

CITY
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MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 141

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Rain tonight and
Friday. Snows in the mountains.
Moderate temperature. Southerly
gales on the coast.1925-26 CITY
COMMISSION
ENDS LABORS

Combination of Hill, Landis and Playle in Last Official Session

25-MINUTE MEET
WINDS UP AFFAIRS

New Executive Body to Be Organized Next Monday Afternoon; Coburn New Member.

There was no last-minute rush of business to transact, no hostile nor hostile when the commission that has served the city of La Grande during 1925 and 1926 met in its last official session last night in the city hall building. Instead, with its slates cleared and its big projects accomplished, it convened and in a few minutes, 25, to be exact—the combination of A. T. Hill, Charles Playle and Dr. R. P. Landis became history.

Commissioner Landis, retiring, before he presented the motion to adjourn, expressed his appreciation of associations with Commissioners Hill and Playle during his service as city executive and congratulated Commissioner-Elect H. R. Coburn, elected at the Nov. 2 election.

Congratulating Coburn
"In relinquishing my office, I wish to say that the contact with you gentlemen has been one of the most enjoyable of my life," Commissioner Landis said. "If I could know that future years would carry as much it would be a joy indeed. And I wish to congratulate Mr. Coburn, not only for his official duties, but especially on the contacts, he, too, will enjoy."

"To have accomplished what we have is something to look upon with pride. I feel that in our hearts we know we have done our best—whether we have succeeded or failed."

"Only wish I could be here and share in the next two years."

Favors Local Bond Purchases
Before concluding, Commissioner Landis suggested that some steps might be taken to encourage local purchase of municipal improvement bonds, with the view of paying interest into La Grande pockets instead of sending it into other communities to benefit their citizenship. He urged that it be given publicity and that an attempt be made to educate local investors.

He wished the new commission success in carrying out its program, including the storm sewer project, and hoped that the commission would enjoy the continued confidence of the people.

Replying in behalf of himself

(Continued on Page 5)

GRANGES WILL
INSTALL HEADS
STARTING JAN. 1

The Blue Mountain grange is arranging for a public installation of officers to be held Jan. 5, with a drill team officiating.

The morning grange session will be devoted to regular business matters and the program will be held in the afternoon. Several other organizations in the county will also have public installations during the coming week.

Mt. Hannu grange, of Cove, will induct officers at the New Year's day meeting. Mr. Hunt is new deputy. Installation will be conducted by County Deputy J. A. Nier.

Pleasant Grove grange, of Summerville, will also install on New Year's day and that night Wolf Creek grange will hold a public installation.

MORE
BUSINESS
IN 1927

Every man in business in La Grande wants and hopes to do more business in 1927. To accomplish it, he must attract you to his place of business, must convince you that his service and merchandise is the most satisfying and the best for his money. He must show an interest in having your trade by selling it intelligently and by taking care of it with benefit to you as well as to him.

For your part, the natural aid to your buying decisions will be the business man's advertising messages in The Observer. Through them you can keep in touch with the business community, what's new, what's different, what's cheapest, what's best. Fortunately, indeed, is the business man in having this means available to him at minimum reader-cost.

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Large Crowd At
Tabernacle For
L. D. S. Cantata

Second Ward of Church Presents "The Story of Bethlehem" with Cast of 80 Persons.

A fairly large crowd attended the Christmas cantata given last evening at the Latter Day Saints' tabernacle by the second ward of the L. D. S. church. "The Story of Bethlehem," by William H. Spencer, was the subject, and about 20 persons took part.

The principal solo parts were taken by Miss Emma Baxter and George Turner. Mrs. Julia Hansen and Mrs. Nellie Robinson were contralto soloists. Miss Leona Baxter was piano accompanist. The Christmas program was under the direction of Mrs. Mable Maxfield.

After the program a dance was held at the recreation hall, which was attended by about 60 couples.

COMEDIAN HERE
FOR A. L. FROLIC

Jock Coleman, Scotch Singer, Will Be Feature of Matinee

Jock Coleman, Scotch comedian, who will take part in the American Legion's midnight frolic tomorrow night, beginning at 12 o'clock, arrived in this city this morning from Pendleton, where he makes his home, and will be here until after the show.

Coleman will appear as Harry Lauder in a number of Scotch songs and stories. He will wear the native costume and is expected to make a big hit with the audience.

Miss Mattot Billed
Another feature of the midnight matinee will be the appearance of little Miss Rosella Mattot, seven-year-old child acrobat and dancer.

This little miss, who is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Oral, of this city, is well known throughout Eastern Oregon and Central who has worked out almost completely herself. Her parents live at Hermiston, Ore., but she has been traveling with her grandparents while Oral attends to his duties as district leader of weights measures.

A breath from the Alps will be another interesting part of the matinee when Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Hoffman and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hildebrandt will appear, wearing native costume, in a Swiss yodeling act.

Musical Saw Act
Leslie Hale and his musical saw and several other musical instruments will also add to the program. Hale has had 15 years of vaudeville experience and is said to be an expert local entertainer.

Some alterations in the program have been necessary, but according to present arrangements there will be nine of the most entertaining acts available, which will require about two hours time.

Tickets are on sale at the Glass drug store.

Sherwood Williams
Installed Director

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 29 (AP)—By action of the Northwest Real Estate association in session here yesterday, steps will be taken to bring to the Pacific northwest next summer a trainload of leading writers and publishers of the United States in an effort to acquaint them with the scenic beauty and natural resources of the west.

Vice presidents appointed by Wheeler included: Oregon—J. Fred Staver, Portland; Sherwood Williams, La Grande.

Directors included: Oregon—F. H. Upham, Portland; W. G. Krueger, Salem; Floyd Vaughan, Baker.

Karasick Defeats
Polk in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—At Karasick, Portland fight heavyweight wrestler, took two straight falls over George Polk, today, here, last night.

ESCAPED MAN TAKEN

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—Harry Wolfe, one of the four prisoners who escaped from the county jail here on Christmas day, was recaptured today by deputy sheriffs about a mile east of Donald, where he was working at a wood hauling job for Cooper Smith. Wolfe was working not far from his old home, and made no effort to escape or resistance when officers appeared on the scene to recapture him. Wolfe was being held at the jail for the grand jury on a larceny charge.

STATE LEVY
IS FIXED AT
\$2,160,737.62

Increase over Last Year Tax Is Six Per Cent, All Law Allows

TAKES NO ACCOUNT
OF NORMAL SCHOOL

Both La Grande Institution and Tuberculosis Hospital Will Need Big Appropriations.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—The state tax commission today fixed the state tax levy for 1927 at \$2,160,737.62, which is an increase of six per cent, the limit allowed by the state constitution over the levy for 1926, or an increase of \$122,305.30.

This is the full amount possible to levy under the constitutional limitation. But the actual budget needs of the state government as approved by the state budget commission are \$3,093,575.42, which indicates a certain deficit of \$932,837.80 at the end of 1927. The deficit may be vastly increased for the reason that the budget estimate of actual visible needs of the state government do not take into account other acts that the approaching legislature may take involving the expenditure of money. It does not take into account the money necessary for the establishment of the Eastern Oregon normal school at La Grande and accounts for only \$100,000 for the establishment of the tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles where probably twice that amount will be necessary.

Total Tax \$9,008,299.42

To the tax levy of \$2,160,737.62 arrived at today, which is within the six per cent limitation, must be added \$7,477,561.80 in millage levies that are outside the six per cent limitation, making a total of \$9,648,299.42 in state taxes to be apportioned among the counties. The corresponding total for 1926 was \$7,200,593.79.

The present state deficit was estimated at about \$840,000. Secretary of State Koser said that if the tobacco tax bill and the bill for the state tuberculosis hospital were passed, the state would have a surplus.

TREMOR SHAKES STATE AT NORTH

Yakima, Wenatchee, Spokane Feel 2-Minute Earthquake Today

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 29 (AP)—Earthquake shocks around 10 a. m. today were felt here and at Wenatchee and Yakima, in Central Washington. The seismograph at Gonzaga university here, recorded a violent shock at 9:57, which continued two minutes. Its center was located 560 miles away.

At Wenatchee buildings shook and many occupants ran into the street. Yakima residents reported that desks and tables were moved noticeably.

The shock was first noted here when an instructor at Gonzaga notified Father A. M. Jung when books had been shaken on his study desk.

SHAKE WENATCHEE HOMES

WENATCHEE, Wash., Dec. 29 (AP)—A pronounced earthquake was felt here at 10:05 a. m. today. Buildings shook and many occupants ran into the streets. One old-timer, who has felt them before, said it was the most pronounced in the 17 years he has resided here.

YAKIMA FEELS SHOCK
YAKIMA, Wash., Dec. 29 (AP)—Yakima residents shortly before 10 o'clock today, noted that their buildings were shaken by an earthquake. Miss Janet Sharpe, of the Indian service, with offices in the Federal building, says that her desk and those of other workers were shaken back and forth.

Mrs. O. L. Burnham, living in a ranch home five miles from the Federal building says the table, at which she was working, was moved back and forth. Her husband and men employed on the ranch also felt the shock.

La Grande Swept By High Winds

This Morning, Some Damage Done

A severe wind swept over La Grande this morning, bringing discomfort and some damage. A gust that blew over the Elk's Christmas tree at the corner of Washington and Depot streets also caused in the large plate glass window of the Modern Laundry.

Another gust blew over a heavy brick chimney at the J. J. Peck home, 1804 Cove avenue, at 10:20 a. m. The chimney collapsed against the side of the roof or would probably have caved through the top of the house, it is said.

Snow has drifted deeply in several parts of the town, mostly in the western and eastern section, and the street department has been working continuously keeping everything in shipshape order for traffic.

The wind today was one of the heaviest of the season. Accompanying it was warmer weather. Last night's minimum temperature of 21 above made it the warmest night since the cold wave struck the valley several days before Christmas. Quite a bit of the snow has melted since last night, when a light fall added to the foot already on the ground.

TWO WEDDINGS
OF IMPORTANCE

Above—Most recent picture of Crown Prince Umberto, of Italy, who is to wed Princess Elena, of Romania. Below—Frances June Keller, of Los Angeles, who is to become the bride of Warren G. Harding, of Columbus, O., a nephew of the late president.

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Two Americans
In Clutches of
Mexican Bandits

United States Embassy Seeking Their Immediate Release and Punishment of Captors.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 30 (AP)—The United States embassy was informed today that two American mining men, J. W. Wiley and E. H. Connors whose addresses in the U. S. are not known were kidnapped Tuesday by Mexican bandits at the mining men, J. W. Wiley and E. H. Connors, near Parral. The bandits, calling themselves revolutionists, carried the men into the mountains where they are being held captives for ten thousand pesos ransom.

The embassy made urgent representations to the Mexican government seeking the release of the Americans and the punishment of those responsible for their kidnapping.

Wiley and Connors are American employees of the British owned San Francisco Mining company which operates at San Francisco del Oro.

No details have been learned by the embassy except that the kidnapping party numbered 14.

U. P. Refuses to
Change Schedule

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—The Union Pacific today advised the Portland chamber of commerce that it could not comply with the chamber's request for a fast limited train between Portland and Chicago which would equal a one-hour service recently established between San Francisco and Chicago.

Strangler Active In San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30 (AP)—A stranger appeared in San Francisco early today. A young married woman, Mrs. Adele Meacham, was his victim.

Mrs. Meacham was taken to an emergency hospital in a critical condition after having been found on the floor of her apartment by her husband on his return home early this morning.

The woman told the police a man had followed her to her apartment last night and had strangled her by the throat and strangled her into unconsciousness. She was able to give a good description of him to the officers.

Man Found Dead in
Underground Vault

ASTORIA, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—An inquest will be held shortly by E. B. Hughes, Clatsop county coroner, into the death of Charles M. Mekula, 45, Spanish war veteran found dead late yesterday in his subterranean brewing vault near Hammond.

The body was discovered by neighbors searching for Mekula after he had been missing three days. The underground brewery was located in a vault 12 feet below the level of the ground. Mekula's body was found lying amid his brewing equipment.

Death was believed to have been due to alcoholism or suffocation. The trapdoor covering the entrance to the vault was tightly closed.

Fall's Condition
Worse This Morning

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 29 (AP)—Former Secretary of the Interior, A. B. Fall, who is ill at his home here with pneumonia, suddenly took a turn for the worse during the night, necessitating the calling in of Dr. H. T. Safford at an earlier hour than usual this morning. Fall was reported yesterday as being practically out of danger.

The ex-senator spent a very restless night and was coughing a good deal. He slept very little. Dr. Safford was called in before 8 a. m. and was to make a later call during the morning. Members of the family said Fall's temperature had increased a little.

Conference Names
New Year Officials

EUGENE, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—The fifth annual meeting of the Pacific college, economic and commercial conferences held at the University of Oregon adjourned yesterday with the readings of four papers and the election of officers for next year. The professors will meet during the 1927 Christmas holidays at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.

The officers elected yesterday are: President, Theodore H. Boggs, University of British Columbia; secretary and treasurer, A. C. Schmitt, Oregon Agricultural college; executive council, W. R. Robinson, University of California; Henry A. Bard, University of Washington and Dean W. L. Wannan, Utah Agricultural college; Logan, Utah.

PEACE PLEA
SOUNDED BY
MR. COOLIDGE

President Frowns on Competitive Armaments in Trenton Address

ADEQUATE ARMY,
NAVY IS FAVORED

Chief Executive Guest of Sesquicentennial Celebration of Crossing of Delaware.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (AP)—Having uttered a plea for permanent international peace and a warning against the danger to the world in a policy of competitive armaments, President Coolidge returned to Washington today after attending Trenton's sesquicentennial celebration of Washington's crossing the Delaware.

Speaking before the Trenton Historical society, he urged the United States and the world to be ready to make sacrifices for peace as the colonies made for independence and declared himself sure that "we are strong enough and brave enough to resist another independence action."

Rousing Welcome
President and Mrs. Coolidge were welcomed to a fasted and cheering Trenton. Contrary to plans only three governors of the original 13 states were present at the banquet. They were Governors Robert F. Robinson, of Delaware; John W. Trumbull, of Connecticut; and A. Harry Moore, of New Jersey. Several other states, however, had representatives present.

President Coolidge urged "moral disarmament" upon the world to promote permanent peace and said that the attainment of such an end would have to be hastened by international treaties for the limitation of armaments.

"I do not believe," he said, "that we can advance the policy of peace by a return to the policy of competitive armaments. While I favor an adequate army and navy, I am opposed to any effort to militarize the nation."

Own Masters, Judges
Regarding America's attitude to the rest of the world, President Coolidge compared the feelings of present day Americans to those of revolutionary days saying: "They did not then and do not now fall to recognize that they are part of the civilized world. But they were determined then and are determined now."

(Continued on Page Five)

Keyes Expects
To Drop Charge
Against Aimee

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29 (AP)—The dismissal of criminal charges against Aimee Semple McPherson was forecast today as District Attorney Asa Keyes prepared to launch a new grand jury investigation of the evangelist's disappearance case.

That the prosecution would move to dismiss the felony charges against Mrs. McPherson, her mother, Mrs. Minnie Kennedy, and Mrs. Lorraine Wiseman Shieff was indicated last night when Keyes declared that the case was in "such a muddle that a conviction is almost impossible."

The McPherson triple case was upset, according to Keyes, by the "collapse" of the testimony of Mrs. Wiseman, who had been regarded by the prosecution as its principal witness, but who yesterday was characterized by the prosecutor as a "turn coat" and "perjurer."

PIONEER DIES

PENDLETON, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—George Demott, pioneer resident of Pendleton for 38 years, died at a local hospital this morning from Bright's disease. He owned one of the leading grocery stores here for a number of years and later a cigar store.

YOUNG AT HEART—A CO-ED AT 77



Mrs. N. O. Freeman is 77, but she's a co-ed at Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill. her home town, where she has enrolled for a special English course. She's shown here with two other co-eds, each nearly 60 years her junior, studying "how to be a flapper." The girls are Carolyn Franklin (left), and Vesper Getman.

20 Big Leaguers
Crooked, Risberg
Tells Ball Czar

New Quiz May Come Out of Statements Made by Former Chicago White Sox Shortstop.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 (AP)—A new baseball quiz may come out of declarations of Charles "Swede" Risberg, former Chicago White Sox shortstop, that he "can give base ball's bosses information that will implicate 20 big leaguers who never before have been mentioned in connection with crookedness."

Risberg, banned from baseball as the result of the 1919 world series scandal, made his statement to the Chicago Tribune at his Minnesota dairy farm, and immediately drew from Baseball Commissioner Landis a declaration that he would welcome hearing Risberg's story.

"Most certainly he would be welcome," the commissioner said after reading Risberg's accusations, but he declined to comment on the statement, in which Risberg declared "Landis and the big bosses of baseball don't want to know the facts."

The Tribune said "it was a kindly man who began to read the statement and a burning nemesis who finished."

Challenges Landis
Risberg told the newspaper there had been "plenty of crooked work going on in baseball," and continued:

"If Commissioner Landis and the owners and managers haven't seen it, they are blind. Landis and the big bosses of baseball don't want to know the facts. This is a challenge to the commissioner. Let's see what he'll do about it."

U. S. STANDS PAT;
IGNORES PROTESTS

American Troops Continue to Hold Neutral Zone in Nicaragua

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—While the Somoza liberals continue to forge ahead in the interior of Nicaragua, threatening the vital positions of the conservative forces of President Diaz, American government officials in the face of a battering rain of far-flung protests and widely divergent opinions, are standing pat on their announced policy of protection for American lives and property.

While conferences continued today between high officials in Washington, late dispatches from the war zone in Nicaragua told of the retreat to El Bluff from Las Perlas of the Diaz troops, their dismantling in the neutral zone and the dispatching of 200 conservative soldiers to Monkey Ridge to save that strategic point from falling into the hands of Somoza's army.

President Diaz who has been recognized by the United States is reported to have asked American Minister Ethelbert at Managua to have the Escondido river established as a neutral zone, in view of his inability to guarantee protection to foreigners. Several neutral zones already have been established on the east coast and whether additional ones will be created rests with Rear Admiral Julian Latimer, American naval commander in Nicaraguan waters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—Admiral Latimer, commanding American forces in Nicaragua, notified the state department today that all censorship on radio stations in the neutral zone had been removed.

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CHILDREN OF
TODAY RIGHT,
PEDAGOG SAYS

Oregon Teachers Hear Youngsters Endorsed by Portlander

STATE FOOTBALL
TOURNEY LOSES

Association Declares It Is Not in Favor of Championship Contests in 1927.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 29 (AP)—Things that used to be between father, son and slipper have become matters for the juvenile courts as a result of modern tendency of parents to rely upon public agencies in handling discipline of children, said C. A. Rice, superintendent of Portland schools, addressing a section of the Oregon State Teachers association here today.

"A few years back we did not hear of boys and girls being brought into juvenile court, for the simple reason that there was no such court. Many of the things that come before a juvenile court nowadays were settled in an earlier generation across father's knee or in the woodshed, and the public heard nothing of it."

Children No Worse
"As a result, the undiscriminating observer is prone to jump at the conclusion that the younger generation is growing worse, children are no worse now than they were—they merely have more opportunities to run afoul of the intricate machinery of modern social order. This should call for a more elaborate provision to protect in the complex and involved social system in which they must function."

Decline of football as a college sport, because of the immense draft it makes upon the time of the students engaged in it, is foreseen by professor W. A. Kern, head of the physical education department of Oregon Agricultural college. He made the statement in an address at the Oregon state teachers association convention.

Dr. Hyman Meltzer, psychologist at Oregon Agricultural college, cautioned parents against imposing too severe discipline upon children, saying that this would crush personality.

"The child that has been brought up by the parent whose goal is to bring him up 'white before the Lord,' has very little opportunity for developing integral personality," he said.

High school principals in their department elected B. H. Conkle, of Medford, chairman and selected E. Ingstad, of Oregon City, as secretary.

NO GRID TOURNEY

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 30 (AP)—There will be no tournament to determine the state interscholastic football championship sponsored by the Oregon state high school athletic association next season, it was decided at the annual meeting of the organization here today.