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(Incorporated)
An Independent Newspaper

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THE GOD OF MERCY—"O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like Thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepeth covenant and sheweth mercy unto Thy servants, that walk before Thee with all their hearts." 2 Chron. 6:34.

From his pictures, John D. Rockefeller seems to have the longest face in America. And from his account books, the longest head.

"Ma" Ferguson seems to be the kind-hearted sort of woman who'd give a square meal to any poor devil who asked for it at the kitchen door, no matter how many wives and children he ought to be at home supporting.

Some of the people who are horrified because 4000 Americans are dying per year from poisonous alcohol never seem to have noticed it when, before the prohibition era, 6000 per year died of acute alcoholism from drinking the pure stuff.

Judge Lindsey has lost—at least temporarily during a political controversy—his judicial job in Denver. Some of the details of the difficulty are lacking but we fear the Judge has been talking too much and writing for popular magazines too strenuously. Sordid domestic relations may prove sensational for a time but too much is too much.

Sacramento has given to the state of California a new Chief of the State Department of Motor Vehicles. He immediately canceled 3000 special badges issued to favored motorists, which were supposed to make them immune from arrest. Then he issued orders that "arrests shall be made in a decent, manly fashion, without abuse and without insulting language or attitude which has occasionally caused resentment." He has made a good start. Law and traffic officers are servants of the people, employed partially, at least in many cases, by the very people they must bring to justice. Courteous correction and gentlemanly discharge of official duties will aid in law observance.

THE HAGUE OPIUM AGREEMENT

A number of years before the unsuccessful opium conference at Geneva in 1924-5, there had been an international meeting at The Hague and an agreement upon a certain procedure. Article 9 of that agreement, to which the United States was a party, pledged the signers "to limit the manufacture, sale and use of morphine, cocaine and their respective salts to medical and legitimate uses only."

The United States has done a good deal toward carrying out that plan. But complete success of its work is made impossible by the failure of other countries to do their part. Our government believes that only a small part of the drugs manufactured here is diverted to illicit channels, yet the situation remains very bad because of the difficulty of keeping out smuggled narcotic drugs, readily obtained for that trade in other countries.

Rather shrewdly, but quite politely, this government addresses a diplomatic note to all the other nations signatory to The Hague Opium Convention of 1912, telling them of its own efforts, of the difficulties it has encountered and of the outside influences beyond its control. It asks if the other governments won't also make a frank statement of the existing situation in their countries, telling what they have done and what they are willing to do, even asking suggestions as to whether they think there is anything more that we can do.

The conference at Geneva failed. Here is a real agreement which was excellent in itself, though never carried out. Why not, says Uncle Sam, make use of this old agreement right now to correct some of the more obvious evils of the narcotic drug trade? Then, maybe, other steps can be taken later on.

PUBLIC DOMAIN NOT HOME LAND

Livestock Association in Favor of Orderly, Economic Supervision

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 26 (AP)—What remains of the public domain, amounting to nearly two hundred million acres, "will not respond to settlement in the way of building homes, and the livestock industry cannot be stabilized and made safe under the present arrangement," William Peterson, director of the Utah Agricultural college, told members of the National Livestock association here today.

The area of these public lands was shown to aggregate 195,043,284 acres, a net increase of nearly 10,000,000 acres over 1924.

The operation of the soldiers' settlement act, which invited soldiers to enter upon the public domain, has not made homes for soldiers in the manner for which the act was intended, Dr. Peterson said, after reviewing the public land development from the close of the civil war, when land script was issued by the government to the veterans of that conflict.

Pool Land Left

What remains of the public domain or what has been offered the soldier under recent congressional legislation, will not maintain a family, the speaker continued. "A man could not establish a home and get a living from the 440 acres allowed, which would in any way allow proper rearing and educating a family."

Answering the question "what service is the public land giving at the present time," Dr. Peterson said: "It is subsidizing the income of the homes already established and it is giving the grazing necessary for the cattle and sheep industry of the west, and this response is the most economic that can be expected from the lands as they are now located."

Regarding the future disposition of the lands, Dr. Peterson recommended public control. "What the stockmen are looking for," he said, "is an orderly and economic supervision of the land, which is now fully occupied, but with much controversy as to rights and privileges and that the supervision will recognize and preserve the legitimate industries now established and bring to each state and each industry the full fruition of what these lands are capable of."

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 26 (AP)—Secretary of agriculture Jardine who announced in his address to the national livestock convention yesterday that there would be no increase in grazing fees this year said later in his talk that there will be an increase in the following year.

Jardine proposed to put into effect the rates recommended in the cabinet report. Twenty-five per cent of these increases will become operative in 1928 and each succeeding year, until 1931, when the full rate recommended in the cabinet report becomes effective.

Governor Signs Administration's Five Prison Bills

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Jan. 26 (AP)—With the signing of the group of five state prison bills by Governor Patterson, the transfer of the penitentiary from the sole jurisdiction of the governor to the state board of control has been completed. The measures carry the emergency clause which made them effective immediately. They also change the title of the head prison official from warden to superintendent leaving the title of warden to the second officer.

These changes were advocated by Governor Patterson in his message to the legislature.

Every theater, motion picture house, concert hall or museum in cities or towns of over 1000 population would be forced to pay a minimum license fee of \$100 if a bill, introduced by Representative A. H. Allen, Clatsop county, becomes a law. An additional \$100 would be levied for every increase

UNION PERSONALS

UNION (Special)—The 10 o'clock stage to La Grande Saturday morning met with a slight accident just this side of Hot Lake. The driver had a large touring car instead of the big stage and when the wind struck it a quick blast the whole south side of the top tore loose and would have blown off had one of the passengers not held it down with his hand until the car reached La Grande.

John Harris was in La Grande on a business trip Saturday.

Earl Garrison, cashier of the North Powder bank, and Mrs. Garrison, were visitors from the latter place Friday evening. They came down to see the Union-Powder basketball game.

W. V. Connor was shopping in La Grande Saturday. He returned to Union Saturday evening.

Many social and other kinds of gatherings were either cancelled or poorly attended last week owing to the extreme cold weather. Although Union has only about half as much snow as fell at La Grande the roads drifted so that travel from Union to other towns was difficult.

The coldest temperature registered in this end of the valley by the government thermometer at the state experiment station was 13 degrees below.

The Union Fuel company has been trucking a carload of coal from La Grande since the train service on the road to the Junction has been discontinued.

D. H. Crouter, bookkeeper at the Union Flouring Mills here has been confined to his home for about a week owing to ill health but is again able to get to his work.

Word has been received by relatives here that Adrian Goodbrod, who went to the veterans' hospital at Tacoma a few weeks ago for an operation, is getting over the operation nicely and is able to be up.

MOUNT IVY, N. Y.—Maybe they were jealous of Carmel's brief place in the sun. Two residents of this hamlet confessed they blew up a house because the town needed publicity since there had been nothing about Rockland county in the New York papers for a month.

of 250 in seating capacity.

By a unanimous vote the senate yesterday adopted senate concurrent resolution No. 3 requesting that congress repeal the federal inheritance tax law for the reason that it menaces the rights of the states to have inheritance tax laws.

Favors Poll Tax

A poll tax would be reestablished in Oregon under a bill introduced by Representative Charles Lafollette, Washington county. All residents would pay a head tax of \$2.

The limit of three dozen razor blades that one may take in a day would be removed under house bill 235. Introduced yesterday afternoon by representative Lafollette.

An amendment to the state constitution that would create the office of lieutenant governor is proposed in a senate joint resolution introduced yesterday by Senators Butler and Dunn. Under the resolution if adopted the measure would be voted on by the people at the next special or regular general election.

HEAR OPPONENTS OF EDDY MEASURE

Bill to Create State Board of Education Discussed Last Night

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Jan. 26 (AP)—Opponents of the Eddy bill which would create a state board of education to supervise the present board the state text book commission and the state board of higher curricula, were heard at a public hearing conducted by the education committee of the senate last night. Senator Eddy, author of the bill, and Dr. George H. Alden, of Willamette, university chairman of the special committee that investigated the state course of study and drew up the report on which the bill is based, spoke briefly, reserving their remarks until later.

Those who spoke against the measure were J. C. Nelson, principal of Salem high school; C. A. Rice, superintendent of the Portland school; George A. Briscoe, superintendent of the Ashland schools, and Miss Grace Bridges, a Portland teacher.

Would Fight Rustlers

Four companion bills, designed to combat cattle thieves in the range country east of the Cascades, have been introduced in the house by Representatives Hamilton, Burdick, Collier, and Senator Upton. One bill number 255 requires a vendor of livestock to pass on to the purchaser a legally executed bill of sale specifying and describing the stock sold.

Number 256 makes it unlawful to peddle meat without the possession of the hide of such animals.

A third bill makes it unlawful for one to skin dead livestock without the consent of the owners.

A fourth provides that brands must be registered before they may be used.

Duck Bill In

Representative E. D. Potter, of Lane county, through house bill 241, would prohibit shooting of ducks on Whoahink and Tallicoos lakes in Lane and Douglas counties from boats propelled by mechanical power. Potter's bill goes further in that it would prohibit the shooting of ducks from any boat at greater distance than 100 yards from shore. Potter's bill would also bar the use of minnows for bait in Whoahink or Tallicoos lake.

Sum of \$275,000 for the construction and equipment of a library and \$130,000 for the building and furnishing of an infirmary at the University of Oregon is sought in house bills 245 and 250 introduced by Representative Longman and Senator Norblad.

Chaplin says he intends to fight his wife's suit to the last ditch. We'd rather they'd ditch it now.

THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

SITTING ON A VOLCANO

LA Grande citizens, when the subject of the American Legion State convention comes up, are in the habit of considering it in the same class with other conventions held here in the past, when in fact it cannot be so classed anymore than the Lincoln automobile can be compared to the old horse and buggy, and the sooner La Grande wakes up to the fact that they are "sitting on a volcano" that will explode, erupt and otherwise assume active proportions in our midst July 21-22-23, the better they will be prepared to entertain and take care of our visitors on that date.

The writer had the good fortune, not as a delegate or active participant, but merely as an interested spectator, of being in Marshfield during the 1926 convention. Its magnitude surely surprised us, and when we think of how the streets of two cities, Marshfield and North Bend, were filled with marching drum corps, each composed of from 20 to 50 men, with their gay uniforms and equipment, all trying to make the most noise and attract the lion's share of attention, the various groups of "buddies" celebrating their reunion (for the convention is not only a business meeting but a time of celebration and there will be hundreds here who attend only for a good time) we wonder where La Grande is going to find the room for them to "circulate."

Adams Avenue, through the entire length of the business section, will see such a crowd as it has never witnessed before, and will require the same length of Jefferson and Washington parallel to afford space for jostling. This, of course, being an opinion formed through witnessing the attendance at the 1926 convention, and we do not see why so many should not attend the 1927 meeting. In fact several more drum corps are expected at La Grande than there were at Marshfield, as many new organizations have been formed throughout the state since then.

And our citizens will want to keep in mind that the delegates and visitors have been royally entertained at every preceding convention and the most that La Grande can do will not excel the treatment that has gone before. It is going to tax the proverbial La Grande progressiveness to send our visitors away with the good feeling that has prevailed at the close of previous conventions.

We understand Marshfield and North Bend Legion posts raised and expended \$5,000 on entertainment. How they furnished what they did with this amount will ever be a mystery to one not on the inside, and must have included untiring efforts and all kinds of assistance by the business interests of the two towns. While the La Grande post and auxiliary have shouldered the main responsibility of entertaining the 1927 convention, and have set their financial goal at \$5,000 to meet expenses,

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this can not be done without liberal patronage by our citizens of the different events they will foster to raise this amount, and any deficit will naturally need to be met by business interests.

As a picture for our citizens to contemplate, we will ask them to imagine La Grande with a circus tent covering the entire city, about twenty-five main rings and numerous side shows running at the same time, and they will have some idea of just how the city will look during the days of the convention. And those who are desirous of peace and quiet had better begin planning now to take their summer vacation during that time.

C. N. Palmer.

William Turner, 94, of Barnstable, England, has drawn an army pension for 50 years, a post-office pension for 20 years and an old age pension for 15 years.

Corsets for girls are anathema and hard derby hats and stiff collars for boys are an abomination, says Dr. R. Henning Beland, secretary of the New Health society of England.

The Glasgow, Scotland, city government paid \$25,000 for a portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots, painted by a contemporaneous French artist.

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