EASTERN OREGON'S LEADING NEWSPAPER—EIGHT PAGES TODAY—FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS LEASED WIRE SERVICE

CITY EDITION

La Grande Evening Observer

THE WEATHER
OREGON: Generally fair tonight and Thursday but cloudy Thursday in the west portion, temperatures slightly below normal.

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MASONS WILL ERECT STORE FOR PENNEYS

Modern Business Building to go up This Spring on Adams Avenue.

COMPANY GIVEN TEN-YEAR LEASE

Decision Reached at Meeting of La Grande Masonic Building Association Last Night.

Construction of a modern business building, of brick and reinforced concrete, on Adams avenue between the Granada and Bohnenkamps, was announced today by the La Grande Masonic Building association, of which L. H. Russell is president. The structure will be erected at a cost of about $35,000 for occupancy by the J. C. Penney Co. store.

The deal for the building was closed at a meeting of the association last night with two Penney company officials, Mr. Patterson, company architect, and Mr. Randall, chief real estate representative on the Pacific coast. The two men are on their way to Spokane today, but will be in La Grande part of the time this spring while the building work is progressing.

Ten-Year Lease

The association granted the Penney company a 10-year lease, running from Aug. 1, 1930 to Aug. 1, 1940, with a five-year option following the life of the lease. The building will be constructed according to the Penney company plans. The estimates haven't been received but it is believed that bids will be called for about the middle of March. According to Mr. Russell, local contractors will be favored wherever possible.

This was the agreement reached here but it will have to be confirmed and approved by the New York office, and there is a possibility that there might be some change.

60 by 110 Feet

The building proper will consist of one flour and a basement, 60 by 110 feet. The main story will have a balcony in the rear extending out 32 feet across the back of the store. Skylights will be constructed at the back but the association retains the right to cover these up in the event the directors desire to add additional stories to the building.

It will not be necessary to construct one side-wall, which is already in place, but the other will be of reinforced concrete.

Further details of the building will be available in the near future, it is said.

Considerably interest has been expressed in the decision to erect the structure, particularly among downtown property owners. Also, the decision to build provides an additional major building project for La Grande's 1930 building program, already at a high figure.

The J. C. Penney company has been in their present location on Depot street since starting in business in La Grande, and a big volume of business has been built up in the present store.

It has been known for some time that a location on Adams avenue was being considered by the Penney officials and various sites have been under consideration, including

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TWO QUINTETS TO PLAY HERE ON THURSDAY

Two basketball teams, both undefeated in their class, will meet at the L. O. S. Recreational hall tomorrow night at 8 o'clock, it was announced today.

The Outcasts, claiming the independent championship of the Union-Wallowa area, will be pitted against the First Ward M. I. A. quintet, winner of the state M. I. A. championship. The M. I. A. championship will not be at stake, although the winner of the contest will have the strongest claim to the independent title in this district. The M. I. A. team has won 16 straight games while the Outcasts have piled up about half that number, also with no losses.

The M. I. A. squad consists of F. Baxter, M. Stoddard, C. Baxter, R. Anderson, M. Baxter, and L. Stoddard. The Outcasts are the Newlin twins, Thompson, Waite, Patten, Robinson and Eaton.

The M. I. A. announced today that they would hold a dance following the game.

WEATHER TODAY
7:30 a. m.—28 above.
Minimum: 27 above.
Condition: snowing.

WEATHER YESTERDAY
Maximum 41, minimum 27 above.
Condition: snow two inches, moisture .20 of inch.

WEATHER FEB. 26, 1929
Maximum 40, minimum 20 above.
Condition: moisture .97 of inch, snow traces.

HE PRESIDES

Representative George S. Graham, above, of Pennsylvania, a republican wet, is chairman of the house judiciary committee, now holding the first congressional hearing in 10 years on the merits of prohibition. Miss Louise Gross, below, chairman of the Women's Federation Union, a group opposed to the dry law, was one of the many witnesses called to testify.

PHONE COMPANY CONFERENCE HERE

First of Series of Meetings Held in La Grande—Everett Officials Attend

The first of a series of local conferences to be held by the West Coast Telephone company and its employes took place yesterday afternoon at the La Grande hotel following a luncheon at which the following officials from Everett, Wash., were guests of F. G. Henning, district manager; P. R. Roller, managing vice president; L. P. Hackett, secretary treasurer; H. C. Allen, general commercial manager; E. R. Hannibal, general plant and traffic manager; and William E. Everett, supervisor of directories.

The officials were also present at the general conference with about 40 employes of the company attending. Other such conferences will be held at different towns in Union and Wallowa counties in the future. Station men, cashiers, agents, linemen, installers, operaters were among the employes attending the meeting.

The visiting men expressed delight in the growth of La Grande and were well pleased with the condition of the company, the city and this entire district. They left last night en route to Marshfield to visit the system there.

Groceries Stolen From Spears Store

Spears grocery store, at 805 C avenue in Old Town, was robbed of a supply of merchandise early last evening, entrance being gained by the cutting of a hole in the back door, after which it was unlocked and opened.

Police were notified of the theft and followed footprints through the snow to a barn on H avenue, where they found part of the merchandise, including cigarettes tobacco, eggs, canned goods, flour, etc. Apparently, the thieves selected the groceries and tobacco with care, taking only a certain amount of each article.

No arrests had been made early this morning but city and county officers, working on the case, expected to make an arrest before nightfall.

Berger Purchases Frame Building

A. M. Berger, 2602 Spruce street, who operates a grocery store at that location, has purchased the frame building on the block where the new Observer building will be erected. Mr. Berger will wreck the present structure and clear the lot immediately. He plans to use some of the material in the building onto his grocery store property.

PREPARE BALLOT TITLE

SALEM, Ore., Feb. 26 (AP)—Attorney General Van Winkle today prepared a ballot title for the bill being initiated by H. H. Stallcard for the reduction of motor vehicle licenses to a flat $3 rate.

The bill would increase the rate on the few electric vehicles and would increase the motorcycle license from $2 to $2.50, and increase the gasoline tax from 4 to 5 cents a gallon, all to be effective July 1, 1931.

SNOW FALLS IN NORTHWEST AREA TODAY

Three Inches in La Grande —Welcomed by Farmers and Sportsmen.

COLDER WEATHER PROTECTS FRUIT

Change in Conditions Predicted — Slide of Rock Blocks Part of Columbia River Highway.

With residents of Oregon still clinging to the belief that spring was scheduled to make an early appearance, in spite of flurries of snow and colder weather during the last few days, Old Man Winter gave the state a rude awakening yesterday and this morning.

In La Grande, where unusually mild February weather has been enjoyed, the mercury dropped to 27 above zero and by 10 o'clock this morning about three inches of snow covered the ground. The snow is reported to be heavy enough over the Blue mountains to require some work by the state highway department snow plows, although the roads have been kept in excellent condition.

Covers Buttercups

Over all the state, signs of spring were coming to attention and in the Grande Ronde valley, the first buttercups and pussy willows had been reported.

In general, particularly among the farmers, the snow is welcome because of additional moisture that will soak into the ground and because that heavier snows in the mountains will provide a greater store of water for use during the spring and summer months. In most of the hilly section in Eastern Oregon, the snow is not nearly so deep as is usually the case at this time of the year.

Also, the colder weather is expected to check the tendency of fruit trees to come into bud, thus giving them a chance to survive the chilly March nights.

Change Predicted

The weather man predicts a change in weather for the next few days, indicating the possibility of clear and colder weather in Eastern Oregon. Today's forecast reads: "Generally fair tonight and Thursday but cloudy Thursday in the west portion, with temperatures slightly below normal."

Weather in La Grande during the month of February has been unusually mild, as a check of the weather records here reveals. Of the first 25 days of February, the maximum was above 50 (ranging up to 59 on Feb. 17) ten days

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Governor Gives Brief Address At Baker Dinner

BAKER, Ore., Feb. 26 (AP) — Governor A. W. Norblad completed a round of activities here yesterday with an address at the annual chamber of commerce banquet. More than 300 persons heard him speak.

Four attended the Baker banquet from La Grande, President A. W. Nelson, Secretary A. R. Hunter, Charles Devine and Jim Zurcher. They reported that the governor wasn't called on until after 10 o'clock and as he had to catch the 10:30 train, he was able to make only a few remarks. Following his departure the chamber passed a resolution presented by A. A. Smith that Baker organize a ceremony in keeping with Hoover's request for the observance of the 100th anniversary of the Old Oregon Trail. This ceremony, which may be made into a statewide event, will be worked out in detail during the month of March.

Several also attended from Union, headed by President Hess and Secretary Davis of the Union commercial club.

Annual Dinner Of Chamber Is To Be March 11

Word Received From J. P. O'Brien, Chief Speaker, That Date is Satisfactory With Him.

The annual chamber of commerce banquet will be held on Tuesday evening, Mar. 11, it was announced today by President A. W. Nelson. Mr. Nelson had just received word from J. P. O'Brien, Union Pacific official of Portland, who is to make the chief address, that Mar. 11 is satisfactory to him.

Mr. O'Brien's letter also stated that H. E. Spencer, general counsel of the railroad, would attend, in addition to other officials previously announced.

Plans for the chamber of commerce banquet now completed, having been worked out by a committee during the last two weeks. The matter of the date was the only remaining question.

The new directors are to meet next Tuesday to elect officers, and these officers will be installed at the annual meeting.

Old Depot Will Be Moved While Erecting Station

Several men from the chief engineer's office of the Union Pacific system in Portland were in La Grande yesterday checking the new depot plans and looking over the grounds. The old depot will be moved just west of where it is now, while the new one is being built. Plans for its use, after the new building is constructed have not been announced, according to W. H. Guild, division superintendent.

Sherwood Williams Speaks at Rotary

Sherwood Williams was the speaker at today's Rotary club luncheon in the La Grande hotel. He gave a very interesting survey of the fruit industry, including apples, cherries and strawberries, and showed the enormous amount of money put into the country from one acre of fruit. Mr. Williams emphasized the fact that there was a great possibility in the Grande Ronde valley for increased production on fruits of all kinds.

Club Cigar Store In New Location

The Club Cigar store, operated by R. J. Pearl, yesterday moved into the newly remodeled Carrey building, a few doors east of the former location in the West-Jacobson building. The remodeled rooms will also house the Union Pacific stage depot, of which Mr. Pearl will be manager.

The new location allows more room and will include the root beer counter as well as the other features of the store, including a fountain.

Mr. Pearl expects the stage depot to be in operation about the first of March.

Byrd Is Through Antarctic Ice Bank

OSLO, Norway, Feb. 26 (AP) —The Ross Sea Whaling company today announced receipt of a message which said the Richard E. Byrd expedition had passed through the Antarctic ice bank.

Communication To Wallowa Cut Off

Telephone and telegraph connections with Wallowa county were cut off this morning, and had not been restored early this afternoon due to heavy sleet and ice several inches thick covering the wires.

Twenty-fire telephone poles are down and crews from both Wallowa county and La Grande are working to restore the systems, local officials said.

Pearson Speaks at Special Assembly In La Grande High School Today

A special assembly was held at the high school this morning in behalf of the lumbering industry. The speaker was George G. Pearson, general chairman of the employes wood promotion committee. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Four-L Western Pine Manufacturing association and West Coast Lumber associations. The wood promotion organization consists of 38 committees, scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest, ranging from Washington and California to Idaho, as well as Oregon. About 128,000 men are represented in these committees. Their purpose is to inform the general public and to educate the people in the use of lumber products. The aim is to increase the use of lumber so that the capital of the industries will be larger.

The lecture consisted of two parts. Both phases were concerned with the forests of Oregon. "Oregon's Forests and Why Use Them" and "Why Union County Homes Should Be of Wood Construction" were the subjects treated by Mr. Pearson.

According to statistics, Oregon has one half of the standing timber in United States. However, she ranks only third in lumber production. The extent of Oregon's timber is sufficient to supply almost one half of the demand in the United States for forest products. One of the main commercial uses of lumber is for the manufacure of boxes and crates.

In relation to other industries in this state, lumbering ranks highest on the state payroll, he said, adding that from every dollar spent in payment of laborers, 72 cents is paid to lumbermen of Oregon. This figure is in considerable advance over other states. "Forestry is a crop like any other agricultural crop," Mr. Pearson stated, and therefore requires a great number of workers.

Mr. Pearson spoke at the chamber of commerce luncheon here yesterday.

BUTLER ASKS REPEAL OF PROHIBITION

Wets Renew Attack on Dry Laws Before House Judiciary Committee.

PASTOR DENIES CHARGES OF JOY

Chicago Physician Testifies That Since First Year of Prohibition, Alcohol Cases Gain.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Renewing their attack upon the dry laws, opponents of prohibition today opened their next to last day of testimony before the house judiciary committee with the presenting of a statement by Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university, demanding outright repeal of the eighteenth amendment on the ground that it constituted an invasion of the constitution.

Dr. Butler, long an outstanding figure in the educational and political world, was unable to appear personally and Chairman Graham of the committee had his statement incorporated in the record.

Urges State Control

The university head urged a return to state control of liquor, contending this would not be difficult, as state statutes dealing with the question again could take force.

After the statement was presented, Dr. Francis J. Gerty, in charge of the psychophatic hospital of Cook county, Illinois, took the stand. He was the first of a long list expected to appear, others including W. W. Atterbury, president of the Pennsylvania railroad, and Pierre S. Du Pont of Wilmington, Delaware, chairman of the board of the E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Company.

Gerty's testimony was delayed by the reading of a statement from Wallace Irwin, a member of the authors and artists committee of the association against the prohibition amendment.

"Submission to tyranny is as immoral as tyranny itself," Irwin's statement said. "But for revolt against unjust alien authority, there would have been no United States of America. Unless there is strength to bring about an honest

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Four Powers To Resume Work On Navy Reduction

LONDON, Feb. 26 (AP) — The chief delegates to the naval conference today decided to resume work immediately on their negotiations and to continue on the work except where it might be inimical to French interests.

The delegates decided that the recess which was taken on the defeat of the Tardieu government in Paris should cease today.

Ambassador Fleuriau of France attended the meeting on behalf of the French and explained that former Premier Tardieu had been to the Elysee palace with the view of forming a new cabinet.

PARIS, Feb. 26 (AP)—Former Premier Andre Tardieu this afternoon definitely accepted the task of forming a new cabinet to succeed the Chautemps ministry which was thrown out by the chamber of deputies last night.

LONDON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Former Premier Tardieu's decision to attempt to form a cabinet in France was hailed as a good omen in conference circles today and it was believed that he would be successful, quickly enabling the French delegates to return to London, perhaps by Monday.

Dill Seeking To Prevent Merger

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Senator Dill, democrat, Washington, said in the senate today that he would introduce a resolution to prevent the consolidation of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads which was approved conditionally by the interstate commerce commission.

Senator Dill asserted the commission had gone "far beyond any permissable action in the public interest," in approving unification of the two railroads on condition that they divest themselves of ownership of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy.

U. P. Will Buy 25 9000-Type Engines

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 26 (AP)—Twenty-five of the largest fast freight locomotives in the world will be purchased within the next few days by the Union Pacific railroad system, Carl R. Gray, president, announced today. The purchase will involve an expenditure of $3,500,000.

The engines will be of the "9000-type," and were designed by Union Pacific engineers.

FEATHERY FRILLS FLUTTER

Miss Jane Crosby (right) and Miss Katherine Carr (left), two popular army girls of Washington's younger set, show new fashions in fans and flowers. Army girls in Washington present the ultra feminine modes in dance frocks this season in striking contrast to the background of severe tailor-made uniforms of their escorts.

MAKE PLANS FOR BIG CELEBRATION

Oregon Trail Memorial Association Arranges for Nation-Wide Observance

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (AP)—George D. Pratt, chairman of the executive committee of the Oregon Trail Memorial association, last night announced plans for a nation-wide celebration in honor of the pioneers who settled the west, to be known as the covered wagon centennial. It will open April 10 and close December 29.

The celebration was recommended by President Hoover in a proclamation last Saturday.

April 10 will be the 100th anniversary of the departure from St. Louis of the first covered wagon that went over the Oregon trail, while December 29 will be the 100th anniversary of the birth of Ezra Meeker, whose life was dedicated to memorializing it.

The trail begins at St. Louis and winds through such points as Fort Bridger, Fort Laramie, Walla Walla, Fort Kearney and South Pass, and ends in Portland. Kansas City, Omaha, Cheyenne and Boise also are on the route. Monuments will be erected on the sites of noted historic episodes. Another plan is to erect a national shrine in Washington to the pioneers' achievements.

The National Educational association, the American Historical association, women's clubs, boy scouts, the National Playgrounds association and similar organizations will participate in the celebration.

The Old Oregon Trail, famous home-seeking highway, passed through La Grande, the pioneers

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FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE TAFT WEAKER TODAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Former Chief Justice Taft is gradually growing weaker.

His physicians issued this bulletin at noon today:

"The former chief justice is not so well as yesterday. He is gradually growing weaker. He suffers no pain, but his condition is more serious than at any time."

Dr. Francis R. Hagner, physician attending Taft, said that the former chief justice was "continuing to lose ground" and was "not as well as he was a few days ago."

The noon bulletin was the most discouraging in more than two weeks. After the collapse which forced Mr. Taft's resignation from the bench and his confinement to his home here, he showed some improvement and for a two-week period his doctors reported each day his condition was unchanged.

The physicians did not disclose details of the further decline but indicated the sustained attack which the patient's system had undergone was reducing his resistance below the danger point.

Nine Burned To Death In School

THE PAS, Man., Feb. 26 (AP)—Sister Superior Margaret of Mary and eight young Indian pupils, perished in a fire yesterday at the Cross Lake Indian school, an isolated outpost, advices reaching here today said.

40 Shocks Felt During Night In Imperial Valley

BRAWLEY, Cal., Feb. 26 (AP) —A check of the earthquake shocks which were felt in Imperial valley late yesterday revealed that nearly forty disturbances occurred between 5 p. m. Tuesday and 4 a. m. today causing widespread alarm and damaging buildings here and at Westmoreland. No casualties were reported.

Several buildings here were cracked. At Westmoreland, a larger number of structures were damaged and plate glass windows shattered. Adobe homes of some Mexicans near Westmoreland were destroyed. Slighter damage was reported at Calipatria.

Guests in the principal hotels here, frightened by the recurrent shocks, spent most of the night awake in the lobbies and patios.

Fear was expressed that some damage might have resulted to the Imperial irrigation district canals which are a vital factor in the agricultural industry of the valley and immediate steps were taken to inspect them.

The first shock was felt at Calexico at 6:25 p. m.

The heaviest damage in Westmoreland occurred to a pharmacy which was warped and cracked by the shocks, the proprietor estimating his loss at $800.

Schmeling Breaks His Right Thumb

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 26 (AP) —Max Schmeling, the German heavyweight slated to fight the Sharkey-Scott winner for the "world championship" at New York in June, broke his right thumb three weeks ago and may never fight again, a cablegram received from Berlin today by Frank J. Bruen, general manager of Madison Square Garden, said.

Chinese Bandits Destroy Missions

KANKOW, Feb. 26 (AP)—Bandits were reported today to have raided and burned Catholic missions at Taenchinghu and Lachingkow, neighboring towns 120 miles up the Han river from here.

The missionaries learned of the bandits' approach and escaped to Shasi, Hupeh. The bandits were said to have looted the missions and then poured oil on the buildings and fired them.

Mellon In Favor Of Branch Banking

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Secretary Mellon wrote the house banking committee today that in his opinion branch banking was sounder than chain or group banking "but that even branch banking should be limited to definite economic areas."

"As to what those economic areas should be," said the treasury head's letter, "I am not prepared to state at this time without further study or thought."

STORMS IN MINNESOTA

DULUTH, Minn., Feb. 26 (AP) —Schools were closed and rail and motor traffic was seriously hampered today as Duluth battled its worst snow storm of the winter. More than eight inches of snow have fallen since Monday, with drifts as high as ten feet.

SENATE ACTS ON CRISIS IN GRAIN MARKET

Resolution Asks Hyde to Make Such Recommendations as He Sees Fit.

CAUSES OF PRICE DROP DISCUSSED

Secretary of Agriculture Authorized to Temporarily Close Exchanges, if Necessary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—After conferring with President Hoover, Secretary Hyde said today he felt a serious situation on the Chicago grain exchange had been averted by the purchase of wheat by the National Grain corporation and the Grain Stabilization corporation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—The senate adopted a resolution today calling upon Secretary Hyde of the agriculture department to make "such recommendations as he sees fit," to the senate relative to the price of cotton and wheat, "even to the extent of temporarily closing said exchanges."

Offered by Senator Heflin, democrat, Alabama, the resolution was adopted after a round of discussion of the causes of the collapse of prices on the exchanges of cotton and wheat.

OMAHA PROTESTS

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 26 (AP)—The Omaha grain exchange today telegraphed a protest to Senators Norris and Howell of Nebraska, against the ruling of the federal farm board withdrawing the government agencies' stabilization price for wheat from all except member cooperatives.

HUTCHINSON, Kan., Feb. 26 (AP)—George Gano, the largest independent grain elevator operator in Kansas, today protested to President Hoover against what he termed the "confiscation" of his business as a result of an order of the Farmers' National Grain corporation yesterday that wheat would be purchased only from cooperative elevators.

In a telegram to the president, Mr. Gano said he owned 50 elevators and all would be forced to close as the federal farm boards "stabilized price is 12 to 15 cents above the open market in which I am forced to sell my grain."

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb. 26 (AP)—The cabinet of the Victoria state government has endorsed the recommendations of the premier's conference for a compulsory Australian wheat marketing pool. Legislation will be prepared for submission to the senate assembly.

LEGGE MAKES STATEMENT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—Chairman Legge of the federal farm loan board is sponsor of the statement that in spite of some objection within the grain trade, the board intends to continue assisting cooperative farm associations in purchasing wheat as a means of stabilizing the price of that commodity.

Addressing an appeal to "conservative business men" to support the policies of the board, Legge last night made this assertion and added the prediction that eventually the cooperatives will be able to market these purchases satisfactorily.

"The country as a whole was thrown into depression through the collapse of speculation on the New York stock exchange," he said

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20 TEACHERS RESIGN; TOWN SCHOOL HALT

WEST HELENA, Ark., Feb. 2 (AP)—The resignation of the entire public school faculty of 19 and the superintendent, a development arising from a quarrel among three girl students, today left West Helena without facilities for the instruction of 469 white school children.

Sheriff's deputies patrolled the streets as the school board sought reconsideration of the resignations which the teachers said were prompted by the failure of authorities to take definite action regarding threats alleged to have been made against Superintendent George Cromwel by Lawrence Brown. Two daughters of Brown were disciplined last week after a dispute with another girl.

Sheriff J. C. Barlow said he deemed it advisable to have his deputies on duty both to protect Brown against possible violence of the citizenry and to prevent Brown from carrying out his alleged threats against Cromwell.

Brown is on parole from the state hospital for nervous disease at Little Rock. He was sent there after he pleaded insanity at his trial in 1927 for murder. He was tried in connection with the killing of two men and wounding of a third at a dance near Clarendon, Ark. He was paroled in custody of his wife.