

CITY
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THE WEATHER

OREGON: Rain tonight and probably Friday. Moderate temperature. Strong south and south-east winds; gales on the coast.

FOREST FIRE
LOSS DURING
YEAR \$1,918Gerald Tucker, Local
Ranger, Compiles Re-
cords for 192697 BLAZES NOTED
IN THIS DISTRICTHalf a Hundred Caused
by Lightning and Rest
by Man—Merchantable
Timber Burned.

There was a total of 97 forest fires in the Umatilla national forest during 1926, destroying forest resources valued at \$1,918.75, according to statistics just compiled by Gerald Tucker, forest ranger, stationed here.

A total acreage of 1,348,770 is included in this national forest, which extends from near Astoria, Wash., nearly to Spray, Ore., in Wheeler county, including all of the Blue Mountain range. Out of the 97 fires, 50 were caused by lightning and 47 were caused by man. Of the man-caused fires, 12 were started from campfires, 20 by smokers, six by railroad engines, five by brush burning, one was of incendiary origin and three miscellaneous.

48 Class A Fires
Forty-eight of the total number of fires were classified as class A fires, which burned over less than one-fourth an acre; 34 were class B, burning over from one-fourth to 10 acres; 13 were class C, burning over more than 10 acres.

The total area burned over by the 97 fires was 1,326 acres, 368 1/2 acres being mature or merchantable timber; 57 acres protection forest; 151 acres reproduction forest and 149 1/2 acres grass, brush, etc.

Much Timber Destroyed
A total of 377,890 board feet of merchantable timber was destroyed, valued at \$1,048.37; 151 acres of reproduction timber, valued at \$704.63 and 57 acres of protection forest, valued at \$15, bringing the total value of forest resources destroyed during the year to \$11,918.75.

It cost the Umatilla national forest \$7,899.91 to fight the 97 fires and free cooperative assistance given in fighting the fires amounted to \$1,107.49.

Boys' and Girls'
Boards to Meet

There will be a joint meeting of the boys' and girls' committee of the Union county chamber of commerce, the girls' committee of the La Grande Neighborhood club and the boys' committee of the Rotary club this evening at 7 o'clock in the chamber of commerce offices.

Tot, 3, Gashed by
Pruning Shears

ROSEBURG, Jan. 27. (AP)—James Edward Nichols, 3-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Nichols, today was brought to the hospital suffering from a long gash in his side caused by falling on a pair of pruning shears. The boy had been playing in the orchard while his grandfather was pruning trees and fell from a platform to the ground, directly under the shears which he had been holding in his hand. Although he was cut entirely through the abdominal wall he is expected to recover.

OUT
IN THE
VALLEY!

The blanket covering of the city of La Grande by the Observer is always taken for granted—with over 1700 papers delivered to readers here each evening. But it is sometimes forgotten that you who live on the farms and in the smaller towns of the two counties make up another group of readers almost equal in size to that of the city.

On the rural routes out of La Grande, for example, The Observer goes by its own carriers and by rural carriers to over 95 per cent of the boxholders each day. Nearly as perfect coverage is available on the other rural routes in the valley. There are more guaranteed paid rural subscribers to The Observer than to any other two papers in the two counties combined. Is it any wonder that The Observer is so generally recognized as the most economical and effective method of medium available in this territory?

"Observer Advertising—
A Merchandising Service"Favor Renaming
Some Streets
In La Grande

Erection of Signs at Intersections Also Considered—Garbage Removal Plans Discussed.

Renaming of a number of streets in La Grande in order to do away with confusion resulting from misnaming C street for G street, etc., was discussed at the city commission last night and it was finally decided to refer the matter to the city planning commission with instructions calling for an early report.

The various streets to be renamed, if the movement is successful would be B, C, D, E, G, and Z and any others that sound so nearly alike as to be easily confused. Box Elder and Alder streets were mentioned.

The commissioners, however, favor naming of the streets in such a way as to keep the first letter of the name identical with the present letter. B street might be changed to Burke, Burley, or some other name starting with a B and so on.

To Sign City

In connection with this, some discussion developed in reference to placing street signs over the city. City Manager W. C. Crews favored signing Adams avenue, Fourth street, Fifth street, Second street and possibly one or two others this year, and then completing the job in 1928. He declared that if all of the streets were signed in one year the expense would be rather large, and favored splitting the amount up so it would cover a two-or more-year period.

Approximately 400 street intersections exist in La Grande and signs would have to be erected at each of these. City officials favor a metal sign on a post set in concrete—one that would stand the wear and tear of time without requiring replacement every few years.

Garbage Discussed.

Considerable time was also spent on a discussion of garbage. City Attorney George T. Cochran suggested two plans, both to be specified in a city ordinance. One is to zone the city and permit only one hauler to operate in each zone, selling him a contract. Commissioner H. B. Coburn suggested this would result in a monopoly, and as such would also require price-fixing and other complicated procedures.

The other plan is to license all garbage haulers, at about \$1 a year, and require vehicles used to answer city specifications and to determine this by regular inspection.

To Insure for Liability.

It was decided to insure all city vehicles for liability to the extent of \$50,000. At present no liability insurance is carried on any of the city's vehicles.

A rooming house license was granted to Mr. and Mrs. Mose Elledge to operate the L. O. O. temple, Request for a first stand permit at the corner of Jefferson and Depot was made by C. R. Ratcliff and Jesse J. Link, and the matter was referred to the city manager.

The city attorney reported that he had drafted a radio ordinance and the commission decided to hold this pending a report from radio fans.

Legion Hall Is
Opened; Hundreds
Attend Dance

Several hundred persons attended the opening dance in Legion hall, given last night by American Legion Post No. 43 of La Grande. Beginning last night dances will be given on Wednesday and Saturday nights each week. The proceeds to go into the state convention fund.

The Star Novelty orchestra has been engaged for all dances. The hall has been redecorated in a pleasing fashion and the floor worked over.

Legion hall will serve as a center for all legion activities and will also be convention headquarters.

Knowles Preparing
For Term of Court

Judge J. W. Knowles returned home yesterday from Pendleton, where he has been holding court in the place of Judge Phelps. He will begin immediately to get things ready for the Union county term of court. Motion day will be next Wednesday and cases will be set for the February term, which begins Monday, Feb. 7.

Awes Admitted to
Synod in Everett

EVERETT, Wash., Jan. 27. (AP)—The Rev. Lief H. Awes, La Grande, was admitted to the Pacific Lutheran Augustana synod at conference here yesterday.

JANE ADDAMS

—NEA, Chicago Bureau
There was a full house in honor of the founder of Hull House when Chicago banqueter Jane Addams, noted social worker, the other day. Five thousand attended. This picture of Miss Addams was taken at the time.FRANK DANA TO
SERVE 60 DAYSLocal Man, Convicted in
Federal Court, Re-
turned to Jail

Frank Dana, arrested here on a charge of possession of a still and turned over to the federal court for trial, has been brought back to La Grande by Sheriff Jess Breckers and has started serving a 60-day sentence in the county jail.

Dana's case before the federal court in Portland ended Saturday. He was convicted and sentenced to serve 60 days in the Union county jail.

Nels DePinto, arrested with Dana, is in San Francisco, Cal., and Carl G. Helm, district attorney, will leave tonight for that place. DePinto will probably be brought to Portland for trial.

One-Way Traffic
on Oregon Trail

Although snow drifted along the highways in several places during last night the state roads leading out of La Grande were all open to traffic this morning.

A few drifts were reported near North Powder this morning, but cars were able to go through. One-way traffic is necessary in several places on the Old Oregon Trail between here and Pendleton, the state highway patrolmen at Meacham reported this morning, but cars are going through without any difficulty.

Farm Conference
Plans Discussed

The executive committee of Union county's fourth annual economic conference met last evening at the chamber of commerce with members of the county committee of chambers of commerce, members of the agricultural committee and representatives from the Pomona grange, when a few additional plans for the conference were discussed.

Arno Venz was appointed chairman of the poultry division.

Archery Bill Is
Introduced Today

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Jan. 27. (AP)—Slaying of deer and shooting of birds on the wing with bow and arrow will be legal in Oregon if a bill introduced today in the legislature by Representative Theodore P. Cranner of Josephine county is enacted.

This provision is included among changes in the game code approved by Game Warden E. P. Averill. Sale of deer hides legally taken, and catching the ten-inch trout the year around in the main part of streams flowing to the water are other changes proposed.

No adequate building could be supplied with the amount appropriated in the measure submitted to the people, which was \$100,000. Attorney General Van Winkle will prepare the form of the bill to be put before the senate.

After weeks of study by officials of the state board of control, and

U.S. POLICY
IN CHINA IS
MADE CLEARStrict Neutrality to Be
Maintained by the
United StatesWARSHIPS REMAIN
TO GUARD RIGHTSWashington Willing to
Enter into New Treaties
Whenever Veil of
Chaos Is Lifted.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (AP)—The United States has notified all Chinese factions and the powers signatory to the Washington conference treaties that if proper conditions can be agreed upon in the war-torn country it stands ready to transact, either in concert with other nations or alone, if necessary a new tariff and extraterritorial treaties with China.

However, until new treaties are negotiated with "somebody representing China," and ratified by the senate, existing pacts "cannot be abrogated."

These are the cardinal points in Secretary Kellogg's long-awaited Chinese policy declaration, made public last night, in the form of a "statement" and making no mention of the British memorandum on the subject, to which it had first been planned to be an answer. The pronouncement was made public simultaneously in Peking, Hankow and Shanghai.

Great Neutrality

It pointed out that American naval forces will be in Chinese waters to protect American life and property in event the "Chinese authorities are unable to afford such protection," asserted the United States has watched with sympathetic interest the "nationalist awakening of China" and expressed a desire to observe strict neutrality as between Chinese factions and to deal with that country in "a most liberal spirit," as to unequal treaties.

All that was required of China, the statement said, was protection, and "equal opportunity with the citizens of other powers to reside in China and to pursue their legitimate occupations without special privileges, monopolies or spheres of special interest or influence."

While the statement on its face did not develop any wide variance of viewpoint with that outlined by the British it did point out that the United States held no concessions in China. "On this point," President Coolidge believes there is some ground for differences in American and British policy in dealing with China.

"No Imperialism"
The statement also asserted the U. S. "has never manifested any imperialistic attitude" toward China, and said the only question before it in considering a new treaty was "with whom it shall go to."

(Continued on Page Five)

Stanley Buresh
And Tom Alley
To Meet Monday

Stanley Buresh, of Dodge, Neb., and Tom Alley, of Omaha, will open the 1927 wrestling season in La Grande next Monday night in Legion hall, formerly the Rex, under the auspices of the American Legion post. It is announced today.

Buresh, who has appeared in Pendleton, Portland and other northwest cities recently, has many victories to his credit. He met Tom Thye some time ago and the match was described as fast and aggressive on the part of both matmen. He is a protégé of Joe Stecher and uses the leg scissors as his pet hold.

Tom Alley has won a name for himself among the topnotchers in Oregon since he came here from the middle-west, winning the majority of his encounters. He is aggressive and keeps his opponent on the move every minute in the ring.

Last night at Grants Pass Alley won a hard, fast match that ended in a knock-out.

The match is scheduled to begin at 8:20 o'clock.

The Dalles to Ask for \$320,000
To Build Tuberculosis Hospital

SALEM, Jan. 26. (Special)—Senator Butler, of The Dalles, will introduce a bill appropriating \$320,000 for the tuberculosis hospital authorized by voters at the November election.

No adequate building could be supplied with the amount appropriated in the measure submitted to the people, which was \$100,000. Attorney General Van Winkle will prepare the form of the bill to be put before the senate.

After weeks of study by officials of the state board of control, and

State Highway
Commission In
Session TodayMembers Hear Report of
River Route Survey for
Proposed Rain Rock-
Florence Road.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 27. (AP)—C. H. Purcell, federal district engineer of the bureau of public roads, and his assistant, J. A. Elliott, today made their report to the state highway commission on the river route survey for the Rain Rock-Florence section of the Willamette valley-Florence highway.

The river route, which follows the north bank of the Stuckay, is 19 1/2 miles long and the estimated cost of grading alone is \$657,000. The estimated cost for grading and surfacing is \$1,000,000 a mile.

This federal survey was made upon the request of the highway commission last November. The river route eliminates the hill climb, has a better alignment than the inland surveys and will require no maintenance, according to Elliott.

The moving back of 28,000 feet of Southern Pacific track to give the highway the present railroad right of way. If the company refuses cooperation, the new route cannot be taken.

The chief hill route survey made by the highway commission is 20 miles long and its grading will cost \$702,000, according to estimates by state highway engineer Roy Klein.

Tax Cut Effort
Thwarted Today
In U. S. Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (AP)—Under adverse rulings by Vice President Dawes, the democratic efforts to attach tax refund legislation to the first deficiency appropriation bill were abandoned today in the senate.

The vice president upheld a order by Senator Lenroot that the Reed amendment was a modification of the revenue act of 1925 and as such was unconstitutional, not allowed on an appropriation bill. Efforts of the Missouri senator to ward his amendment in such a way as to avoid this objection were fruitless.

Pollman Elected
Vice President

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 27. (AP)—El Paso, Tex., will entertain the American national livestock association in January, 1928. L. P. Heite, Marfa, Tex., was elected president.

Other officers elected were vice president, W. M. Pollman, Baker, Ore.; second vice presidents, Arizona, H. G. Bolce; California, Hubbard Russell; Nevada, George Russell; New Mexico, Victor Culbertson; Colorado, Charles E. Collins; Wyoming, Charles D. Carey.

(Continued on Page Five)

Pastor to Plead
Insanity, Report

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 27. (AP)—The defense of the Rev. W. G. Jones, charged with violating the Mann act by transporting Mrs. Pearl Lee, one of his parishioners, from Portland to Fort Worth, Tex., will be insanity, his attorney, W. O. Sims told Federal District Judge Benn today. The court named Dr. William House to determine whether Jones is sane enough to go to trial.

Jones was formerly pastor of the Third Baptist church in Portland. His wife, Mrs. Jennie E. Jones, has come from her home in Modesto, Cal., to be with him during his trial.

Baker Man Causes
Some Excitement

ROSEBURG, Jan. 27. (AP)—Considerable excitement was created here today when Joe Foster, a railroad switchman of Baker, became mentally deranged and jumped off a southbound train. He was suffering from a hallucination that he was being pursued by a mob and ran to a local hotel to procure a room where he might hide. Officers were called and when they attempted to subdue the man he drew a long kick from his coat sleeve. He was finally overpowered and placed in jail and given treatment for his condition. He was on his way to California to seek a brother who has been missing for several years.

Robbers Escape
With Much Aspirin

NEW YORK, Jan. 27. (AP)—Using motor trucks to carry away their loot, robbers ramacked a Hudson storehouse today and escaped with 13,999 cartons of aspirin valued at more than \$100,000.

TURNER, IDA,
BLAST KILLS
7, INJURES 20Gas Blast at Basketball
Game Result of Some-
one Lighting MatchONE-STORY FRAME
HALL COLLAPSESSpectators Near Doors
Literally Blown from
Building—Many Hurt
in Rush to Exits.

TURNER, Ida., Jan. 27. (AP)—The death toll following the explosion in the community hall here today when a third son of James T. McCann, janitor of the hall, died from burns and shock.

A match and an ignitive investigator seeking the cause of a mysterious gas leak, last night caused the death of six persons and the serious injury of probably more than a dozen spectators who had gathered to witness a basketball game between the Turner home team and the visiting team from Central Idaho.

Estimates are that between 200 and 300 persons from the two communities had gathered to witness the game which was played in a one-story frame building used by the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) congregation as a church and recreation hall.

Gas Explodes

During the progress of the game acetylene gas light system failed, and the hall was plunged in darkness. James McCann, the janitor of the building, went to investigate. Some one, whose identity has not been established, lighted a match. Instantly there was a blinding flash and as nearly as can be reconstructed from the confused and stunned witnesses, the walls at the rear of the building collapsed, dropping the plaster ceiling upon the assembled crowd.

There was a rush for the single exit at the front of the hall and the greater part of those in the building had made their way to safety when the front walls of the structure also gave way, crushing those near the exit. Several of the dead and a number of the injured were found around the exit.

An emergency call for help was immediately sent to Grace, Idaho, about 12 miles distant and in a short time an eager crowd of helpers had arrived to assist in the work of removing the dead and injured. An emergency ward was established in the Turner school house, where the more seriously injured were cared for.

Janitor Mangled.
The body of the janitor, James McCann, the last to be found, was discovered in the basement, badly mangled by the force of the explosion.

Many of those attending the game were literally blown from the building. Others, near the door, appear to have had time, after the first warning of the explosion, to rush to exit and make their escape. It was believed, up to a late hour last night, that all of the dead and injured had been removed from the wreckage. The dead: James McCann, rancher, Turner, Idaho (janitor); Brigham McCann, rancher, Turner, Idaho (janitor).

(Continued on Page 5)

HOAX; TRAGEDY



Veda Bellefeuille longed to be loved like the heroines in story books are loved. So the 19-year-old Marshalltown, Ia., girl wrote letters to herself from imaginary suitors and showed them to a neighbor, Charles L. Elrod. As a result Elrod's body was found in his hotel room the other day. It is believed that jealousy led him to take his own life.

Ty and Tris Are
Cleared by Czar;
Both ReinstatedLandis Restores Cobb and
Speaker to Big League
Eligible Lists by To-
day's Decision.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27. (AP)—Ty Cobb and Tris Speaker today were cleared of all charges which might make them ineligible for participation in professional baseball in a decision by Kenesaw Mountain Landis. They were given permission to resume their withdrawal from baseball and return to the reserve lists of the Detroit Tigers and Cleveland Indians, respectively.

"This is the Cobb-Speaker case," said the decision by Commissioner Landis. "These players have not been, nor are they now, guilty of fixing a ball game. By no decent system of justice could such findings be made. Therefore they were not placed on the ineligible list."

"As they desire to resume their withdrawal from baseball, the release which the Detroit and Cleveland clubs granted at their requests in the circumstances detailed above, are concluded and these players' names are restored to the reserve lists of those clubs."

Sept. 25, 1919, Game Banned

Cobb and Speaker appeared before Commissioner Landis Nov. 27, 1926, and were informed that Dutch Leonard, retired pitcher formerly with Detroit, had turned over letters to the American league stating that the game of Sept. 25, 1919, between Detroit and Cleveland had been fixed. Cobb, Speaker and "Smoky Joe" Woods branded the charge as false after they learned that Leonard had included them as parties to the arrangement.

Neither Cobb nor Speaker was present when Leslie O'Connor, secretary to Commissioner Landis, based out the typewritten sheets of the commissioner's decision, nor were they represented by counsel. Commissioner Landis was in his office earlier but left shortly before the decision was given out.

Cobb was understood to be in Augusta, Ga., his home, and Speaker in Cleveland. The decision pointed out that the mere announcement of charges of the character placed against Cobb and Speaker, whatever the personality or motives of the accuser, or the scarcity or even absence of evidence, was sufficient to suspend them from the game.

(Continued on Page Five)

MEXICAN TROOPS
DEFEAT REBELSEx-Governor and 11 Others
Killed in Encounter
at Xochipala

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 27. (AP)—Urban Lavin, former governor of the state of Guerrero, and 11 others have been killed in an encounter with federal forces at Xochipala, state of Morelos, in which the rebel leaders, former General Luis Quiroz, Augustin Mendoza and Marcelino Castrejon were wounded. The rebels belonged to a group commanded by Victor Huerta, which finally was forced to disperse after a number of clashes with federal soldiers the last few days. Pacheco dispatches say that one man was killed and six were captured when federal forces surrounded a house at Tepetl Del Rio, state of Hidalgo, where a group of conspirators were conspiring against Huerta. The conspirators offered resistance and a brick clash ensued, Jose Flores being killed. The war department is investigating reports of the execution of those arrested.

Military headquarters according to dispatch from Colima has announced that rebels in the northern districts are being pursued, several of them being killed in various encounters. From Guadalajara the report is that many rebels were killed when federal soldiers recaptured the town of Ixtahuacan after a sharp combat, the insurgents dispersing.

(Continued on Page Five)

Parole Is Denied
Charles R. Forbes

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27. (AP)—A parole has been denied Charles R. Forbes, former director of the veterans' bureau who is serving a two-year prison sentence.

E. C. Shevlin Dies
In Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 27. (AP)—E. C. Shevlin, prominent lumberman of the Pacific northwest and formerly of Minnesota and Michigan, died here early today after an illness of several months.

He was vice president of the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber company, of Bend, and of the Crookston Lumber company, of Minneapolis, Minn. He died in 1927. In 1927, he was elected to the Michigan legislature. He was a member of the S. C. Hall Lumber company of that city.

WAYS, MEANS
BODY TAKES
UP NORMALSAllows La Grande Insti-
tution \$40,000 for Main-
tenance PurposesAPPROPRIATION TO
BE DECIDED LATERMonmouth Budget Rec-
ommendation Is Raised
\$31,000—O. A. C. Re-
quests All Granted.

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Jan. 27. (AP)—The ways and means committee last night added \$31,000 to the recommendation of the budget commission for the Monmouth Normal school. The budget commission recommended \$20,000 and the ways and means committee allowed \$51,000. This is entirely for salaries and maintenance. The budget commission cut out capital outlay altogether. This item will be considered later by the committee.

Everything Oregon Agricultural college asked for in the way of appropriations for extension and experiment was granted.

The University of Oregon medical school received without dissent its full estimate of \$248,392, while the Dornbecker memorial hospital was voluntarily raised by the committee from \$130,000 to \$178,000. The reason for this was that by equipping the hospital to receive more patients the per capita cost would be decreased.

Allow La Grande Sum

The Southern Oregon normal was allowed \$32,210 for capital outlay and the new normal at La Grande \$40,000 for maintenance. Other items for these will come up later.

Once more the predatory animal hunter fund was reconsidered last night and allowed. The first night the committee met this item was cut from the requested \$45,000 to \$40,000. Later it was reconsidered and discounted altogether. Last night on motion of Senator Bell, it was reconsidered and the \$40,000 reinstated. On motion of Representative Polce \$10,000 of this amount was set aside for bounties.

Other Recommendations

Reconsideration also was given the state board of health and the bureau of nursing. The board of health which a few nights ago was cut from a requested \$75,445 to \$40,000 was last night raised to \$65,000. The bureau of nursing which the board voted recently to discontinue, was given \$15,530, all it asked. The bureau of child hygiene got the full amount of its estimate, or \$15,000.

Local opinion is that, having allowed the Eastern Oregon normal school \$40,000 for maintenance last night, the senate ways and means committee will go on record later this week, possibly tonight or tomorrow, as favoring an appropriation of \$175,000 for construction of the school. The exact amount of the appropriation is not certain but \$175,000 is the figure that has generally been considered necessary.

The house by a vote of 33 to 20 this morning voted to submit to the people a proposal for repealing section 11, article 11 of the constitution which is the six percent tax increase limitation. Representative J. O. Bailey alone spoke on the measure urging its passage. To meet the possibility that it may be necessary that the height and clearance of the Columbia river bridge at Longview be increased to permit free access of shipping to Portland harbor, the joint Multnomah delegation together today introduced a bill in the senate that would authorize the port of Portland to assist in the construction of the bridge. Port officials believe they have the authority but the bill would make it clear legally. The measure also authorizes the issuance of bonds for the purpose.

STAR'S ASSETS
TIED TIGHTER
BY OFFICIALS

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 27. (AP)—Charles Spencer Chaplin's assets were more completely tied up and Mrs. Chaplin's efforts to secure alimony awarded in her divorce suit made more difficult today when government representatives filed additional liens of \$530,000 for alleged delinquent income taxes against the U. S. distribution corporation.

The new lien brings the amount of the government's claims here up to \$1,663,000. The government today lifted the liens which were placed on the assets of Charles Spencer Chaplin held in New York banks. The comedian's private funds and those of the Chaplin Film Corporation and the Regent Film Corporation were released.