

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Unsettled, probably
light rain in west, local snow and
rain in east portion tonight and
Thursday. Colder in east portion
tonight.

VOLUME XXV.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1927.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 182

COUNTY BUYS
COVE-UNION
RAIL STRIPSheriff Sells Central Rail-
road of Oregon
for \$7,350.00FUTURE OF LINE
NOT DETERMINEDUnion People, However,
Expect to Maintain the
Connection with O-W
Mainline.

The county of Union and the city of Union are now joint owners of the Central Railroad of Oregon, the result of a sheriff's sale held at the Union depot yesterday afternoon in an effort to realize enough money to pay up delinquent tax claims amounting to a total of \$10,322.02 including costs.

The railroad which consists of 12.5 miles of track and some rolling stock, brought the auctioneer, Sheriff Jesse Brenhears, a total of \$7,350. In spite of the fact that the public service commission some time ago appraised the line at about \$114,000.

After the railroad went on the block, part and parcel, C. L. Cadwell, representing the city of Union, made the first purchase—a strip connecting Union with Union Junction and the O-W mainline, for which the county received \$1,200.

County Bids Twice
Then the sheriff placed a stretch between Hot Lake and Hempe station under the hammer and Carl H. M. district attorney, representing the county, was successful bidder, offering \$1,250 for the line.

This section of the railroad has been unused for many years and amounts to little more than warped steel and the right of way, the latter probably worth a considerable sum of money as agricultural land, many believe.

Union-Cove Line Next
Next the Union-Cove piece of track and the rolling stock, which includes a locomotive, a passenger car, and four or five box and flat cars, was offered to the highest bidder. Helm, again representing the county, offered \$5,000 which was accepted.

The total money realized from the sale was just \$2,952.02 short of the amount needed to pay back taxes, leaving the shortage to the county to make up.

Whether the county will make an attempt to maintain a schedule on the Cove-Union line is yet unknown but it is generally believed that the condemned locomotive and the unused track between Hot Lake and Hempe station will be disposed of, although this remains to the county court to decide.

Union people will continue to maintain their plans for the operation of the two and a half mile railroad have not been made public in every detail.

Large Crowd of Spectators
Sheriff Brenhears reports that a large crowd of spectators were on hand for the sale yesterday, which took approximately half an hour to complete, all eager to witness their first "railroad auction."

Reserved Seats
On Sale Tomorrow

Reserved seats for the Union-La Grande basketball games here Saturday night will go on sale at Glass Drugs tomorrow morning, student body of the high school announced today. Reservations will be limited to four for any one person and no general admissions will be allowed—all seats will be reserved.

Two blocks of seats will be retained by the student body for Union and Walla Walla at their request. Thirty seats will be saved for Union and 40 for Walla Walla.

Friday night the Tigers will play at Pendleton.

IF YOU WERE
INVITED TO
SPEAK

If you were a business man and received an invitation to speak about your business—your goods and your service—before a crowd of twelve or fifteen thousand people in this territory, would you accept?

Maybe you'd be too bashful or stage-struck to speak for yourself, but you'd most certainly see that someone competent did it. It would be too wonderful a mass-sales opportunity to miss. So is it any wonder that the progressive business men of La Grande grasp a similar opportunity and talk daily to the 15,000 readers of The Observer—especially when the cost is the lowest to be had?

"Observer Advertising—A Merchandising Service"

Road Boosters
Favor a County
Vote on BondsSixty-Five Attend Meet-
ing Held Here to Dis-
cuss Medical Springs-
Union Project.

Sixty-five persons, including delegates from Elgin, Summerville, Imbler, Cove, Allice, Union, North Powder, and La Grande, met at the city hall last night, the meeting being called to discuss the completion of roads in Union county, listed to be constructed under the market road fund.

During the meeting it was pointed out that the market road fund is so much in demand that it would take the major portion of the fund for many years to complete the two roads under discussion—one connecting with the forest service road to Weston and the other the Union-Medical Springs road—allowing very little money toward the construction of other market roads—or feeder roads.

Nearly \$100,000 Lent
In 1919 \$149,800 bonds were voted for the construction of certain designated roads in the county. Of these bonds \$39,800 are left, the designated roads having been completed leaving this surplus.

The meeting last night went on record as favoring a vote giving the county court the authority to transfer \$39,800 of the bonds toward the completion of the roads under discussion, leaving a balance of \$100,000 in the other fund.

Not only the territory adjacent to these roads, but the entire county would be benefited through the immediate construction of these roads by the transfer of the bonds, as it would release all market road money now pledged toward these roads for other roads in the county, it is said.

Advance Road Program
It would in all probability advance the county road program several years, benefiting Lower Cove, North Powder, Clover Creek, Wolf Creek, Cricket Flat and other sections where roads are being contemplated as soon as funds are available.

It was decided at last night's meeting that each town or community appoint a committee of three to five members to be added to the road roads committee of the Union county chamber of commerce to assist in promoting the completion of the two roads.

Organization of
Scout Troops in
City Continues

The work of organizing new boy scout troops here and reviving old ones continues under the supervision of E. Russell Scott, scout executive for the Tri-County council, which consists of Baker, Walla Walla and Union counties.

A new scout troop has been formed in the Zion English Lutheran church, with the Rev. E. H. Aves as scout master and a troop is to be formed in the Catholic church. A troop in the Christian church will be revived, with Dr. J. L. McPherson as scout master.

Saturday the first freemanship class was held at the fire station, under the direction of Fire Chief C. O. Murchison, when members of troop four took their first lesson in freemanship. The classes will continue every Saturday, the members of troop No. 14, with Dr. G. S. Hoffman as scout master, will be given their first lesson this Saturday.

Monday Scott visited two boy scout troops at Union and Cove. He will leave Thursday for Walla Walla county, where he will be for several days doing organization work.

Commercial Club
Reelects T. Cock

UNION, Ore., Feb. 16 (Special).—Members of the Union commercial club gathered at the Union hotel last Monday night and after enjoying a dinner together they held a meeting to elect officers for the new year. T. T. Cock was reelected as president of the club, with Floyd Churchill as vice president. C. L. Cadwell was selected as secretary and J. P. Hutchinson as treasurer.

In addition to these the club elected three more members to act in conjunction with the officers in the capacity of an executive board to handle matters that come up between regular meetings and demand immediate attention. President Cock announced that he would appoint his committees at the next meeting. After adjournment the executive board met and discussed the matter of the sale of the C. L. of O. property.

Government Rests
In Daughterly Case

FEDERAL COURT, New York, Feb. 16 (AP).—The government rested in the Daugherty-Miller trial at 4:05 this afternoon.

OLD OREGON
TRAIL BODY
MEETS HEREDelegates from Five Cit-
ies Gather in La
Grande TodayMEACHAM MESSAGE
READ IN MORNINGWork of Portland Cham-
ber of Commerce Along
Publicity Lines Is Ap-
proved.

The budget committee reported this afternoon in favor of a caravan east from La Grande to Pocatello and one west from La Grande to Seattle to determine sentiment along the trail before adopting a program of work. Meetings with business men who are directly interested in tourist trade will be held in each town and city to determine just how much money actually can be raised. The committee also endorsed a plan to spend no more on publicity because the efforts Portland's chamber of commerce is making along this line. The only publicity work will be distribution of pamphlets already printed.

With delegates present from Walla Walla, Baker, Union, La Grande and Arlington, the annual Old Oregon Trail Highway association meeting is under way here today.

Convening at 11 a. m. in the city hall building, with Secretary A. W. Nelson calling the group of men to order, the meeting was turned over to Vice President C. D. Cadwell, of Union, and minutes of the last meeting and reports of officers were read.

President Walter Meacham, who

(Continued on Page Five)

ARTIST SPEAKS
AT CLUB SESSIONPaintings by the Rev. Mr.
Wire Also Exhibited
Here Yesterday

That the people of La Grande are extremely interested in art was evident yesterday when the Rev. Melville T. Wire, artist and pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Pendleton, addressed more than 125 members of the La Grande Neighborhood club at a meeting here sponsored by the Rumber's art club. Mrs. E. H. Appleby as president of the Rumber's, introduced the speaker.

The artist discussed the subject of "how an artist comes in contact with nature to do painting," and as an illustration he exhibited several of his paintings, which are principally Eastern, Oregon landscapes, although some were scenes from other parts of the state.

The artist spoke fluently and with a certain informal air that made his talk unusually pleasing.

23 New Cases of
Flu Reported in
Portland Today

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP).—Although there have been 299 cases of flu reported to the city health office recently, attendants there said today that they did not consider that the influenza had reached the epidemic stage.

Twenty-three new cases were reported today.

The state health department's report for February 12 showed 259 cases in the state. Dr. Frederick D. Stryker, state health officer, said that probably only 10 per cent of such cases were reported as many are treated with home remedies.

Grand Jury Reports—Charles O'Hara
Pleads Not Guilty to Murder Charge

Nine indictments, five secret, and one not-trial bill was returned today by the county grand jury, which, after its report, was dismissed to await further call from the circuit court.

The four indictments in which arrests have been made follow: Charges of first degree murder against Charles O'Hara in connection with the death of Jack Sturm last fall. O'Hara pleaded not guilty to the charge. Time for trial was not been set.

Charges of felony were placed against C. R. Hubbard and he pleaded not guilty. Trial will be held Mar. 5.

Del Snood, charged with violation of the liquor laws, pleaded guilty and sentence will be passed on him Friday morning at 10 o'clock in circuit court.

William Clayton pleaded not

DEFICIT NOW
FIGURED AT
\$4,000,000Ways and Means Com-
mittee Completes State
House LaborsOLD AGE PENSION
BILL SLAUGHTEREDLegislature Speeds Up Its
Work as Time for Clos-
ing of Session Draws
Nearer.

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP).—The state's deficit that will have to be made up by the income tax and other sources that may be provided by the legislature before its adjournment will total \$4,000,000 or more, as indicated by final figures emanating from the ways and means committee which has completed its work.

Visible revenues total in round numbers only about \$3,000,000, or slightly more, while legislative appropriations as recommended by the committee and continuing appropriations will aggregate approximately \$12,000,000.

Appropriation bills alone as approved by the committee total \$9,244,115.41.

Kill Old Age Pension Bill
The proposed old age pension law was slaughtered in the house today. Representatives Bronough and Mott made a futile fight for the passage of the measure.

Bills passed by the house this morning follow:
H. R. 567, committee on irrigation and drainage—substitute for H. R. 248 to repeal chapter relating to the taking up of delinquent assessments in irrigation districts.

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H. R. 523, Carlin and Briggs, to prohibit the purchase by any officer or employee of any county lands within such county acquired by reason of foreclosure of delinquent taxes.

Auto Bill Killed

By indefinite postponement the senate today killed H. B. 155, which would have made the automobile registration division a separate state department. The bill was introduced at the recommendation of Governor Patterson.

Senator Edgley's bill No. 67, which was signed by Governor Patterson yesterday, relieving counties of participation in the cost of constructing overhead and sub-grade crossing is already the target of repeal. Senator Joseph today introduced a bill which would repeal the Edgley bill.

The free textbook bill, H. B. 39, was killed by indefinite postponement in the senate today when an adverse report of the committee on education was adopted. This

(Continued on Page 5)

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TO VETO OR OKEH?



The McNary-Haugen farm relief bill, which has already passed the senate, is expected to be passed by the house and the general feeling is that it will meet its greatest test when it reaches the chief executive's hands. President Coolidge's actions may influence 1928 politics vitally, some observers declare, who are eagerly awaiting his action, which, they believe, will not be long delayed.

Musical Comedy
Attracts More
On Second Night

The American Legion play "Oh You Mary Jane" was presented for the second time last night at the Arcade theater before an appreciative audience, and the play went off equally as good—or perhaps better—than the first night.

Pete Russell, as Silas Skipp, Leslie Hale, as Hiram Hopp and Elwood Williams, as Johnny Jump, of the firm Hopp, Skipp and Jump, were the principal characters and were the center of attraction during the entire production, each one being equally good in his role.

Although the parts played by Tom Bruce, Sniffles, the messenger boy, Norman Decker, Hank Tumms, the tramp, and H. J. Dhyllus, Juniper Berry, the farmer, were not the leading ones they made the most of their opportunity and added many laughs to the play.

Tom Russell as Arnold McLean, the bank clerk, and Douglas Kline in the role of Dash, the reporter, were also good.

Miss Ruth Bramwell had the leading role among the women, as Beatrice Clay, the stenographer. In addition to her clever acting her solo entitled "Speculation," was well given and added plenty of pep to the show.

Mrs. Helena Williamson, as Mrs. Maggie Duffy, Miss Anna Johnson, as Mrs. Skipp, Mrs. Elwood Williams as Miss Farnum and later Mrs. Hopp, and Miss Lucille Black as Miss Lofly and Miss Edna Belle Kitchen as Nellie James, all played an important part in the plot of the story and each did well in their roles.

A chorus of 20 girls appeared in several snappy song and dance numbers which were enthusiastically received. R. M. Scott sang a solo in the opening chorus and R. J. Dhyllus was the soloist for two of the chorus numbers.

Thursday night the cast and chorus, accompanied by James W. Evans, director and producer, will go to Enterprise where the show will be given for the third time.

Van Fleet Elected
To Director Board

CORVALLIS, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP).—Officers selected at the closing session of the annual convention here today of the Oregon Retail Dealers' association were: president, J. H. Garrett, of Hillsboro; first vice president, John Mann, of Medford; second vice president, W. P. Kenney, of Corvallis; treasurer, L. C. Croun, of Portland; directors, J. S. Dow, of McMinnville; J. D. Russell, Eugene; Clinton Van Fleet, La Grande; E. M. Douglas, Portland; L. L. Thomas, Marshfield.

Seymour Jones Is
New Market Agent

STATE HOUSE, SALEM, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP).—Governor Patterson today announced the appointment of Seymour Jones as state market agent to succeed C. E. Spencer, resigned.

Seymour Jones resides at Salem, and was a prominent supporter of Patterson in the primary and general election campaign. He was speaker of the house in the 1917 legislature.

BORAH, BUTLER TO DEBATE

BOSTON, Feb. 16 (AP).—United States Senator William E. Borah and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, have expressed their willingness to debate prohibition enforcement before the Roosevelt club of Boston, Robert M. Washburn, president of the club, announced today. The debate will not be held before April, he said.

SHANGHAI AGAIN
IS THREATENED

Shanghai, goal of the Cantonese or nationalist armies apparently again is threatened by the sudden and unexpected defeat of the forces of Marshal Sun Chuan-Pang, defender of the city, on the southern battlefield.

Hanchow, capital of Chekiang province, is in imminent danger of falling before the southerners who have recaptured Chongchow. Reports of defections to the Cantonese ranks are in circulation.

U. S. Proposal Spurned
Marshal Sun has declined to accept Secretary Kellogg's proposal to exempt Shanghai from the war area. Two additional battalions of British Punjab troops have arrived at Shanghai.

The situation in the north of China grew steadily more complicated as Marshal Chang Tso-Lin with his Manchurian troops and his ally General Chang Tsung Chang of Shantung, pushed on into the province of Honan, now occupied by the allied northern troops.

No word has come from Marshal Wu Pei-Fu, nominal master of Honan, as to whether he will permit the Manchurians and Shantungese to continue through Honan toward the nationalist controlled city of Kiating.

Feng Yu-Hsiang, potential ally of the nationalists, is reported to have massed 120,000 men preparatory to resuming his drive on Honan which was stopped by the northern troops last December.

Although official advices at London were incomplete no indication was received that the negotiations at Hankow concerning the British concession have broken down between the Cantonese foreign minister, Eugene Chen, and British Charge O'Malley, new points raised by Chen being forwarded to London.

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Now Its Just a
Puff Between Hops

LONDON, Feb. 16 (AP).—The Prince of Wales is responsible for another fashion the "puff between dances," signifying when he complained the ordinary cigar was too much for a few puffs between dances, someone devised a midge cigarette case for him, holding about ten half-size smokes. He liked the idea so well that he immediately ordered a supply and now all the young men of Mayfair and Belgrave who really amount to anything have their midge cigarette cases with small cigars for use at dances, and parties.

Vader Newspaper
Plant Is Destroyed

LONGVIEW, Wash., Feb. 16 (AP).—The plant of the Vader Vidette, first newspaper at Vader, was completely wiped out by fire last night following explosion of a gasoline tank in the building. The loss was unestimated. Insurance of \$1,500 was carried. The plant was the property of L. E. Thorn. Mayor A. L. Gibbs of Longview owned the building, which was valued at \$300.

De Autremont on Way to America
MANILA, Feb. 16 (AP).—Hugh De Autremont, one of the suspects in the Siskiyuu tunnel murders in Oregon three years ago, left here today on the army transport Thomas for San Francisco in custody of a United States postoffice inspector.

France Rejects
Naval Proposal;
Italy May, TooCoolidge's Hopes for a
Limitation Conference
Receive a Severe Set-
back.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (AP).—Hopes of the Washington government for an effective naval limitation conference have been jolted severely by a polite rejection from France, and a forecast that Italy also will decline to participate.

With the declination last night of France the opinion here was that Italy would accept and still make possible the gathering of representatives of a sufficient number of nations to bring practical results in the limiting of armaments not touched from the Washington conference.

Italy Disapproves
A semi-official communique issued in Rome today however, announced that Italy would follow the lead of France in demurring to the proposal of President Coolidge for the conference. Leaving as matter of conjecture the next step of the American government in seeking methods of obtaining the agreements it has hoped for.

Tentative consideration had been given to a possible four-power conference, participated in by the United States, Japan, Italy and Great Britain even before the unfavorable French reply was received. Acceptance of the Coolidge invitation were considered as having been assured from Japan and Great Britain, but obviously the attitude of Great Britain may now be affected by the position of France and Italy.

For the moment it is unlikely that any plan of action will be formulated here in the absence of the British and Japanese formal replies. The French communication was based upon the main contention that the American plan might compromise the success of the preliminary disarmament committee created by the league of nations.

To Defeat Decision
Whether its tenor has left room for hope that further correspondence with Paris might create a better understanding than the American suggestions was not disclosed. Secretary Kellogg probably will defer decision in that regard until the Italian reply is before him.

The statement issued by Kellogg last night calling attention to evidences of misunderstandings in Paris did not go beyond expressing the hope of ultimate French agreement.

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Liberals Ready
To Battle More
"Neutral Zones"

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 16, (AP).—The Nicaraguan liberals will not tolerate "further outrages" by Admiral Latimer in establishing neutral zones in cities captured or about to be captured by them, their Mexico City representative, Pedro Zepeda declared in a statement today.

While not anxious to bring on a conflict with the American navy, he said, the liberals would hereafter consider any attempt to neutralize such cities as "casus belli."

Looking to the capture of Matagalpa by the liberals, he asserted that they intended by suppressing all disorder there, to demonstrate to the world the "uselessness" of the landing of American marines in Nicaragua. The liberals were willing and capable of protecting foreign and native interests.

Willing to Negotiate
He reiterated that his party was willing to negotiate with Admiral Latimer for a settlement admitting of the elimination of Dr. Juan Sacasa, head of the present liberal government at Puerto Cabezas, provided general Adolfo Diaz, head of the conservative government at Managua also was eliminated. Otherwise they would fight until Diaz was overthrown. The Nicaraguan people would not support any other agreement he said.

Zepeda announced receipt of advices that liberal forces under General Menda had inflicted a "crushing defeat" upon conservatives at Boya Del Plata.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16 (AP).—A division of airplanes and a company of marines were ordered by the navy department today to protect from San Diego to Corinto Nicaragua as soon as the planes can be made ready. They will be taken on the destroyer tender Melville.

De Autremont on
Way to America

MANILA, Feb. 16 (AP).—Hugh De Autremont, one of the suspects in the Siskiyuu tunnel murders in Oregon three years ago, left here today on the army transport Thomas for San Francisco in custody of a United States postoffice inspector.

PLUMBERS GO
ON STRIKE IN
KLAMATH CITY

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Feb. 16 (AP).—Seventy plumbers, steam fitters and plumbers helpers are on strike here today as a result of the refusal of plumbing concerns to meet their demand for a wage increase from \$9 to \$11 and a five-day week.

Prominent plumbing concerns announced that they could not meet the demands of the strikers. A mass meeting of plumbers held last night resulted in no compromise.

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CALIFORNIA
COUNTS DEAD
AFTER STORMCentral and Southern
Part of State Whipped
by Terrific WindsELEVEN BURIED
UNDER AVALANCHETwo Killed in Los Angeles
—Union Pacific
Train Plunges Off
Trestle.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 16 (AP).—The death toll resulting from the torrential rains in southern California mounted today to 17 as the storm gave little evidence of abating after four days.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 16 (AP).—The toll of the greatest storm that ever swept from the Pacific slope to mid ocean in the history of the United States weather bureau continued today to pound with diminishing violence in Southern and Central California, while the death toll stood at 16 dead; 21 injured and much property damage.

The greatest tragedy was in the mountain camp of the Southern California Edison company, 11 miles east of Fresno, where 11 persons were killed in a double avalanche early yesterday. The first snowslide crushed bunkhouses and sent ten men to their deaths. As rescuers dug in the accumulated snow for the bodies of their companions, the second avalanche struck and took another life.

Train Plunges
Flood waters in Puente creek, near Whittier, which have assailed the steel trestle across the stream for three days, so weakened the structure that it collapsed as the fast Los Angeles-Chicago flyer of the Union Pacific plunged across it last night, plunging into the flood, tender and two passenger cars. Two are known dead, three others are believed trapped in one of the coaches, and six persons were injured.

Two were killed in Los Angeles traffic accidents. A boy was killed when he fell from a San Diego railroad trestle into a raging torrent which two days before had been a dry creek bed. One hundred suburbanites in the San Fernando valley, near Los Angeles, marooned in their homes by flood waters, were rescued by police in rowboats commandeered from an amusement park.

Seeking Bodies
In the mountain camp rescue crews worked like ants in search of bodies in the snow but awaited the arrival of Corporal J. Herman Kennedy, of Fresno, before continuing the work today. The belief was expressed that some of the bodies were buried so deeply that they would not be recovered until the spring thaws.

Edified by officials said all the injured would be recovered. Rude coffins were fashioned out of the available lumber at the camp for