
drinking.The government declines to ac-
cept any responsibility for any
deaths due to drinking alcohol
which passed through its hands.
Federal agents in Washington de-FLOOD FATAL
TO 13, CHECK
TODAY SHOWSDeaths Occur in Arkan-
sas, Mississippi and
TennesseePROPERTY DAMAGE
IS NEAR \$1,000,000Crisis Believed Past with
Waters Receding in
Many of the Smaller
Streams.MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 28. (AP)
—Thirteen persons were known to-
day to have perished in floods in
three southern states, and approx-
imately 4,000 persons were home-
less in Arkansas, Mississippi, Ten-
nessee and Kentucky. Property
damage was estimated at more
than a million dollars. Six were
reported dead in Arkansas, five
in Mississippi and two in Ten-
nessee as direct results of the flood.
Three thousand were driven from
their homes in Nashville when the
Cumberland river overflowed.The product of thousands of
acres of corn were being trans-
ferred from the lowlands of Ken-
tucky and Indiana as a result of
flood stage being reached in the
Ohio river. Such ungathered corn
has been ruined by flood waters in
these two states.

Crisis Past

Rain was forecast for every
southern state today, and while
the waters of many of the smaller
streams had begun to recede, ap-
prehension was felt in some sec-
tions over the aspect of further
downpours. The forecast for to-
morrow is generally fair.Train service has been crippled.
Some schedules have been can-
celled while others have been
changed by the necessity of many
detours. This is especially true
in Tennessee and Mississippi.The brunt of the floods in Ar-
kansas had passed today.Lowlands along the Ohio river
in Kentucky and Indiana were
just beginning to be badly flood-
ed. Alabama was hit by floods in
some sections but property dam-
age was not as great as in neigh-
boring states.The greatest property damage
was in Nashville where nearly a
hundred city blocks were flooded,
and hundreds of business houses
and homes deserted. Great dam-
age was caused to crops in outly-
ing territory.Most of the deaths reported
have been due to highway traffic
accidents.

RESCUE WORK RESUMED

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 28.
(AP)—Work of rescuing people
from flooded lowlands in Nash-
ville was resumed today when the
Cumberland river continued to
rise. About 100 persons were
taken from their homes today,
making approximately 3,000 who
have been driven out by high
water.

RAINS CONTINUE

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 28. (AP)
—Additional rains over the flood-
(Continued on Page Five)Takes Tree
From Cemetery
For XmasUNION, Ore., Dec. 28. (Special)
—Union harbors one of the
celebrated "meanest men." Or
so it would seem from opinions
expressed here in reference to an
act of vandalism.A just proof of the appearance
of the cemetery, Union people
were very indignant when it be-
came known that someone—pres-
umably in search of a Christ-
mas tree—chopped down a slight-
ly cedar in the burial grounds.A reward for the apprehension
of the guilty person has been of-
fered by the school district, own-
er of the cemetery grounds.

BEAUTIES—TWO KINDS

All the town beauties at Pasadena's forthcoming Tourna-
ment at Roses won't be the kind that grow on stems. This pic-
ture proves it. It shows Miss Oulna Lisk with an array of blooms
waiting to take part in the tournament.Car Dives Off
150-Foot Bank;
Driver Is SlainTHE DALLES, Ore., Dec. 28.
(AP)—The body of George M.
Hostetter, former deputy in the of-
fice of the state superintendent of
corrections, was found beside the week-
end of his automobile alongside
the Columbia river highway near
here yesterday. The car had left
the highway west of the Modest
tunnel and plunged 150 feet down
an embankment. It is not known
when the accident occurred. Al-
though it is believed to have been
within the past three days Hostet-
ter's body was discovered by some
boys on a hunting party.Hostetter lived here for many
years. Some months ago he be-
gan for California and it is be-
lieved he was returning here to
spend the holidays with relatives
and friends.FINDS HUSBAND DEAD
EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 28. (AP)—
Alone in the hills near home west
of Alma, Mrs. Benjamin J. Watts,
wife of a pioneer of that district,
found the body of her husband at
10 o'clock Sunday night after a
search started when he failed to
come home from work that even-
ing.The body was found near a fall-
en tree in the road which he had
attempted to clear. Death was by
flooded due to heart failure. Watts
was 55 years of age. He had lived
in the same precinct for the past
40 years.Major Would Clean
Up Salacious ShowsNEW YORK, Dec. 28. (AP)—
Charging them with "dumping in
New York shows that could not
get bookings on the road," Mayor
Walker told theatrical producers
summoned to city hall today that
if they did not clean up their
play themselves he would do it
for them by putting through leg-
islation for official censorship."I understand," he told news-
papermen after the conference,
"that the real artistic shows on
Broadway are starving to death
and that some fly-by-night salu-
gious productions are selling out
nightly."Death Laid to
Unknown CausesSPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 28. (AP)
—At an inquest here last night a
coroner's jury decided that W. A.
Stiltz, of Haines, Ore., whose body
was found in a freight car here last
Friday, came to death from un-
known causes. It was the jury's
opinion that no violence was con-
nected with the death. Investiga-
tion by the sheriff revealed that
Stiltz boarded the freight train at
(Continued on Page Five)America in Sound Condition, Is
Belief of the Chief ExecutiveWASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (AP)—
In discussing the future, the white
house today pronounced America
in a fundamentally sound condi-
tion.President Coolidge is well pleased
with the situation at the end of
the old year, although he is making
no forecasts.Secretary Davis, of the labor de-
partment today informed him that
the opportunities for employment
seem to be increasing, notably in
the east.The president feels that the coun-
try is well supplied with capital,
with skilled labor, with natural re-
sources and with raw materials.
Manufacturing is going on at more
than the ordinary rate, he under-
stands, and transportation is mov-
ing rapidly.Coolidge feels no one can tell
when these conditions will change.SCOUTS GO TO CAMP
EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 28. (AP)—
Fourteen Eugene boy scouts, un-
der the supervision of C. R. Clarke,
Lane county scout executive, left
yesterday for Winter camp at the
peak of the Cascades. Four Oak
Hedge scouts were met en route.
The boys will be gone for several
days.There are more than four feet of
snow at the camp, according to
word brought down.Texan Admits He
Killed 13; Guard
At Jail EnlargedGeorge J. Hassell Con-
fesses to Slaying Wife
and Eight Children and
Four Others.FARWELL, Tex., Dec. 28. (AP)
—Extra guards today were assigned
to watch George J. Hassell, Texas
punchbowl rancher, who is confined
in the county jail here, following
confessions to the slaying of 13
persons.Charged with murder following
his admission that he killed his
wife and her eight children and
placed the bodies in a dugout on his
ranch near here three weeks ago,
Hassell last night confessed to
slaying a woman and three chil-
dren in California three years ago.
He refused to reveal the names of
the California victims or to com-
ment on the crime other than to
say "it was a good job" the sheriff
said. Hassell is recovering from
self-inflicted knife wounds which
physicians at first believed might
prove fatal. He stabbed himself
when officers came to search his
ranch after neighbors had become
suspicious of his actions and the
safety of his family. The confes-
sion on his jail cell last night
after confessing the four California
slayings.Reopen Investigations
Records of the Associated Pipe
Line company of Fresno, Cal., show
that Hassell worked for the oil
company in 1922. He was trans-
ferred to various California points
until 1923 when he resigned. He
then moved to Oklahoma and a lit-
tle more than a year ago moved
to a ranch near here after marry-
ing his brother's widow. Author-
ities have reopened an investiga-
tion of his brother's death. The
brother was killed while working
in a field in Oklahoma with Hassell,
who said a mule kicked him to
death.Hassell said in his statement that
he did not know why he killed his
wife and children. He de-
clared the slaying followed a quar-
rel with his wife after she charged
him with intimacy with her oldest
daughter.Used Hammer
"I grabbed a hammer, where it
came from I do not know. I struck
her and she fell to the floor," Has-
sell said in telling of the slaying of
his wife. "The smallest baby be-
gan crying and I reached down and
choked it. Then I secured a stack-
ing and tied it around the baby's
neck. I don't know why, but when
I saw what I had done, I decided
I had best go on and kill the whole
outfit."The children ranged in age from
two to 21 years. Some were choked
and others shot.U. S. May Refund
\$174,120,177 Tax
Money ShortlyWASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (AP)—
Congress was asked by Secre-
tary Mellon today to give the
treasury authority to refund \$174,
120,177 illegally collected in taxes
for the fiscal year 1927 and
"prior" years.The money is to be refunded to
about 257,000 tax payers in
amounts ranging from one cent to
hundreds of thousands of dol-
lars. The treasury previously had
transmitted to congress a sup-
plemental estimate to cover the
amount and the budget bureau
had announced the figure had
been taken into consideration in
estimating the treasury surplus
for the present fiscal year.Secretary Mellon, in transmit-
ting the request today to the
house ways and means committee
sent a list of names of those who
will benefit under this refund.
Closely typed, they covered 14,380
sheets of foolscap, and a truck
was required to haul the bundle.Some of the nation's celebri-
ties shared in the tax refunds re-
ported by Mellon.John D. Rockefeller Sr., re-
ceived a refund of \$7,475 and
William O. McAdoo \$7,711.Others on the list included Mary
Roberts Rinehart, \$1,292, and
the estate of Florence Kling Har-
dison.WHITE HOUSE COMMENTS
WASHINGTON, Dec. 28. (AP)—
American intervention in Nicara-
gua is proceeding strictly along the
lines followed traditionally by the
United States in Central America,
in the opinion of President Cool-
idge.The only purpose of the Ameri-
can landing force is the protection
of the lives and property of Ameri-
can citizens, the white house
spokesman said today and there is
no intention of allowing partisan-
ship between the contending
forces.The president believes that
American intervention has had no
effect in favor of one or other of
the Nicaraguan factions.DIAZ BELIEVED DOOMED
MEXICO CITY, Dec. 28. (AP)—
Dr. Pedro Zapata, representative
of the liberal government on the
east coast of Nicaragua today
claimed that the recent defeat of
(Continued on Page Five)OPEN SCHOOLS
FOR WOMEN OF
TURK NATIONCONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 28.
(AP)—The Turkish government,
as part of its modernizing cam-
paign, intends to open nation-wide
public schools for women where it
estimated 98 per cent of women
illiterates will receive compulsory
instruction in their A. B. C.'s and
hygiene. Even thousands of nomad
women of the eastern provinces
must attend the school.The minister of instruction, in
making known the orders, declared
that respect for women is the
sacred duty of civilized countries
and that nations which under-
value women are a social factor
cannot advance from barbarism.The government also will estab-
lish women's clubs where a cam-
paign in favor of better wearing
instead of veils, will be carried on
with other modernizing propa-
ganda.

SEES COP; RUNS

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 28. (AP)—
The sight of a policeman Saturday
night so frightened a man on the
main business street of Eugene that
he fled, according to the story told
by the officer today. The officer
had approached the man to invite
him to a turkey dinner.