

SENIOR PLAY
ATTENDED BY
400 PERSONSHigh Grade Drama Scores
Success in Initial
PresentationAUDIENCE SHOWS
KEEN INTERESTPlot Centers Around Hur-
ried Marriage and Sub-
sequent Awakening—
Comedy Enjoyable.

Another high school play scored a success last night when "Kempy," a three-act comedy, was presented by the senior class of the school, under the direction of Miss Zella Peard. The play was staged with little or no unnecessary delay and the interest was keen from the rising curtain until the end. Approximately 400 persons witnessed the initial performance.

The scene was in "Dad" Bene's home in a small New Jersey town about 60 miles from New York City, and the play centered around Katherine's thinking young and ambitious daughter, who was a student at Pacific college, today filed as a candidate for delegate to the republican national convention for the state at large.

Then "Kempy" arrives. He has read Katherine's book and is inspired by it. He has picked the writer of the book as his ideal girl and when he meets Katherine, he goes to the Bene home to do a plumbing job and she discovers that he has read her book and has confidence in her, she asks him to marry her immediately.

"They are married and go home," Katherine is angry and drives away. Then through the assistance of "Duke" Merrill he buys the Bene home and begins to rule it as the "man of the house." He quarrels with Katherine, and discovers that he is in love with her little sister, Ruth, instead. Katherine discovers that he, too, disavows her career and is sorry she married him, but what is there to do? Everything is straightened out, Katherine is married to a man, but to tell the truth, she will attend the second showing of the play tonight.

Excellent Cast
Tom Bruce takes the part of "Dad" Bene and his portrayal was one of the best of the evening. Other members of the cast were also very good and handled their parts in a most capable manner. Miss Martina Sams takes the part of Katherine Bene, Miss Marilyn Smith, Ruth Bene, the little sister, Miss Amy Brown, Jane Wade, an older sister, and Verna Schroeder, the "maid." Renee, Kenneth Owen, "Duke" Merrill and Edwin Rogers, "Kempy" James.

Assisting Miss Peard, director, were W. W. Thomas, stage director; William Miller, stage manager; and William Berk, business manager.

Orchestra Plays
Before the opening of the play the high school orchestra, under the direction of W. W. Nudbaum,

(Continued on Page 5)

CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS IN
COUNTY TODAY

Dean J. H. Jewell, head of vocational education at O. S. C., with Dean Kate Jamison, dean of women, and E. B. Lemon, registrar at the state college, arrived in La Grande this morning on train No. 24 for a county visit today and for the vocational education department of the Economic conference Friday. Dean Jewell went on to Union to meet with students there today. Dean Jamison is at Elgin and Mr. Lemon is at Imbler.

The vocational education session for high school students to be held will be conducted just exactly as the vocational education conference is conducted at Corvallis every year, except that it will be on a smaller scale. Dean Jewell, who is a nationally known educator, said this morning, "Our college conference is attended by two students from every high school, making 500 in attendance," he explained. "We expect to make the Union county conference equally worthwhile to those who attend."

Dean Jewell is to address the general assembly at 10 a. m. and 3:30 p. m. Friday. At 11 a. m. and 2:30 p. m. Dean Jewell and Dean Jamison will meet with the boys and girls respectively.

SCHOOL CHILDREN OF
TODAY COMPETE WITH
THOSE OF YEAR 1846

Editor's Note—A series of four articles, dealing with present day education in comparison with that of 1846, has been prepared by Superintendent J. T. Longfellow, of the La Grande schools, from tests given in the La Grande schools of today and in the Springfield, Mass., schools in 1846. The first of this series, general in its nature, appears today. The second, third and fourth will appear on the editorial page of The Observer tomorrow, Saturday and Monday. Careful statistics were kept and the series presents a very interesting and accurate comparison of interest to every person interested in schools, particularly to all parents who are concerned with the education of children and with the theory of modern education.

A STUDY IN THE "THREE R'S"
Can the school children of today spell as well as the children of 50 or 75 years ago? Is arithmetic taught as effectively now as it was when grandfather or great grandfather were boys? Are we neglecting the "Three R's"? These questions, which disturb teachers, agitate school boards and have even been known to ruffle the dignified brow of the state legislator. The general opinion too often is that in the so-called common branches the modern school is inferior to the school of fifty or more years ago. The argument of the "Three R's" has long been a weapon of great power in the hands of all manner of men, used often but not always for honest motives and too frequently doing incalculable injury to the cause of education.

The introduction of new subjects, some of which have been called "fads" into the course of study, have caused many people to as-

George Love In
City For Vets'
Meeting Tonight

George Love, state commander of the American Legion, Earl McSherry, American commander, and Carl Moore, adjutant, are in La Grande today and will found a meeting of all ex-service men this evening at 8 o'clock. Here, the veterans' benefits due ex-servicemen for their service in the World War will be explained.

Meetings of a similar nature are being held over all the state. Last night a meeting was held at Walden, and was attended by about 100 persons. Harold Richardson and Otis Palmer attended from here and accompanied the state legion officers to La Grande last night.

The La Grande meeting is sponsored by the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and other organizations. All interested in the welfare of the ex-soldier.

Hipp Trial Now
Being Heard In
Circuit Court

The trial of G. C. Hipp, charged with the robbery of Conner's store at Union last summer, began in circuit court today before Circuit Judge J. W. Knowles and is probably attracting more attention than any previous case in the February term of court. The court room was filled with spectators both this morning and afternoon. Hipp's charge was burglary, not of a store, but of a house. His arrest was made at Bend around Christmas time and several persons from Bend were subpoenaed by the sheriff and are witnesses for the state today.

The entire morning and up until the time The Observer went to press this afternoon was spent by the state, with Attorney C. G. Helm prosecuting, in taking testimony, and there was considerable possibility that the case might continue over until tomorrow.

The robbery of Conner's store this summer aroused considerable investigation, as the value of the stolen goods ran well into the hundreds of dollars. Goods said to have been stolen by Hipp were used as state's evidence this morning.

His trial followed an indictment against him by grand jury after he had pled not guilty. It is C. Ayres is Hipp's attorney.

Labor Council In
Regular Session

There was a representative turnout of members of the Central Labor council last night when their organization held its bi-monthly meeting at the Imperial club rooms with Max Cullen, president, in charge of the business session. The evening was devoted to the transaction of routine business and the discussion of labor matters. No business of unusual importance was transacted at the session.

DR. KELLY DIES

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Dr. Richmond Kelly, 72, native of Portland and practicing physician here since 1885, died suddenly last night of heart failure.

Six Men Accused
In California's
Dynamiting CaseCharged with Attempts to
Blow Up Los Angeles
Water System Power
House Last June.

INDEPENDENCE, Cal., Feb. 23 (AP).—Six men were under arrest today on warrants charging them with conspiracy to dynamite the Cottonwood power house of the Los Angeles water and power system in Owens valley last June 5. They were Barry Sexton, Major C. H. Watson, Frank Spalding, Walter Young, Will S. Smith and Frank Butler.

A seventh man, Fred Napham, for whom a warrant was issued late yesterday, was reported to be out of the county. Telegraphed orders were sent him by Inyo county officers to return at once.

Further arrests within the next 24 hours were expected as the result of the statement of District Attorney Jess Hession that he had information incriminating several persons with eight other dynamiters of the Los Angeles aqueduct in the past four years. He stated that additional warrants would be issued today.

One of the men in custody, Major Watson, last summer was arrested in connection with alleged transportation of dynamite into Owens Valley, scene of the bombings, but the charge later was dismissed.

Sol Blumauer, of
Portland, Killed

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Sol Blumauer, 64, president of the Blumauer-Hoch company importers and manufacturers of drugs and confections, was found dead in the attic of the high school building in Springfield, Mass., some old sets of examination papers that had been written in the fall of 1846. These papers consist-

(Continued on Page 5)

SEATTLE WINNER
OVER LA GRANDELocal O.-W. Basketball
Team Defeated in Finals;
Downs Portland

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—The Seattle basketball team of the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation unit of the Union Pacific Athletic league, yesterday afternoon defeated the Dalles 52 to 19, and last night defeated La Grande in the final 48 to 14. Seattle thereby won the right to represent the unit at the system championships in Orem, Utah, March 2.

The La Grande team reached the finals by defeating the Portland team of the O.-W. R. and N. unit by a score of 29 to 21. The game was played yesterday morning. All games were played at the Columbia university gymnasium.

LA GRANDE WINS SECOND
The defeat of the Portland team yesterday by the La Grande O.-W. unit is the second time this year that a local team has triumphed over a Rose City aggregation.

La Grande's loss to Seattle last night was more or less expected, inasmuch as Seattle has a team that is described as being exceptionally strong. O.-W. employees here are decidedly pleased with the showing made in Portland. La Grande's ability to reach the finals rates her in second place in the tournament, above Portland and the Dalles.

The local team's starting lineup follows: Raymond and Jimmy Rescumbum, forwards; Nowlin, center; Holstad and Mulleritz, guards.

BROKERS IN COURT TODAY

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—James P. Cooke, Charles G. Quinn and Howard E. Philpott, officers of the defunct brokerage firm of Overbeck and Cooke, will appear in circuit court late today for arraignment on indictments growing out of the crash of the firm.

Line and Backfield to Play Before
Baker and La Grande Game Saturday

The line and backfield game is Saturday. That, to the high school means that one of the traditional annual student body athletic "stunts" is second only to the junior-senior mascot fight, going to take place after all this year. To the 1927 football squad, it means that for one night the line and backfield forget all bonds of affection and have a grand free-for-all that isn't for some mysterious reason, termed a basketball game. This year's annual tussle will be played Saturday night at 7:30 before the Baker Bulldogs and Tigers mix.

It is to be "short snappy and exciting" guarantee the captains, Robert Evans for the backfield, and George Bowman for the line.

Announcement of the line-backfield mix-up was made in a pep assembly held at the high school this morning for the Imbler game at Imbler Friday and the Baker game here Saturday, which winds up the season with the exception of the Union tournament. During this morning's assembly, which included some pep yelling and singing led by Lawrence Bay, Tom

FIRE, WRECKS
TAKE HEAVY
TOLL IN U.S.Two Known Dead, One
Dying and 30 Missing
in Shelby, N. C.

SHELBY, N. C., Feb. 23 (AP).—Two persons are known to be dead, 30 are unaccounted for and four others are in a hospital here as a result of a fire that today destroyed the Central hotel here. At 9:30 o'clock this morning the fire was still burning a business in which the hotel is located.

The known dead are J. R. Henderson, salesman, and H. H. Carmichael of Charlotte, N. C. The injured are: Henry Karr, clerk, thought to be dying; A. B. Stargis, salesman, Charlotte, both legs broken in jump from third floor window; a man named Eugene Charlotte, injured jumping from upper floor; Miss Emma Frick, hands cut and burned.

Surgeon Hewitt, assistant manager of the hotel, saved the register in which 65 guests were entered. Thirty guests have not been located but it was said that this

(Continued on Page 5)

Slats Gill To
Assist Coleman
In Tournament

UNION, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—"Slats" Gill, freshman basketball coach at Oregon State college, will assist Ralph Coleman, also of the Oregon State coaching staff, as official referee of the 14 games involved in the Eastern Oregon basketball tournament to be played at Union next Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, Mar. 1, 2 and 3.

Mc Gill is a veteran "A.A.U." athlete, having played basketball and most other major sports on the Corvallis campus, and is now rated as a highly successful freshman coach. He was formerly a player on championship Aggie basketball teams under Bob Hager, varsity coach at O. S. C., and organizer of "percentage" basketball. Mr. Gill's appointment as assistant to the official referee gives the tournament a complete roster of officials.

Bachelor Suicides:
Leaves All to Girl

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—W. E. Lee, 71, bachelor farmer, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a shotgun at his home on the Frank Lynett place in the Clear Lake district north of Salem yesterday. He left a note addressed to Leona Grey, a 14-year-old daughter of Adam Grey, a neighbor. It read:

"Leona—the dump is yours. Do as you please with it. Tools and all, and what little money there is in the bank book in my coat pocket. Good-bye, everybody."

The bank book showed nearly \$100 in a Salem bank.

FRANK BERRY SENTENCED

PORTLAND, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Frank Berry, 66, former deputy years a left hand broker, convicted recently of bribing federal prohibition agents, was sentenced today to two years in federal prison at McNeil Island. He was allowed 15 days in which to appeal.

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Suspend Operations

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William Tyler, for many years president of the institution, resigned about three weeks ago and director had just elected R. W. Uinkar, former vice president and cashier to succeed him.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—State funds in the sum of \$25,000 are on deposit in the Astoria National bank which failed to open its doors today. This is secured by \$41,000 in municipal bonds held by the state treasurer. The state in recent years has experienced no losses on account of bank failures.

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CARTOONIST



Out of a total of 12 cartoons by American artists reproduced in the February number of Current History magazine, eight are from the draws pen of Les E. Thiele, who draws cartoons for The Observer and NEA service. Each of the drawings have appeared in this paper.

POLICE RECEIVE
CONFESSION NOTE

Unknown Tells of "Human Torch" Crime—Returns Bonds and \$500

BERNARDSVILLE, N. J., Feb. 23 (AP).—Police today announced that two bonds and \$500 believed to have been taken from Miss Margaret Brown, who was set afire and fatally burned near here Monday night, were received by them through the mail today.

The envelope enclosing the bonds was mailed from Newark and contained a letter which read: "I am very much worried and am sending these bonds to you. If you come near me I will kill myself, they will never take me alive."

"I am writing you this letter and sending you these bonds of Miss Brown knowing you will take care of them before anyone else gets them. I am very remorseful. I had been drinking."

"I met Miss Brown in Buffalo and then again in Newark two years ago. I left Newark at 4:15 on Monday and reached New York at 7:15 and met Miss Brown. I had two bottles of wine and she loved Lank some. I drove to Love's Lane where there was a large car parked. I drove around until the car had gone and then I pulled up there. I tried to take advantage of her but she refused. I hit her on the head and she fell. I hit her on the head and she fell. I hit her on the head and she fell."

New Cream Grading
Plan Is Presented

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Creamery operators who are members and treasury operators who are not members of the Oregon Creamery Operators association are both invited to attend a meeting in Salem Feb. 28 to consider adoption of a new method for grading cream and laying it only on the creamed basis.

Operators point out that it is not fair to pay the top market price to cream which is not of the highest quality or to pay the same price to a man who brings in first quality cream.

To correct this they propose to buy cream only after classifying it as one of three grades, following a system now in effect in Washington state.

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Marines Kill Four
Nicaraguan Rebels

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Feb. 23 (AP).—After slaying four rebels in different encounters in the Jinotega region, American marines today were keeping small bands of rebels at scattered points in the region, the marines also wounded several rebels but suffered no casualties themselves.

The rebels encountered are believed to be part of the band of 75 which recently seized the town of Trinidad, looted some stores and disappeared.

Hoover Replies
To Question By
Senator Borah

Presidential Candidate
Pledges Himself to Support
the Prohibition
Amendment.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).—Declaring the United States has "deliberately undertaken a great social and economic experiment noble in motive and far reaching in purpose," Secretary Hoover, as a presidential candidate, today pledged himself to support the prohibition amendment.

The secretary's position was made known in an answer to questions made by Senator Borah, of Idaho, who has quizzed all republican candidates on the question. His letter declared that any holder of the presidential office had a solemn duty to support the law.

"The declaration was the first made since his campaign begun by his entrance into the Ohio contest. The letter to Borah followed.

"Upon my return to Washington I have taken up your letter. I feel that the discussion of public questions by reply to questionnaires is likely to be unsatisfactory and oft times leads to confusion rather than clarity. Replies to the scores of such inquiries on many questions are impossible.

"Out of my regard for your interest in the essential question, I will, however, say again that I do not favor repeal of the 18th amendment, I stand, of course, for the efficient, vigorous and sincere enforcement of the laws enacted thereunder. Whoever is chosen president has under his oath the solemn duty to pursue this course.

"Our country has deliberately undertaken a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far reaching in purpose. It must be worked out constructively."

Ku Kluxers No
Longer Wear a
Mask of Secrecy

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).—The mask is officially forewarned as part of the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan.

An edict to all klansmen from the headquarters here of Dr. H. W. Evans, imperial wizard, discards the mask, effective today, and inaugurates a new degree, Knights of the Great Forest. The edict gave no details concerning the new degree, but advised every klansman to become a member at once.

The action, said a statement from headquarters, was in preparation for "a new and larger activity in our national life." Dr. Evans' statement said also that the order had no political ambitions and added that it was now ready for New York because its policy of promoting "100 per cent Americanism by stopping unrestricted immigration" has been made a "part of our national policy."

The new activities, the statement said, will concern the "assimilation of these alien hordes in America, for the sturdy support of our constitution and laws."

The edict by the imperial wizard set forth that after today no klansman shall wear a mask or hood, his helmet and that members "are forbidden to fraternize with, or remain in klanshish fidelity to," any, who violate this order.

Husband Held For
Slaying of Wife

ASTORIA, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Mrs. George Hanna, 29, was shot and killed today by her husband, George Hanna, 21, police reported. He was arrested. Jealousy was believed by officers to have caused the deed. The shooting followed a birthday party at the boarding house operated by the couple. Hanna reported he had received recently large sums of money from his father's estate.

California Skier
Wins Crater Race

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—In a four-cornered struggle, which was in doubt until the last few miles of the 42-mile course, Manfred Jacobson, McClellan, Cal., winner of last year's classic, shot over the finish line of the Fort Klamath-Crater Lake ski race at 2:13 p. m. yesterday. He made the round trip in six hours and 13 minutes and was in good condition when he shot across the finishing tape.

House Reduces
Naval Program

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).—Materially reducing the administration's new warship construction program the house naval committee today decided to authorize the construction of 15 cruisers and one aircraft carrier as against the 21 war vessels requested by Secretary Willard.

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A belief that discord among members seeking control of certain districts was the motive for the bombing was entertained by police. Acting on this theory the lid was clamped tight last night on the Sheffield avenue police district in which is the home of Lawrence Cuno, brother-in-law and secretary of State's Attorney Cuno. This home was bombed recently as also were the alleged gambling place of Louis Harwitz in the same district.

POLITICAL
POT BOILING
IN EARNEST

Thomas B. Kay Files Declaration of Candidacy
This Afternoon

WEST AND EAST
EYE 1928 RACE

Fuller, of Maine, Believes Presidency Will Go to Governor Smith or Herbert Hoover.

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 23 (AP).—Thomas B. Kay, who is serving his third term as Oregon state treasurer, will this afternoon file with Secretary of State Koser his candidacy for a fourth term in that office. "My past record is my platform," will appear on his statement.

Mr. and Mrs. Kay are to leave next Monday for a visit of several weeks in the Hawaiian islands.

Under the state constitution no person is permitted to serve as state treasurer or secretary of state more than eight out of