

LaGrande Evening Observer

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GOD IS WISDOM!—Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, God understandeth the way thereof and he knoweth the place thereof. Job 28:20, 21, 22.

What's happened to that Nevada gold rush? Some turist must have carried off the mine for a souvenir.

We approve of spring's arrival, however late, and only hope that she doesn't suffer a traffic jam with summer.

WHAT WE SPEND FOR—AND WHY

The tax survey of the Oregon Voter as reviewed yesterday in the news columns of The Observer deserves the most careful attention of the taxpayer. The division of the tax dollar according to purposes and levies, the comparison with last year and between counties, and other interesting tax information is graphically presented in the Voter's survey.

We have constantly emphasized the fact that our tax problem is not primarily a state problem but a local one. We have regularly pointed out that the taxes voted by the legislature—on whom criticism for tax excess is heaped year after year—constitute a very small portion of the whole.

Take Union county's tax table for example. A total of \$72,429 is raised for state purposes—general expense, higher education, and soldiers' bonus—amounting to 8.33 per cent of the tax total. But the bonus is 1.12 per cent of the total and the bonus was voted by the people, by the taxpayers, so that the actual amount for which the state government can be held directly responsible as expended for general state purposes is 7.21 per cent.

In other words, the state levy and the money paid to the state for state purposes represents a very small portion of Union county taxes. The state legislature can really be fairly blamed for spending a little over seven cents out of each Union county tax dollar and the blame for spending the remaining ninety-three cents must be placed closer home—either on ourselves for voting certain expenditures at the polls, or on the county court, the school boards, and the city and town officials whom we have elected.

That is a consideration that is worth remembering when we become disgusted with a tax situation. And we should also remember that the present county court members, the present school board members, and the present town councilmen or city commissioners do not deserve the full responsibility. We should remember that others in the same offices have preceded them, that the structure of good county roads, of good schools, of good county and municipal government—that the structure of all the things that go to make a good county and good communities therein has been built up over a long period of years.

All of this is, of course, of little value except in the placing of tax responsibility—which comes in the last analysis very much on ourselves as taxpayers. If the majority of taxpayers had not wanted these things for which we now spend 93 cents of our tax dollar each year, if we had not urged them, argued for them, petitioned for them, and voted for them, it is not very likely that we would have got them.

The trouble is that we look upon our schools, our municipal improvements, and the reasonable peace and happiness provided by good government as very necessary things and, all in all, good investments. Knowing we cannot have these things without paying for them, we grumble a great deal—just for the sake of proving that we are human beings—and dig down in our pockets and pay.

Taxes are to organized society what living expenses are to the individual citizen. Not all of the money we spend for clothes, for food, for pleasure and recreation is well spent, possibly. After it's gone, we would gladly recall some of it at times. But, in most cases, it justifies our judgment. It proves a good investment. Our spending of tax money amounts to the same thing. The only way to save is to spend less. Everybody realizes that. The difficulty lies in the fact that when we spend less, whether as an individual or as an organized community, we must necessarily reduce the existing standard of living which we have raised all by ourselves.

MEXICAN FORCES SLAY 60 BANDITS

Gang That Held Up and Burned Train Given Lethal Punishment

MEXICO CITY, Apr. 25. (AP)—Federal forces in pursuit of the rebel band which burned a train in a holdup last Tuesday, overtook the rebels at El Guitarrero valley, in Jalisco, on Saturday and in a five hour battle sixty of the band, eight soldiers and an officer were killed. A war office announcement today said the rebels were commanded by priests Yeza and Angulo.

Generals Garza and Iguerrre, in command of the federal troops, said that objects belonging to passengers on the Guadalajara train were found on the bodies of the rebels.

At the same time the war office received a report of an unsuccessful attempt to attack the Juarez-Mexico City train Sunday morning near the Salas station. Federal forces commanded by General Armadillas put the rebels to rout. The general's report to President Calles said:

"Four kilometers from Salas, a gang of Catholic extremists attacked my train, which traveled ahead of the Juarez passenger train.

"The fight lasted half an hour and the enemy fled when they noticed they were attacking a military instead of a passenger train. They abandoned ten dead and 20 horses and carried off many wounded, judging by the bloody trail they left."

Mother of Noel Davis Notified At Oakley, Ida.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Apr. 24. (AP)—First information of the death of her son, Commander Noel Davis, in a crash of his giant airplane at Messick, Va., was conveyed to his mother, Mrs. Lena R. Price, at Oakley, Idaho, by long distance telephone by the Associated Press. Mrs. Price lives with her husband J. R. Price, on a ranch a short distance from Oakley, 150 miles northwest of this city.

"Asked if she had heard of an accident, Mrs. Price said she had heard nothing and when informed that he had been killed in an accident she exclaimed:

"Oh, my God, Noel killed!" Mrs. Price said she had last seen her son while on a visit to Stanton, Mass., a year ago last November. This was about the time he was called to Washington to take charge of the air reserves. She had received a letter from him only recently, she said, and in it he spoke very enthusiastically of his contemplated non-

Summary of the Annual Statement of the COLUMBIAN SATE FIRE

Of Lansing, in the State of Michigan, on the thirty-first day of December, 1926, made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Oregon, pursuant to law.

CAPITAL Amount of capital stock paid up \$ 650,000.00

ISSUANCE Net premiums received during the year 665,238.62

Interest, dividends and rents received during the year 88,225.53

Income from other sources received during the year 69,256.81

Total Income \$ 822,119.26

DISBURSEMENTS Net losses paid during the year including adjustment expenses \$ 281,001.55

Dividends paid on capital stock during the year 5,200.00

Commissions and salaries paid during the year 281,682.65

Taxes, licenses and fees paid during the year 28,748.82

Amount of all other expenditures 171,427.22

Total expenditures \$ 778,125.24

ASSETS Value of real estate owned (market value) \$ 231,837.00

Value of stock and bonds owned (market value) 367,105.70

Loans on mortgages and collateral, etc. 677,078.67

Cash in banks and on hand 182,206.17

Premiums in course of collection written since Sept. 30, 1926 185,591.25

Interest and rents due and accrued 36,214.82

Losses recoverable 2,526.61

Total admitted assets \$1,239,797.76

LIABILITIES Gross claims for losses unpaid \$ 64,718.97

Amount of assumed reversionary all outstanding risks 777,425.27

Due for contribution and brokerage 23,000.00

All other liabilities 2,200.00

Total liabilities, exclusive of residual asset of \$64,000 \$ 872,344.24

RESERVE ON EXPIRATION FOR THE YEAR Net premiums received during the year \$ 665,238.62

Losses paid during the year 281,682.65

Losses incurred during the year 2,882.78

COLUMBIAN NATL FIRE INS CO James J. Carey, president; E. T. Ligon, secretary.

TRY OUT FOR TRANS-ATLANTIC HOP



Bert Acosta and Clarence Chamberlain, pilots who will try for the \$25,000 Orteig prize for flying across the Atlantic are shown with Giuseppe Bellanca (center) and the new J-3 Wright Whirlwind plane in which they hope to span the ocean. The plane was to be given a 50-hour flight tryout before the trans-oceanic attempt. Bellanca is shaking hands with Chamberlain.

New Orleans received more water from the Diamond river.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 24 (AP)—Notifying the war department today of the death of commander Noel Davis and Lieutenant Stanton H. Wooster, Major C. J. Brown of the army air corps, who witnessed the crash of the airplane American Legion, gave this description of the accident:

"The American Legion was taking off for a full load test and it took off on the long runway at Langley Field, in the north. They ran along the ground for a long distance and finally got into the air but apparently did not rise more than about twenty feet from the ground.

"They crossed Back river beyond the big balloon hangar at Langley Field and, apparently figuring that they would not be able to clear the trees, made a right hand turn to the east.

"The turn being nearly completed the plane sank and crashed into the marsh on the north side of Back river. The left wing of the plane is completely destroyed and the fuselage was buried in the Back to the pilot's cockpit."

RIVER FLOOD RAGING INTO NEW DISTRICT

The flooded districts for marooned persons, other vessels and planes sped to concentration centers and stricken towns with food, clothing, medicines and assurances of continued relief.

Refugees from newly inundated towns and communities in the three states swelled the ranks of the homeless which already had been estimated at 150,000.

In Southeastern Arkansas, nearly a dozen small towns were receiving backwater from old breaks in the Arkansas river, the inhabitants either climbing to the levees or retreating to nearby towns which remained dry.

The Southern Mississippi delta through which the waters from the St. Louis break in the main Mississippi levee must course before rejoining the parent stream near Vicksburg was another scene of devastation as the flood waters joined with the backwater of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers.

New Orleans Threatened. In Northern Louisiana, small tributaries of the Mississippi added to the peril from the winding Red river. Towns located in the low marshes were menaced by water, many of them evacuated by a large number of citizens. Sections of the Southern Louisiana delta below

second tragedy in the proposed New York-Paris non-stop flight. The first effort ended last fall when Captain Rene Fonck's airplane was burned at Roosevelt Field a moment after he had taken off for Paris, causing the deaths of Charles W. Weaver, the radio operator, and Jacob Blomoff, the mechanic. The famous French ace himself escaped injury.

Commander Davis had an unusual and brilliant career in the navy. He was raised on the island of Oah and in his early school days evidenced a penchant for mathematics and the navy, with the result that friends advised him to enter the naval academy at Annapolis. He did so and was graduated with high honors, notwithstanding his early educational handicaps.

War-time Record He served as aide to Admiral Sims and Admiral Strauss and when the United States declared war on Germany he went aboard as chief of staff to Admiral Strauss in

April Percolator SPECIAL

A Remarkable Co-operative Offer That Will Appeal to everyone Who Likes "BETTER COFFEE"

By special arrangement with the Manning-Bowman Co., makers of high-grade ELECTRIC PERCOLATORS, and the distributors of "Royal Club" Coffee, we are able to offer this regular \$11.00 Electric Percolator for—

ONLY \$7.95 Terms If Desired! 95c down, \$1.00 per month on your electric service bill

One pound can of Royal Club Coffee Free with each Percolator.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power Company



Those Smart 3-Button Suits are to be found in a number of patterns at La Grande's Leading Man's Store.

THE type of clothes that you see at the colleges among the better dressed men. The high three button coat with just the right shaped lapels and easy fitting, loose trousers. The patterns in rich tans with various stripes will appeal to the younger men and the \$35 and \$40 price is

New Golf Knickers Cut Full for Comfort

THESE new golf knickers in shades of tan, blue and gray with stripes, checks and woven plaid are sure to appeal to the golfer. The comfortable fit too will improve your game. See these knickers and new pattern golf hose too \$7.50 to \$10.00

Shirts that you will want to hang on to

YOU'VE probably had shirts that fit so well and just suited your fancy that you hated to give them up. These new shirts are like that. The colorful spring patterns with collar attached and cut full to give comfort yet not "baggy" are just what you want \$2.75 to \$5.00

SEE THE NEW FLORSHEIM CALF OXFORD \$11.00

N. K. WEST & CO. THE MAN'S STORE

charge of mine laying. He put down a field of mines between England and Norway which eventually stopped the German submarines from using that path to the high seas. When the war ended he took the instructor's post and was blown up in the process, washed overboard and nearly lost his life.

He later entered the naval aviation school at Pensacola and on his graduation had so mastered the technique of aerodynamics that he was able to write a number of books on the subject which are used by navy pilots. Later he took charge of the naval reserve field at Squantum, Mass., and was selected by the navy department to take charge of all naval reserve flying.

Christened by Wife Last March the commander announced that he would hop off from Mitchell Field early in June

in an all-American plane, engine and crew, in an attempt to capture the \$25,000 prize offered by Ray-Keystone Aircraft company of Wood Oriole, New York hotel man, Bristol, Pa., was christened the for a non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

His specially built plane of the Pathfinder type, developed by the Keystone Aircraft company of Wood Oriole, Pa., was christened the for a non-stop flight from New York to Paris.

SWEATERS For Infants and Children Pull-over or Coat Styles 50c to \$2.98

NORTON'S KIDDY SHOP Better Merchandise—Lower Prices

A New Telephone Directory will be issued soon.

Install a telephone and get a listing in the directory.

Home Independent Telephone Co.

LA GRANDE NATIONAL BANK 1887-1927 Forty Years Service

Sound Progressive Reliable