

CITY
EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER

OREGON: Fair tonight and Friday but fog near coast tonight. High temperature and decreasing humidity in interior with increasing fire hazard.

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LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1928

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COURT HOUSE
LOSS ABOUT
\$35,000.00

Insurance on Building and Contents \$26,000; Structure Valued at \$60,000

MOST OF RECORDS
WITHSTAND BLAZE

County Court Meeting Today, to Consider Situation—Crew of Workmen Clearing Debris.

The Union county court house, erected about 1904 by the city and purchased by the county about six years ago, which was partly destroyed by fire yesterday, will be rebuilt, but whether the remains of the present structure is to be the nucleus for the new building is still uncertain.

The brick walls of the two-story structure are still in good shape and the first floor is not greatly damaged. The second floor was gutted by the flames and the roof was destroyed.

An early estimate of \$25,000 loss carried in a second edition of yesterday's Observer proved to be conservative, and many estimates today place the loss as high as \$35,000.

The building and contents were insured for \$26,000, county officials say, and an insurance adjuster is in La Grande today inspecting the damage done by the fire. The county court was called into session early this morning by County Judge J. C. Couch to consider the situation and determine where the county offices will be located while the reconstruction is going on.

Last night the city commission offered use of the municipal building until better accommodations can be secured. It is certain that the sheriff will transfer his offices to the city police department and two or three other departments may also come to the city hall.

This morning members of the county court expressed the opinion that separation of offices should be avoided as much as possible and there was talk of using the Savoy hotel building for the county offices. The La Grande National bank also has some offices available.

A herculean task confronts the county officials and employees today in beginning the work of transferring offices. Most of the records were saved, some taken from the building and others were in fire-proof vaults, unharmed by the flames that swept the top of the court house.

Court House Staff Aids
Every member of the court house staff participated in the rescue work during the fire. Miss Lillian Black, Miss Nellie Helgeson, Miss Jack Peris, Miss Tina and others saved many records, carrying them out as long as they could.

Speculators at the fire, men and boys alike, joined with the firemen in rescue work. This morning fire Chief C. C. Marchionni said that he had never had so many willing volunteer workers at a fire in local history, and complimented those who helped for their intelligent assistance.

Prisoners Transferred
There were five prisoners in the county jail at the time, two of whom were inmates. These two remained to help in conducting the flames and last night guarded the empty court house from intruders. The other three were taken to the city jail.

The fire was discovered at 3:05 o'clock, first by County Clerk C. K. McDonald, who heard a crackling in the circuit court room and looked in to discover fire breaking through the ceiling. He called the fire department and for the next few minutes dozens of other calls streamed into the station. The firemen, a moment before the alarm, were aware that they would have a call as C. P. Hallbrook issued the column of smoke just before the phone call came. The result was that they were ready to go and an exceptionally quick run to the court house was made with both the regular and pump trucks. Fire Chief Marchionni said this morning that if the city were without the pump truck, it would have been impossible to save the building from total loss. The stream of water, under high pressure, that emerged from the hose after the last of the pumpers played over the building without difficulty.

(Continued on Page 3)

Spring Grain In
Wallowa County
Slow to Mature

With Prices Offered Less Than 50 Cents, Many Farmers Are Holding Their Crop.

WALLOWA, Ore., Aug. 23 (Special)—Extremely dry weather has prevailed over this section for the last two weeks, and has caused much moisture to be drawn from the soil. The dry weather has been especially harmful for range country. It is stated that the greater part of the lands have been brought off the dry ranges and taken to irrigated pastures.

Much threshing of grain crops has been done during the last week in the dry farming sections, but little threshing of the crops on irrigated land is under way. Much of the spring grain in the valley was slow in getting up, and will be quite late maturing. In some parts of the hills most of the winter wheat has been threshed and some spring grain will be threshed during the next week or two. Weather conditions have been unfavorable for good filling of much of the spring sown grain and some farmers say that they do not expect much of a yield.

Frost Hits Gardens
A rather severe frost occurred here on Tuesday, doing considerable damage to gardens in the low parts of the county. The frosts are also said to have been severe enough to cause damage to spring wheat. A considerable amount of the wheat which has been threshed during the past two weeks is being hauled to the warehouses, but few reports are heard of farmers who are selling. The price offered for No. 1 soft white wheat here is said to be slightly below 50 cents per bushel. With the light crops which have been received on practically all farms in this section this season, these prices mean that

(Continued on Page Four)

Extend Use Of
City Building
To The County

The city commission last night, meeting in regular executive session, unanimously voted to offer the use of the city building to the county officers until they could find better accommodations. The motion was made by Commissioner Charles Phayle and seconded by Commissioner W. K. Gilbert, president of A. T. Hill presided at the meeting.

Other business attended to during the short meeting included passing of an ordinance authorizing signing a contract with Hartman-Hoover brothers for the building of sidewalks in district No. 183; consideration of sewer district 3-9, in Old Town, which was abandoned last year, and a report by Mr. Phayle that the Williams-Siegel was willing to pay his share of work in rebuilding an underground waterway that passes over his property. The old waterway gave way recently.

The Old Town sewer district may be brought to life and advertised for bids in a few weeks. This district includes that part of town between Seventh and Second and I and H streets.

Accident Victims' Condition Better

Condition of Mrs. W. P. Dickerson, who was severely injured in an auto wreck near Palmer Junction Monday afternoon, and of Johnnie Owens, of the Elms, Wash., whose legs were cut off in an accident in the railroad yards here Monday night, are reported as good today.

Mrs. Dickerson, whose skull was fractured in addition to other less serious injuries, is reported to be slightly better.

Mr. Owens is to undergo an operation this afternoon, to hasten the healing of his wounds.

Thelma Spencer Leading In Labor
Queen Contest; Doris Warner Second

Announcement today that a \$200 silver fox fur would be given in addition to the cash prize to the winner of the Labor queen contest has added a great deal of interest to the race for first honors, both on the part of the nine competitors and the public.

The Labor queen will preside over the Labor day celebration here Sept. 2, and all girls who participate will be eligible to prize.

The girls reported on their progress this morning and officials were pleased with the results already obtained.

Thelma Spencer Leading
Thelma Spencer, representing the Culinary Workers' union, is leading with 1,212 votes, a close second, the H. of R. T. a close second with 1,048.

The rankings of the others follow: Louise Barnett, barbers, 2, 248; Mary Vaughn, Henderson, carpenters, 2,250; Evelyn Hansen, typographical union, 2,250; Mary Jane Gore, B. of L. E. 2,350; Barbara Hilt, musicians, 2,350; Doris

INTERVIEW CITIZENS
ON PROPOSAL FOR
NEW COURT HOUSE

Possibilities that a new and modern court house in the business district of the city may be the result of the fire yesterday were foreseen today by a representative group of business men in Union county and La Grande, who were interviewed by Observer representatives.

The men were questioned as to what they thought of the feasibility of plans to build and the consensus of the interviews was heartily for considering plans for a new building. Providing satisfactory financial disposal, through sale of the property (probably to the school district), could be realized, business and community leaders are firmly in favor of taking steps toward building.

Business men generally agreed that the time is coming rapidly when the present court house will be entirely too small and inadequate; that it is not representative of the progress of the county; and that now, if ever, is the logical and most businesslike time to take the step. There were in the interviews a few dissenters who gave as their reasons of opposition the increased financial burden to taxpayers.

Following are the statements of men from over the county:

A. T. Hill, president of the city commission: "It is my opinion that if we are ever going to consider a new court house this is the time to do it. It seems to me that the proposition of a new building should be submitted to the people and let their vote determine what action should be taken."

County Judge J. C. Couch: "My personal idea given offhand without a careful study was to remodel as soon as possible. This is an ideal location. It is going to be very difficult to get temporary quarters and on account of the volume of the records we will have no place for them. If the taxpayers want a new courthouse and this can be disposed of through the school district that is different. If the taxpayers should have the matter on the ballot this fall and refuse it we would not be able to start rebuilding until next summer. In general I am in favor of remodeling because conditions do not justify the building of a new courthouse."

W. W. Stevens, of Union, county commissioner: "As far as I am concerned we are willing to build a new courthouse if the taxpayers see the necessity and if it won't be too late. Now is the logical time for the step. It will be just a few years until we will need better quarters for the county. Then too, it is the logical site for school purposes, as some of the school board members have already pointed out."

W. B. Ledbetter, of Alford, county commissioner: "It's up to what the people of the county feel about it. At first thought I would favor remodeling."

(Continued on Page 5)

Youth Shoots His
Grandmother, 62

BREMERTON, Wash., Aug. 23 (AP)—Wallace A. Ritchie, 18, was in jail here today charged with shooting his grandmother, Mrs. E. A. More, 62, because she asked him to make a fire in the furnace.

Mrs. More was in critical condition, but was expected to recover.

Bandits Wound
Cashier, Get Cash

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (AP)—Four bandits today shot a cashier and escaped with a payroll of \$18,000 of the Southern Transportation company's office in the Bronx. An armored car had just delivered the payroll.

The company's cashier, John Brandley, was wounded in the chest during which 28 shots were fired.

K. C. Convention
In Final Session

CLEVELAND, Aug. 23 (AP)—Resolutions adopted at the closing session of the Southern Commercial Knights of Columbus here today included endorsement of a selective membership drive, a campaign against individuals who circulate an alleged rumor that the fourth degree of the order and any expressing sympathy for Catholics in Mexico.

Stating on the suggestion of the grand of the order committee, delegates gave approval to a plan to establish religious retreats for laymen throughout the country.

Turkey Crop Will
Exceed Last Year

HOUSTON, Tex., Aug. 23 (AP)—The Southern Turkey Growers' association here today announced that this year's crop will be 25 per cent larger than last year, according to estimates submitted by county agents.

John Young said he killed 10 chickens on the Wong Gee ranch near Fairfield yesterday "because they tried to poison me."

He was taken to the courthouse in Nevada City and held for Fairfield authorities who were expected to arrive today.

Hoover Leaves
For Washington
Office Tomorrow

Round of Conferences Marks Last Day in the Grain Country—Varied Reports Received

BRITTCORE CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Aug. 23 (AP)—Minnesota's farm delegation brought to Herbert Hoover, republican presidential nominee, today the suggestion that a special session of congress be convened next March to put into legislation the Hoover farm relief program.

By JAMES L. WEST (Associated Press Staff Writer)
CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Aug. 23 (AP)—Another round of conferences with farm leaders today closes Herbert Hoover's three day visit to the great mid-western grain country.

Aided by his personal contact with men who profess to interpret the viewpoint of the wheat, corn and other grain growers, the republican presidential candidate leaves late today for Washington. There on Saturday in newly established headquarters he will take personal charge of his campaign.

Both in his public and private talks here Hoover has emphasized his belief that in seeking to relieve the agricultural industry, each of the dozen or more component parts must be treated separately. He has likewise stated his own purpose to have the federal farm board he has proposed, approach the problem from that basis.

Hoover has reiterated his statement that the board should have power to deal with all phases in the situation, present and future, and that it also should have such detailed information as could be obtained only in frequent conferences with leaders in each industry.

Varied Reports
Between the time of exchanging views with farm leaders, the republican candidate has received varied reports as to the outlook in the several grain growing states. He has been heartened by information from Kansas and Iowa, but a note of pessimism has run through

(Continued on Page 5)

Forecasts New
Rail Groupings
In Western Area

CHICAGO, Aug. 23 (AP)—Forecasts of a new grouping of mid-west and far western railway lines, which would do much toward eliminating present competition, and foresting disputes among Pacific lines, has followed announcement of several reported pending changes in major executive positions on western systems.

The Associated Press has been informed that Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, will become chairman of the executive committee of the Southern Pacific road this fall, to succeed Henry W. D. Forest.

Information came from members of the directors of the Burlington and the Southern Pacific.

Appointment of Holden, now president of the Burlington, which is in turn controlled by the Northern Pacific and Great Northern roads, to the Southern Pacific post was considered in financial circles as a means of averting disagreements between the Southern Pacific and the Western Pacific. La Salle street gossip said.

Chains Beauty To
Floor For Years

BAKE, Assiniboia, Aug. 23 (AP)—Thousands of peasants with their women folk, flocked here today from many parts of Assiniboia, leaving their fields in the midst of harvest, to hear the local court sentence two men convicted of murdering a beautiful young relative to the floor of a suburban passage for two years.

A rich peasant named Sidiakov, the girl's uncle, who sought his fortune, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, his son to six years, and a third man, Christian Doudov, of the local peasantry, who knew of the affair and kept quiet, to three years.

Sheriff Captures
Chinese Slayer

GRASS VALLEY, Cal., Aug. 23 (AP)—Lay Yung, Chinese slayer of ten persons at Fairfield yesterday, was captured in a chicken house here today by sheriff George Carter and deputy sheriff Arthur H. Higgs.

The rifle used by the slayer was found last night and the automobile was located between Fairfax and Grass Valley today.

The Chinese will be watched closely and holdings trail him through the brush last night. He could easily have killed them both.

Yong said he killed 10 chickens on the Wong Gee ranch near Fairfield yesterday "because they tried to poison me."

He was taken to the courthouse in Nevada City and held for Fairfield authorities who were expected to arrive today.

BROTHERS



Two brothers—Adolf and Georg Passon—play the roles of Christ and Judas in the Freiburg Passion Play, centuries old, presented at St. Joseph, Mo., by a cast from Germany. Above is Adolf as Christ; below, Georg as Judas. Their ancestors have taken part in the Passion Play for generations.

CROWD REACTS TO
SMITH'S ADDRESS

Democratic Nominee's Remarks at Albany Yesterday Bring Applause

By D. Harold Oliver (Associated Press Staff Writer)
ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 23 (AP)—Somehow disappointed over the restricted manner in which his nomination had to be conducted, but nevertheless happy over the way the crowd reacted to his acceptance speech, Governor Smith turned toward New York today to begin laying the foundation of his campaign for the presidency.

Arriving there late today, accompanied by Mrs. Smith, the democratic presidential nominee planned a visit to national committee headquarters to talk over with party leaders tentative plans for a stump itinerary.

Mid In Laers
An uninterrupted rain, not heavy, but enough to soak through if it remained out in it long enough, forested a last-minute scrapping of the elaborate preparations made for Governor Smith's nomination on the east steps of the capital late yesterday. It had to be held indoors—in the small and stuffy assembly chamber where the nomination began his legislative career, 25 years ago. While touched by the familiar scene, the governor thought sympathetically of the thousands outside on the lawn in the rain, and after running through the long outline of his stand on the issues of the day, including his advocacy of a modification of the dry laws, went out to the crowded and cheering crowds and thanked them from the bottom of his heart for standing by to the last to hear his message.

The governor frequently halted the applause that rang through the crowded chamber by holding up his hand. Outdoors the handclapping and cheering greeted almost every sentence he uttered. The farm surplus crop problem his immediate attention. He stated, as he usually the republican administration on many scores, particularly on its Latin American policy, as he judged himself in a "real" endeavor to outline, and as he opposed the housing of immigration quotas on a census 15 years old.

General Applause
Also meeting with applause were his statements against any "aug-

(Continued on Page 4)

PUT TO DEATH
INCURABLES IN
BALKAN STATE

LONDON, Aug. 23 (AP)—The Express quotes an article in the Prague newspaper Chasice Slava to the effect that infliction of painless death on sufferers from incurable disease will be legalized in Czechoslovakia.

This legislation will be provided in a new code now being prepared. The article asserts, but without approval by at least two physicians will be necessary before permission to inflict death is granted.

The same code, it is stated, will exempt from punishment anybody helping another to commit suicide.

Renewed Hopes
Held For Fliers
Down in Arctic

Faint Signals, Believed from Hassel and Cramer, Heard by Radio Amateurs.

CHICAGO, Aug. 23 (AP)—Faint radio signals received in Chicago last night by two amateur operators today gave renewed hope that Bert Hassel and Parker Cramer, missing Rockford-to-Stockholm fliers, still are alive.

The signals were received by Dr. Charles E. Seletch and Irving Stradon on a wave length other than that on which the fliers' plane, Greater Rockford, was equipped to broadcast. This fact was partly explained, however, by a theory that the wave length with the antennae trailing from the plane in flight might be changed when the wires were swung on the ground.

The signals, sent repeatedly, consisted of a series of five "R's," followed by a series of five "P's." After 14 sets of them had been completed two "A's" came in rapid succession.

The letter "R" designated the last position which the plane broadcast before messages from it were severed last Sunday morning. According to a prearranged code "R" indicated the plane was near Cape Chidley in its flight from Cochrane, Ont., to Mount Evans, Greenland.

SEARCH CONTINUES
By Condon Donald H. MacMillan (Article Explorer)
NAIN, Labrador, Aug. 23 (AP)—By Radio to the Associated Press—A continued search for Bert Hassel and Parker Cramer, Rockford, Ill., to Stockholm fliers, is being made by the cutter Marion along the Labrador coast. The only other ship near the immediate vicinity is the Hudson Bay company's Bay Kain. Others, however, are reported en route from adjacent harbors and countries.

If the Sweden-bound fliers are fortunate enough to be on land, they may find Eskimos who are scattered along the entire coast, catching codfish.

On the other hand, if Hassel and Cramer come down on water, their safety is doubtful unless they buy a rubber boat and a map of the location of Morayson station.

To Return South
We of the Rayson-Field museum expedition expect to return south in a few days with fair weather, and will probably dock at Wausau, Maine.

We have never heard the letter "P" from the Greater Rockford's radio, although we have been in frequent touch with Professor W. H. Hobbs' station at Mt. Evans, Greenland, the base of the Greater Rockford's scheduled second stop. (The letter "P" was the last signal heard from the fliers last Sunday morning, and designated them as near Cape Chidley.)

With the temperature about 45 degrees above zero, there is very little game on the outer islands. All birds are out of their nests and it is far too early for seals or polar bears, due to a lack of drift ice.

Caribou and black bear, however, are on inner bays and there is plenty of trout. The United States coast guard boat is in the vicinity now.

LONDON, Aug. 23 (AP)—An Exchange telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen says that the sheriff of South Greenland has informed Copenhagen that an airplane was seen flying over Fikensneset Sunday and thence turned to the east.

Those who praised without stint were Senators Edwards of Maine, George of Georgia, Fletcher of Florida, Canaway of Ariz.

(Continued on Page 5)

Indiana Officers
Trying to Solve
Sheriff Mystery

ANGOLA, Ind., Aug. 23 (AP)—A burned and headless body, a missing sheriff, an automobile with blood stained cushions and a barn destroyed by fire were the principal elements of a mystery which Indiana county authorities were trying to solve today.

The torso of an unidentified man was found yesterday in the ruins of a barn on a vacant farm, near the village of Ray.

Neighbors told officers that they noticed a fire in the barn early Wednesday but no investigation was made until later in the day when the body was found. The head had been buried off.

Coincident with the finding of the body it was learned that Sheriff Charles Zimmerman, of Gibson county, who has been active in the prosecution of run runners, had been missing from his home since Tuesday noon. His disappearance has caused considerable anxiety among his family and friends. The torso of the man found, however, does not correspond with the measurements of the sheriff.

An automobile with blood-stained cushions and containing firearms was found in the jail garage at Angola yesterday. Has the machine got into the garage is not known, but keys found near the burned barn fitted the lock on the car.

SMITH'S IDEA
ATTACKED BY
PROHI CHIEF

Seymour Lowman Says Plan Would End Prohibition in U. S.

SEES CHAOS IN STATE CONTROL

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler Criticizes Hoover and Praises Bourbon Candidate.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (AP)—Seymour Lowman, assistant secretary of the treasury, in charge of prohibition, said today that the changes in the prohibition law advocated by Governor Smith in his acceptance speech, would "end prohibition and all benefits that have accrued thereunder."

"As I see it," said Mr. Lowman, "Governor Smith's plan on liquor has two points.

"One—he wants to have congress immediately increase the alcoholic content from 24 to 25 percent to some higher point which would give up old-time beer. He tried to do that in New York state by passing the Walker beer bill, but the United States Supreme court held the act unconstitutional.

"Two—he wants to modify the Eighteenth amendment so as to permit each state to determine whether liquor can be manufactured, imported and sold within such states. That plan would throw us back into the old chaos that existed before adoption of the 18th amendment; when, for instance, he had a dry Kansas and a wet Missouri, but none ever recognized state lines.

"Governor Smith's position is the same he has advocated for years in New York state. Such a policy would end prohibition and all benefits that have accrued thereunder."

Mr. Lowman departed today to attend a meeting of New York state republicans in New York City which will select a state chairman.

BUTLER PRAISES SMITH
NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (AP)—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, who a few days ago wrote a letter to the New York Times criticizing the stand of Herbert Hoover on prohibition and national defense, made the following statement to the Herald-Tribune on Governor Smith's speech of acceptance:

"The address of acceptance of Governor Smith is a statesmanlike document, well conceived, well phrased and admirably expressed. It shows the governor at his best—and we New York republicans know by long experience how good that is. His setting forth of the case of the democratic party in this campaign is able and on a high plane. This can only be met by like or better arguments on a similarly high plane."

MANY COMMENTS
WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (AP)—Prominent democrats and republicans in many parts of the country, commenting on Governor Smith's acceptance speech, praised or found fault as their conception of government guided them, but the expressions were accompanied by a good deal of non-partisan opinion that he had stated frankly his position on the foremost issues of the campaign.

Those who praised without stint were Senators Edwards of Maine, George of Georgia, Fletcher of Florida, Canaway of Ariz.

(Continued on Page 5)

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 2 8 1
Boston 1 6 1
Batteries: Carroll and Hargrave; Russell, Giffin, Barry and Hoffman.

PHILADELPHIA 1 8 1
Philadelphia 2 6 0
Batteries: Miller and Aubrey; Groves and Cochran.

CHICAGO 2 5 0
Washington 4 9 1
Batteries: Blankenship, Thomas and Berg; Masterson and Reed, (10th inning).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

First game: R. H. E.
Brooklyn 2 8 2
Cincinnati 2 7 1
Batteries: Bush and Deberry; Kelp and Plutnick.

Second game: R. H. E.
Brooklyn 1 6 0
Cincinnati 6 12 1
Batteries: Moss, Rehder, Elliott and Goch; Ash and Hargrave.

Third game: R. H. E.
New York 6 9 2
Pittsburgh 3 5 0
Batteries: Benton, Scott and Hogan; O'Farrell, Hill and Hensley.

Fourth game: R. H. E.
New York 2 6 3
Pittsburgh 1 13 1
Batteries: Hubbell, Paulkner, Aldridge and Hogan; O'Farrell, Russell and Hensley.