

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER Oregon: Generally fair tonight and Friday, slightly colder in the interior tonight, frosts and freezing temperatures.

VOLUME XXVII

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GRANDE, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1928.

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

NUMBER 69.

REFUND PLAN PROPOSED TO COMMISSION

Ohio Company Makes Offer on Six Per Cent Improvement Bonds

INFORMATION TO BE GIVEN FIRM

City Dads, However, Take No Action That Would Obligate Municipality in Any Way

A total of \$225,000 worth of improvement bonds, listed under the so-called Lincoln bond act, and now outstanding in La Grande, is attracting considerable attention from an eastern firm—Magnus & Co., of Cincinnati, O.—It was learned at last night's city commission meeting.

The company, which specializes in refunding city issues of six per cent improvement bonds, wrote a letter to the city a short time ago asking for information, which was supplied by authority of the commission.

Reply is Received

Last night a reply was read from the Ohio company, in which it was said that a representative would visit La Grande and explain the proposed refunding plan in detail before the city commissioners. The letter also stated that Astoria and some other Oregon cities have already taken up their refunding offer.

In answer to a query, Colin R. Eliehard, deputy city attorney, told A. T. Hill, president of the commission, that the school board refused outstanding bonds recently. "I believe that we saved some interest," he said.

It was also stated that the La Grande bonds are being retired in the regular manner as they come due, and that a portion of these bonds will be retired shortly.

If the refunding proposal is accepted, Magnus & Co. proposes to take over the city's six per cent improvement bonds at no additional cost to the city and then provide for a lower rate of interest, which, the company said, would mean a saving to the city on interest payments.

City Not Obligated

City Recorder J. E. Storms was authorized by the commission last night to forward detailed information regarding outstanding improvement bonds here. However, it was made plain that this action does not in any way obligate the city and no other action of any kind is anticipated until later.

Several other matters of business were taken care of during the session, including the allowing of November bills in the amount of \$2,918.52. Mr. Hill stated that the city has paid the city about \$2,700 during the last week from the road fund.

Action on a request for city water, made by J. H. Kilby, was not taken last night but Commissioner Charles Payne and City Manager W. C. Crews were authorized to make an investigation and were given power to act. Mr. Payne will call on the interested residents in Mr. Kilby's district, near the brickyard, are entitled to city water if any reasonable way of getting it to them can be worked out. The city manager estimated it would cost \$100 to \$150 to install the water.

Because of the absence of city Attorney George T. Cochran, the third reading of a "street protection" ordinance, was postponed for a week.

SCOUT BOARD OF REVIEW IS THIS EVENING

At the scoutmasters' training school meeting held last night, the Rev. J. E. Hill, La Grande Methodist minister, talked on "The Unfolding Mind."

E. V. Russell, Scout executive, also took part in the program. A demonstration of tenderfoot instruction was given.

Tonight a board of review is to be held in the chamber of commerce rooms. Tomorrow night the final court of honor for the year 1928 will be held at Human hall.

TRENTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—Light rain turned into snow this morning. The snow melted as soon as it hit the ground.

Flu Epidemic Is Not Yet At Peak Is Report Today

Several New Cases Daily; Diphtheria Proves Fatal to George Sult, of North Birch street

The peak of the influenza epidemic now sweeping La Grande and in fact, practically the entire nation, has not yet been reached in this city, Dr. A. L. Richardson, city health officer, said today. Although he described conditions as being bad, he said there was absolutely no comparison with the epidemics experienced during and just after the war. Physicians are unable to tell when the peak will be reached but new cases are being reported daily and Dr. Richardson states that there are only a fraction of the total number of cases that are being reported. He says that in some families, where the disease is not so severe, no doctors were summoned.

Although La Grande is receiving a share of the flu, health conditions in general are very good here. No other serious contagious disease has broken out except in isolated cases. One diphtheria case resulted fatally early this morning, when George Sult, at 2702 North Birch, succumbed to the disease. No other cases of diphtheria are known to exist here at present. Mr. Sult's body is at the Snodgrass & Zimmerman mortuary. Funeral arrangements will be announced after the arrival of a sister tomorrow morning on No. 17.

41,066 REPORTED CASES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—The total of statistics on influenza which was called into existence by Surgeon General Cummings has telegraphed physicians on the west coast asking for information.

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Child Born On Famous Highway Names "Meeker"

In a tent on the frozen banks of the Grande Ronde river beneath the cottonwood trees at three o'clock the afternoon of Nov. 27, a baby was born—a very tiny baby, but healthy and strong as is right for a pioneer baby of courageous parents to be—it was learned today.

They have named him Jessie, Jessie Meeker, and is that not also as it should be in the fitness of things? For the child was born on the Old Oregon Trail and it is claimed on the same day when Ezra Meeker, the Oregon pioneer, and one of the blazers of the Old Oregon Trail, lay in bed many miles away, making his last "trek."

Baby Jessie Meeker came to earth in an original fashion, made so by necessity. His parents, the youthful 25-year-old husband and his young wife, were traveling the Old Oregon Trail in an automobile from Sunnyside, Ore., on to Boise and home.

But it was not destined that baby Jessie Meeker should be born in Idaho—he was to be an Oregon baby. A hurried camp was pitched no more than 100 yards from the highway which the pioneer Meeker traversed in 1822.

With the thermometer hovering about zero, preparations were made. There was no time to summon aid, or if there had been, there was no money.

Urbine Crude Stone

So baby Jessie Meeker came into the world the day before Thanksgiving and he and his mother knew for warmth only an old boiler turned upside down with a hole cut in it big enough for an old rusty piece of stove pipe, to serve as a stove.

A deep iron kettle with hot water bottle inside served as the baby's bed. His first clothes were warmed bath towels wrapped about him.

"Cottons from the car with handkerchiefs made a bed and when the store of candles was exhausted the father used the battery of his car for light."

A small portion of white flour was the only food the trio had for the four days of their winter shelter.

A man tripping along the banks of the river, one morning, when the baby was four days old, passed the time of day with Mr. Leach, the father, and when he learned of the arrival of Jessie Meeker, congratulated the young parents. Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Leach, to move into a regular 1928 home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leach and Jessie Meeker have decided to stay in Oregon and make La Grande their home.

Paper Published Under Difficulties

Today's Christmas shopping edition of The Observer was published under difficulties and late delivery can only be explained by the fact that several members of the staff are now because of sickness. Archie Miller, the pressman and compositor, was confined to his home yesterday afternoon. Miss Kathryn Moran has been home all week and numerous carrier boys are confined so that they cannot take care of their duties.

SENATE ADDS \$250,000,000 PROHIBITION ITEM

Amendment Slipped Over—House Still to Pass on Bill, However

ALSO INCREASE BOULDER DAM SUM

Solons Balk, However, at Proposal to Increase Salaries and This Plan Is Withdrawn

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—A quarter of a billion dollar prohibition enforcement item was slipped through the senate today in the twinkling of an eye and with many members apparently not knowing what had happened.

It must be approved, however, by the house, which has repeatedly defeated such proposals advanced by the senate.

Senator Bruce, democrat, Maryland, who has fought the dry laws in and out of congress, offered the amendment to increase the \$12,500,000 prohibition item in the treasury—postoffice appropriation bill by \$250,000,000. It required just a moment for Senator Moses, republican, New Hampshire, who was presiding, to declare the motion had been put and accepted, and the bill was sent to conference with house conferees. There were free predictions that the item would be eliminated forthwith.

There was no fighting over the item and prohibition was hardly mentioned in the debate which preceded passage of the measure, which already called for appropriations of more than a billion dollars. The senate balked, however, on a proposal to increase the salaries of Under Secretary Mills of the treasury and Director Lord of the budget, by \$2,000 each and this plan was withdrawn after stiff opposition had developed.

The senate also voted to increase the authorization in the

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STORES ROBBED DURING EVENING

Drygoods Store, Thrift Grocers at Elgin Entered By Burglars

Two stores, both housed in the same building, were robbed at Elgin during the night, with officers estimating that the loss will be about \$1,000. However, no check has been possible yet, so that the total amount of merchandise and cash stolen may be more or less than this amount.

E. H. Ben's drygoods store and Thrift Grocers No. 79 were the two places entered, and both lost a considerable amount of merchandise. A sum of money was taken from the Thrift till but an attempt to open the safe proved fruitless.

Officers are investigating the case today. Sheriff Jesse Breshers spent most of the morning at Elgin, but is believed that the burglars used stolen cars to make their escape with their loot.

Two automobiles, belonging to W. C. Sturgill, of 1302 Second street, were stolen from his garage last night, according to the police. One was a coupe and the other a sedan. Both were recovered.

Community Owned Building And Loan Endorsed by Dr. A. L. Richardson

A complete endorsement of the community owned building and loan plan as advanced at a meeting in the Seaside Inn Monday night, as a means of advancing community interests and furthering the business and welfare of the citizens was made by Dr. A. L. Richardson today.

Although Dr. Richardson was unable to attend the meeting, due to professional duties, he is very enthusiastic in reference to the plan.

The latter followed: "To the Editor: "Unquestionably, I was unable to be present at the meeting held at the Seaside Inn Monday night. The purpose of that dinner was to bring to the attention of representative men and women certain problems which affect the community, and in which a COMMUNITY OWNED BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION would assist in solving."

"It is my sincere conviction that a Building & Loan Association is a public institution which is absolutely essential to the advancement of community interests and the furthering of the business and welfare of its citizens. It was not difficult for me and for my associates to follow this conviction with the realization that such a

Operation Aids King George To Combat Illness

Removal of Purulent Fluid and Progress Today Kindles New Hope for Ruler's Recovery

LONDON, Dec. 13 (AP)—The Daily Express said today that King George had been undergoing diathermy treatment for the last two weeks. An apparatus especially installed in his bedroom gives a high frequency electrical treatment which is passed into the patient's body by an alternating current.

The effect is to stimulate the nervous system and strengthen the heart. The Lancet, in an authoritative article on the condition of King George says that the foundation exists for the renewal of legitimate hopes for his majesty's recovery.

MAKING PROGRESS LONDON, Dec. 13 (AP)—King George, apparently relieved by last night's operation for the removal of purulent fluid from the base of the right lung, today was making progress.

At three o'clock this afternoon it was stated in authoritative circles: "The king is progressing."

Shortly before this statement was made Lord Dawson of Penn and Sir Stanley Hewett, the king's principal physicians, returned to the palace and again saw his majesty.

Queen Mary left the palace shortly before the three o'clock statement for a motor drive. She had luncheon with the Prince of Wales who drove to Buckingham palace about noon.

The last time he had luncheon there was on Aug. 14 when he attended a farewell party just before the court left for Belgium. That likewise was almost the last time that he saw his father before his dramatic meeting in King George's sick room after the prince's 6,000 mile dash from Africa.

Speaking at a league of mercy meeting at St. James palace this afternoon, Princess Mary said: "My will be pleased to know that the condition of the king is satisfactory."

Records Grave Condition The Duke of Abercorn, governor of Northern Ireland, in an address today said: "As far as we know, the king is slightly better. A few days ago

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Mother Facing Life Term Under Michigan's Law

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 13 (AP)—Michigan's most law which commands life imprisonment for a person four times convicted of felony, has fastened its fingers for the first time today upon a woman.

A jury of 12 men and two women yesterday convicted Mae Miller of selling liquor. It being her fourth conviction on a felony charge, the verdict was returned in the courtroom of Judge Charles B. Collinsworth, the same judge who heard the trial of Fred Palm, first person to be sentenced under the law.

The Palm case attracted wide attention because the defendant pleaded that Palm was "given life" for having a plot of land.

Mrs. Miller, 48 years old, is the mother of 18 children, four of whom are living. Of these four, she testified, she was the sole support. Her husband already is serving a penitentiary sentence for prohibition law violation.

Northcott Trial Set For Jan. 10

HIVERTIDE, Cal., Dec. 13 (AP)—Gordon Stewart Northcott, so-called boy, returned to Los Angeles last night, following his arraignment here with his mother on the charge of killing Walter Collins.

Both Mrs. Sarah Louisa Northcott and the youthful proprietor of the Wineville chicken ranch, upon which four boys are alleged to have been slain, entered pleas of not guilty to the jail indictment. Their joint trial was set for January 10.

Three Cars Figure In Wreck Today

Three cars figured in an automobile accident just east of La Grande today. The cars were damaged considerably. It is reported, but no one was hurt.

A Boise man started to turn out to let state traffic officer Walter Lawson, of Baker, pass and his car swerved, side-swung the officer's car and pulling back in the ditch. It is said, a third car, driven by a woman from North Bend, was dived when the driver lost control.

No official reports had been made to the police as The Observer went to press today.

BOLIVIA NOW MASSING HER ARMY REPORT

Paraguayan Charge d' Affairs Delivers Note to State Department

LEAGUE COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION

Detailed Communication from Bolivia Is Expected; Danger of War Is Held Great

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—The Paraguayan charge d'affaires delivered identical notes today to the state department and to Dr. Victor Maurtua of Peru, chairman of the pan American conference committee, looking into the Paraguayan-Bolivian boundary dispute, in which he described the situation as giving rise to the danger of "imminent war."

The note transmitted information received from Paraguay to the effect that Bolivia was massing troops and was entering in the neighborhood of the border chain of last week which gave rise to the present difficulties. In explanation of the situation the note added that in view of the proximity of permanent Paraguayan garrisons in that region, the danger of an armed clash was great.

No Warlike Preparations The Paraguayan charge d'affaires, Juan Ramirez, said today that he understood the Paraguayan garrison nearest the disturbed center comprised about 1,000 men, the regular number of troops maintained there.

The Bolivian minister said today that he had no information from his government as to warlike preparations, and that he understood no mobilization measures had been taken such as the recall to the colors of reserves. The minister, however, said that he saw nothing extraordinary in the fact that his country might be sending troops to the border as a prudent move.

NOTES GIVEN LEAGUE LEIGANO, Switzerland, Dec. 13 (AP)—The council of the league of nations today had under advisement communications from Paraguay and Bolivia and was waiting for a further promised message from Bolivia regarding the league's appeal for pacific settlement of the boundary dispute.

Including that Paraguay would accept and faithfully fulfill her international obligations, the Paraguayan foreign minister called President Briand that the council's appeal "furnished proof of the lofty spirit of peace" governing that body.

He charged that Bolivia had refused to participate in the plan of summoning a commission whose purpose was to avoid conflicts between American states, having her refusal on what he called a mere statement of alleged grievances.

Bolivia to Reply The message from Bolivia came from Foreign Minister Palacio and announced that he had submitted the council's appeal to the president and would reply shortly.

After reading the two messages, Mr. Briand suggested to his colleagues that it would be better to await the arrival of a detailed reply proposed by Bolivia before taking any action whatsoever. This was agreed to by the other members of the council which then adjourned until tomorrow morning.

King Shaves Moustache; Queen Bobs Her Hair

BRAGA, Dec. 13 (AP)—King Alexander and Queen Marie have pleased their subjects by some spectacular changes. When the king returned recently from Paris, where he underwent an operation at the hands of American surgeons, his own subjects did not recognize him. Indeed, his own children, little Crown Prince Peter and Prince Tomislav, did not know him. This was not due to any physical change in the king, but he had shaved off his moustache and adopted American civilian dress, which altered his whole appearance.

A smartly cut light grey suit and a neatly silver-grey slouch hat had replaced the king's customary dark military uniform and tall cap, which made Alexander look ten years younger.

Not to be outdone by the king, the queen had her beautiful wavy hair bobbed American style, and brought back from Paris are trunks full of goods and the latest styles in hats, dresses and cosmetics.

Carrie Nation Act Brings Retaliation

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 13 (AP)—Retaliation for her Carrie Nation act, in which she wrecked a neighborhood school with an ax, was visited on Mrs. Marie Wilson today when a brick was thrown through the plate glass window of a restaurant she operates. Witnesses reported the brick was thrown from a passing motor car, which made Alexander look ten years younger.

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Mrs. Wilson wrecked the school, she said, after her husband and daughter had obtained liquor there and after authorities had failed to take action.

TO CONGRESS



Mrs. Pearl Peden Oldfield, widow of Congressman William A. Oldfield of Bates, Ark., will be the first woman sent to congress from Arkansas. She is an unopposed candidate to serve the few remaining months of her husband's unexpired term. The long term will be hotly contested.

TWISTERS KILL ONE HURT MANY

Texas Woman Crushed During Storm; Nine Injured, Two Badly

SHREVEPORT, La., Dec. 13 (AP)—At least nine persons were injured, and one was killed, somewhere in the mire of battles fiercely fought by the bones of the youngest son of Pete Venuti, from their fellow townsman, Warren Gamaliel Harding, president of the United States. Pete Venuti and his two remaining sons received invitations to attend the solemn ceremonies incident to the interment of the unknown soldier at Washington as guests of the White House.

The day after the ceremonies the president and the former skating rink proprietor sat smoking in the White House and talking of days gone by. The executive recalled the discharge of the young trombone player from Venuti's rink.

"Pete," said the president, "Why didn't you see that 25-cent raise?" "Because," Venuti answered after a thoughtful pause at his cigar, "I didn't think you were worth the raise then, Warren, and I still don't think so."

Why Harding Invited Him. Before the two old friends parted for the night Venuti asked just why it was that President Harding had invited him and his sons to the burial of the unknown soldier.

"Well, Pete," said the president, with a hand on the other's shoulder, "I know that you had lost a boy out there—and it might be—my kidney—that his hero in Arlington—good night, Pete."

That conversation, Mr. Davis concluded, took place seven years ago. President Harding now sleeps in Marion, Pete Venuti in Dayton, and the unknown soldier in his tomb at the nation's capital.

WOMAN KILLED

LUFKIN, Tex., Dec. 13 (AP)—A strong wind and rain storm struck the Sulphur Springs community, 25 miles southeast of Lufkin, late yesterday, killing one woman and injuring several other persons, demolishing homes and uprooting trees.

Two pine trees, torn from the ground by the wind, crashed across the home of Mrs. C. C. Fritzel, 42, fatally injuring her. Mrs. H. C. Dykes, 73, Mrs. Fritzel's mother, suffered less severe injuries.

One home, that of Allen Shivers, was blown down. Shivers and his wife and children were buried under the debris but escaped with a few scratches.

J. H. Wideman, another storm victim, was sitting in his home when the wind struck. The walls and roof of the room were torn away, leaving him sitting on a trunk.

The wind wrecked buildings over a strip about 200 feet in width and about a half mile long.

272 Motorists Arrested In One Day's Campaign

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 13 (AP)—Traffic police hammering away at their drive against reckless motorists added 272 arrests in the past 24 hours.

Offenses ranged from running through traffic signals to reckless driving.

That was the largest number of arrests made on any one day of the drive, which started Saturday night.

To date, 250 motorists have been arrested for minor infractions—141 Saturday and Sunday, 255 Monday, 202 Tuesday and 272 Wednesday.

A large percentage of those arrested appeared in court where they paid fines ranging from \$2.50 for improper lights to \$25 for reckless driving and speeding.

The city has collected fines of about \$2000 as a result of the drive, about one-seventh of the total fines collected last year.

Deputy reported warnings by motor courts which warrants have been issued for some drivers failed to show up in court.

Late President Couldn't Get A 25-Cent Raise

One-time Trombone Player Discouraged So He Turned to Other Lines of Endeavor

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (AP)—Robert H. Davis tells in a copyrighted story in the Sun today of a skating rink proprietor who discharged a trombone player and so turned the aspiring musician into other paths of endeavor, paths that led in time to the presidency of the United States.

When the roller skating craze swept over the country in the early '30's of the last century, a young Italian named Pete Venuti opened a rink in Marion, Ohio, and installed an orchestra of eight pieces.

Wanted 25-cent Raise. The least of all the players in that little band was one who blew upon the slide trombone and in due time blew his courage up to the point of demanding an increase of salary. He was getting 50 cents a night and felt quite sure that he was worth 75.

"Why should I pay him 75 cents for his kind of slip music?" Pete Venuti asked his orchestra leader. "It isn't worth 50. Fire him. Do it now."

And so the artist of the collapsing horn was fired and the roller skating craze passed in due time to the limbo of a million other fads. Pete Venuti turned to other tasks, joined the gold rush and married a girl in the Klondyke and as the years passed raised a family of three sons.

Invited to Ceremonies. When America entered the world war the youngest of those sons joined up, and when the war was over private Venuti was listed as missing and unaccounted for somewhere in the mire of battles fiercely fought by the bones of the youngest son of Pete Venuti, from their fellow townsman, Warren Gamaliel Harding, president of the United States. Pete Venuti and his two remaining sons received invitations to attend the solemn ceremonies incident to the interment of the unknown soldier at Washington as guests of the White House.

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NEARING BUENOS AIRES MENDOZA, Argentina, Dec. 13 (AP)—Herbert Hoover was traveling eastward across the vast Argentine pampas today toward Buenos Aires, the journey affording him an excellent opportunity of seeing the rural life of the country.

Clusters of trees surrounding the farm buildings of Estancias broke the monotony of the plains. From the windows of the special train, drives of cattle were visible being driven by swartly gauchos—the cowboys of the pampas. Wheat-growing as well as cattle-raising was seen everywhere, and bright colored birds ran from little lakes as the trains sped by.

Crowds Cheer Train The special train on which the president-elect and his party traveled was cheered by crowds as they passed.

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DAUGHTER OF FORMER MAYOR IS CONVICTED

MANTUA, Dec. 13 (AP)—A bar examination scandal which has held public attention for weeks reached a climax today with the conviction of Miss Estelle Romualdez, daughter of Miguel Romualdez, former mayor of Mantua, of a charge of falsifying public documents. She was sentenced to imprisonment for six years and one day.

The Romualdez family is one of the most prominent in the Philippines. Miss Romualdez is a niece of Justice Norberto Romualdez of the Philippine supreme court.

The falsification charges grew out of an incident which occurred while Miss Romualdez was serving as secretary to her uncle. She was accused of having changed the grades of law students who failed to pass a bar examination.

GUARD DEPOT WHEN HOOVER TRAIN COMES

Police in Buenos Aires Taking Steps to Insure Visitors' Safety

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Dec. 13 (AP)—While the police today were holding Alejandro Sarason and Jaime Gomez Oliver, accused of plotting against the life of President-elect Hoover, the government's cloakwork-like organization for the protection of the Hoover party began functioning in anticipation of its arrival.

Police Chief Colonel Graneros mobilized 1,500 Buenos Aires police including the entire strength of the detective force, and in addition had under his command strong detachments of military and naval forces.

To Guard Station Mr. Hoover's arrival, expected some time between 6:30 and 7:30 p. m., will be the signal for clearing the Central Argentine railway station of all persons without official status and a cordon of the police and military forces will keep the crowds from approaching the station gates until after the departure of the official party.

President Hipolito Irigoyen and members of the cabinet will meet the Hoover party at the station and will accompany the president-elect to the home of Robert W. Bliss, American ambassador in Buenos Aires. The party will be protected along the half-mile route by mounted and unmounted police and military detachments.

Ideal weather prevailed this afternoon as the city prepared to welcome the American president-elect.

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